M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 89 Press ~~Mis.~~

173-174

Dated 15 . 1. ~~19~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th January 1864.

No. 173. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th December 1863, No, 8,003 :—

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 4th December 1863, No. 529.

SIR,

Board's Proceedings, 31st July 1862, No. 4,988.
From Lire & Co., 5th August 1862.
Do. Board, 7th August, Proceedings Circular, No. 5,152.
Do. 13th January 1863, No 161.
Do. 28th July 1863, No. 4,681.

Mr. W. S. Hooper, late Acting Sub-Collector.
„ R. P. Campbell, Police Magistrate.
„ Nicholas, of the Revenue Settlement.
„ Fitzgerald. of the late Presy. District Engr's. Office.
Dr. Shortt, Assistant Surgeon.
Rajaruthnum Naidu, Zemindar of Vengal.

1. In reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular of the 17th ultimo, No. XCVIII, I have the honor to state that on the dates marginally noted, foreign Cotton seed was supplied to this Office. This was distributed not only to the gentlemen named in the margin, but was transmitted to the Tahsildars of all the Talooks for distribution to the Ryots.

2. The growing of Egyptian Cotton was first tried as an experiment in the Roshum Baugh by Mr. Shubrick, who obtained the seed from Captain Templer of Chingleput. The experiment was attended with success, and its result was communicated to the Board in Mr. Shubrick's letter of the 3rd March 1860, No. 62.

3. Some few attempts were successfully made in the Chingleput Talook to grow foreign Cotton. The experiment tried by Captain Templer at Vendalur was reported to the Board by Mr. Cunliffe on the 6th April 1861, No. 90. Dr. Shortt, the Board are aware, has taken a very lively interest in the cultivation of foreign Cotton; he sowed every plot of ground available with this seed; and encouraged others to follow his example. His report of the 6th July last, on the growing of exotic Cotton, has been forwarded to the Board with Mr. Ellis's letter of the 16th idem, No. 258.

4. Another very interesting report received from him, containing a brief history of his various experiments during the last three or four years, is herewith forwarded. Though Dr. Shortt's experiments have been conducted on a comparatively small scale, still from plants grown by him, he was able to place last year at the disposal of Government nearly 460 lbs. of Cotton seeds of the various kinds noted in the margin. The results of his experiments tend to show that in this District foreign Cotton, if cultivated with care, will be a remunerative enterprize.

Vide Board's Proceedings 17th May 1862, No. 3,199.

	lbs.
Brazil Cotton Seeds	400
Bourbon	35
New Orleans	25
	460

5. Of the other gentlemen to whom the seeds were supplied, Mr. Hooper, while Officiating Sub-Collector, took considerable interest in the matter. His trials were made both at Chingleput and Carangooly, and have answered very well; at the former place the plants are now yielding liberally, the Cotton sown was New Orleans, Peruvian and Egyptian, and the quality of the produce is remarkably good.

6. Mr. R. P. Campbell, Police Magistrate, tried the experiment on the sandy flats to the north of Ennore. In his report of the 18th July last, which was forwarded to the Board with my predecessor's letter of the 25th idem, No. 285, he states that some of the plants are thriving well, and that a fair crop could be obtained from them. Rajaruthna Naidoo and Mr. Fitzgerald have also reported that the plants are thriving well, but that they have not yet yielded.

7. I beg here to add that in September last, I sowed some New Orlean's Cotton seed, received with the Board's Proceedings of the 28th July last, No. 4,681, on a small piece of ground measuring about 161 square yards at the Homes' Garden's Cutcherry. The seeds having been sown at a favorable season, required very little watering and began to grow rapidly. The shrubs were sown six feet apart, and are now, some of them two feet high. They are covered with flowers and pods. Upon some plants there are more than 50 of these pods, and a few sunny days would, I imagine, cause them to burst, and enable the Cotton to be gathered. The experiment is very satisfactory hitherto. It will however take some time before I can with accuracy state how much Cotton can be realized from these plants, and what remuneration would be the result under prices ordinarily ruling. I intend issuing general instructions to the Ryots for the cultivation of foreign Cotton.

8. Whatever may be the success attending these individual trials, I much doubt whether the people at large will, for years to come, take to the cultivation of exotic Cotton. They allege that the soil is unsuited to its growth, vide Mr. Reade's letter of the 14th January 1862, No. 4, and that of my predecessor of the 16th May last, No. 179.

9. While upon this subject, I may mention, that the interest and gratification attending these experiments are much diminished by there being no proper gin to clean the Cotton when gathered. The native ratnam is the only means available; it is said not to injure the staple; but the expense and tediousness of the process are almost sufficient to prevent any one again trying Cotton planting experiments. If a few suitable gins could be got from England, and one or two sent to each District it would, I think, be an advantageous measure.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon, to G. BANBURY, Esq., Officiating Collector of Madras, dated Chingleput, 8th October 1863, No. 409.

1. I have the honor herewith to submit a report of my Cotton experiments in this District, for the last three or four years. As the subject of Cotton still continues to attract attention, and the whole civilized world looks to India as a source of supply, I believe that an account of experiments ever so trifling may prove of interest.

2. When the Government prizes were first made known, I applied through B. Cunliffe, Esq., the then Collector, for the required quantity of land, and although my application was strongly backed by Mr. Cunliffe, and the Revenue Board, the Government could not comply with their recommendations in consequence of the Despatch of the Secretary of State to the Governor General, dated 24th July 1860, No. 1,696. I was so deeply interested in the success of foreign Cotton in India, that although I could not cultivate on a large scale I continued to carry on experiments in a small way, both in my own garden and the compound of the Civil Dispensary, and the Jail garden. My success was so complete that to a moral certainty I should have carried the prize of 10,000 Rupees then offered by Government, and probably have shown better results, had I been permitted to grow Cotton; as it was, I was glad to see that my friends Messrs. Fischer & Co. of Salem, had received the prize. In May 1861 I submitted 10 lbs. of each of the varieties of Cotton grown by me to the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, for their opinion, they were highly pleased with the samples, and called for information as to mode of culture, soil, &c., all of which I communicated; and then intimated that having proved that exotic Cotton will grow in the District, I was of opinion that my experiments should cease, and that I should leave it to those whose interests it would serve better to extend the experiments I had so satisfactorily carried out, but am sorry to say that no attempt has been made by any one else that I am aware of. The submission of samples of the Cotton to the Manchester Cotton Supply Association obtained for me their gold medal, and the embodiment of my experiments and their results in the form of an Essay obtained for me the prize offered by the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, viz., 1,000 Rupees and a gold medal. The medal of the London Exhibition of 1862 was awarded me for the samples of this Cotton.

3. Having succeeded so well I was unwilling to give up my experiments entirely, but continued to carry them out on a small scale, and at the same time continued to urge the natives, by example and practice, to take up the cultivation of foreign Cotton. I distributed seed, and information, to all who were willing to grow Cotton; a great number of Natives obtained seed from me, and some few cultivated it in experimental plots.

4. Others sowed the seed with their dry crops, but the latter sprang up so rapidly that they choked and destroyed the Cotton seedlings; but those who experimented on a small scale were pleased with the results.

5. Finding that I could not take up ground to sow Cotton on a large scale, with the permission of the then Officiating Sub-Collector, Mr. Hooper, I took up every little plot of waste ground I could get in my neighbourhood, as well as the compounds of the travellers and Department Public Works Bungalows, all of which I planted with Cotton. The plants grew up and fruited well, but from the plots being scattered most of the produce in the shape of samples was carried away by travellers and others. The Manchester Cotton Supply Association sent out large quantities of Egyptian Cotton seeds, for free distribution. But this was a mistake. Peruvian, or Brazil Cotton were the seeds originally sown by me, before I was aware that it had been naturalized in every Betel garden in the District, and called Egyptian because it was grown in Egypt, and the seeds originally brought out from thence. The proper Egyptian plants do not stand the heat well, and unless irrigated do not succeed; in this way, many of the natives who received seed from me were in a measure deceived.

6. The varieties of Cotton that seem to succeed best, even without irrigation, I give in their numerical order. Bourbon, New Orleans, and Brazil. Plants put down in 1861, and the experiments I detailed in my Cotton Essay may now be seen in my own compound, as well as in those belonging to the Jail Hospital, and Civil Dispensary,* without water or other care except that of occasionally freeing the soil of weeds, they continue to flower, and fruit crop after crop.

* That in the Jail garden was uprooted in August last during my absence on leave by some mistake to make room for hay.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1864.

7. The Bourbon in particular continues to produce throughout the year.

8. Unfortunately the competition for prizes last year was made known too late; the season for putting down seeds had gone by. Several natives who were willing to compete were obliged to give up their intentions from this cause alone.

9. The late Chunampet Armoogum Moodelliar had received seeds from me last year and had cultivated one or two experimental plots, which succeeded very well. I examined them in March last, and was highly pleased with their thriving appearance. The Moodelliar had promised me that he would cultivate to the extent of 50 Cawnies. "Two Cawnies," he said, "to each village would be nothing to me even if they failed, but I am sanguine of success." Unfortunately not long after he took sick and died.

10. Mr. Hooper, the late Officiating Sub-Collector, received seeds of several varieties from me and sowed small spots in his compound; these without water grew up and fruited remarkably well. Mr. Hooper took home some of the Cotton. Pleased with his success in this instance, he sowed about two Acres of Egyptian Cotton seed mixed with horse-gram; some of the plants, were choked by the gram; the few that grew up are there now, and without the most ordinary care, are even now standing the test of wind and weather. Some show a few flowers. You have seen all Mr. Hooper's experiments and examined the Cotton; as you were interested in the subject, and had, I believe, some intention of carrying out, and extending, Mr. Hooper's experiments, so I need not tell you anything further about them.

11. About the same time with Mr. Hooper I took up about two acres of ground through the kindness of the Sub-Collector's Serishtadar, Mr. Jordan, in his compound, which I had roughly ploughed, and sowed the seed broad-cast, one Acre with Bourbon, and the other with Egyptian Cotton seeds, the latter sent by the Manchester Cotton Supply Association. The soil is both rocky and gravelly, and very high and hard. As I gave the plants no further care the Egyptian came up, but all died away after yielding a pod or two, but most of the Bourbon are there struggling for life still, being constantly trespassed on by cattle, nevertheless whenever they can successfully they push out a shoot or flower, and ripen the pod. I submit with this letter samples of Cotton I picked up lying on the ground from these plants, from which it will be seen that the Cotton is not only good, but that the seeds are well covered with fibre. In December last some grounds were made over to the Civil Dispensary: about two Acres in the vicinity of the Civil Dispensary, I planted entirely with foreign Cotton. The plot with Bourbon Cotton is yielding crop after crop; the first crop was small, but that in course of collection promises to be larger.

12. The plot planted with Egyptian Cotton did not turn out well. Some of the plants left here are now pushing out flowers rapidly. It is in this ground that the Peru valley Cotton sown by Mr. Hooper are growing; they are now extremely vigorous; I lately submitted a report of them; they have been pushing out flowers since, but the whole have been cast away. I am watering a few of these plants to see the result, but they do not seem any better than those that receive no water.

13. About December last five Cawnies of land among the sandy wastes on the banks of the Pálár river were made over to the Civil Dispensary.

14. Being satisfied that Cotton would grow in these sandy wastes from experiments carried out by Major Mitchell at my request at Sadras, and detailed in my Essay, I had the soil prepared, but as the greater part was covered with prickly-pear, it was some time before it was cleared, and only in January last, I was enabled to put down seed. They sprung up well; in some parts they did not appear to thrive till the late rains; the stand is tolerably complete; but I have not been able of late to give them much attention, in consequence of the distance of the place from my more legitimate duties; the plants are fruiting now, and some of the earlier pods have been collected, and the Cotton is very fair for the Oopum. I submit specimens from them. These much despised plants may be seen here growing on the sandy waste to the height of six to eight feet, and quite shrubby, healthy, and vigorous looking. Should the necessary attention be given them, a good crop will be realized I dare say, but of late I have not been able to give them the attention they require. Field rats and squirrels are extremely destructive to the produce.

15. The Oopum Cotton plants, like the other experiments which I detailed in my Essay, are now in existence, and producing. The Oopum or country Cotton, said to be an herbaceous annual, may be seen growing into a vigorous perennial tree, of three years' growth. You have seen all my Cotton plants in the vicinity of the Civil Dispensary, and other places: the Honorable Mr. Ellis saw not only these but those at *Timmaveram* on the sandy wastes next the bank of the Pálár river.

16. I fully believe that my example at Chingleput has not been lost, the natives are interested in the subject, and at present there is perhaps scarcely any native house without a Cotton plant or two growing in it, and there are several plots containing one hundred or more plants. They hesitate to cultivate it on a large scale as they seem still to have some doubts on the subject as the various dry grains make them a good return, they do not seem to like the

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difficulties attendant on picking and cleaning Cotton, which are new to them. Not only at Chingleput but at Madras also Cotton seems to have interested every one commencing with the small Tradesmen, Shopkeepers, Merchants, Coach-builders, Clergymen, Barristers, Medical men, and Military Officers, and Civilians, have all been experimenting on Cotton, each had grown a few plants and seemed to know all about it.

17. Recognized as the author of the Essay on Cotton, I could not go any where without hearing of Cotton; each had to recount his success with this or that variety of Cotton, and knew all about its culture, &c., yet unfortunately none who have the time and means at command to do so will come forward to produce Cotton on a large scale. Amateur experiments have I am convinced proved its successful growth, it now requires to be shown and tried on a large scale; until this is done matters will continue as they are in *statu quo*.

18. About the beginning of the year I sent through the Honorary Agents Messrs. Line & Co. to the Manchester Cotton Supply Association 114 lbs. of Cotton wool which was shipped in the "Camperdown," and I have now between 200 and 300 lbs. more which I hope soon to despatch; all was grown at Chingleput. I have distributed during the last twelve months nearly two bags of Egyptian Cotton seeds gratis, one I received from the Honorary Agents, and the other from the Agri-Horticultural Society.

19. I have distributed some 500 lbs. of seeds of my own growth, in the distribution of which I have used my discretion, giving it free to some, and selling it to others. I have had requisitions from Salem, Wynad, Malabar, Tanjore, Manargoody, Bangalore, Mysore, &c. I have sent frequent supplies to the Horticultural Gardens, Madras, for sale, and have supplied the Revenue Board on two or three occasions. To all applicants I have cheerfully responded either in the supply of seed, or information, and have done all I can in my power to extend the cultivation of Cotton, in the District I now find that I am shut out from the Jail garden, where most of my experiments not only in Cotton, but other articles were carried out hitherto, as the Judge has taken up the whole space for the purpose of cultivating hay. These gardens from their vicinity to my more legitimate duties enabled me to carry out many experiments successfully.

20. My professional duties have increased of late, and I cannot afford much time for other pursuits, nor can I afford to spare my leisure hours as I have hitherto done, without suffering much inconvenience and expense. I have shown that the exotic Cotton can be cultivated in Southern India, which was the sole object I had in view when I first started in these experiments, and it is likely that I shall be obliged to give them up entirely, or to restrict them to a very small scale. For the last two years all my Cotton has been grown without irrigation; in some cases irrigation is only required during the infancy of the plants to enable them to establish themselves firmly in the soil; when that is once effected they require no water. I thought it best to give you an outline of what I have done hitherto with reference to Cotton, as you would naturally take an interest in the District over which you preside.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government, and that copy be furnished to the Agri-Horticultural Society. The Board approve Mr. Banbury's intention to issue instructions for the Ryots, on the growth of foreign Cotton.

2. Improved Cotton Gins are now on their way from England, and will be distributed when received.

3. Meanwhile Mr. Banbury can communicate with Doctor Hunter, Honorary Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society, in order to obtain the use of the Gins at the Gardens.

No. 174. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1864, No. 89.

1. The Government acknowledge with pleasure Dr. Shortt's laudable exertions to improve the Cotton culture of Chingleput. They expect at an early date to receive the Gins ordered from England.

2. Orders will be issued from the Judicial Department to ascertain why Dr. Shortt cannot be allowed to use the Jail garden for experimental Cotton cultivation with a few prisoners to work in it. The Sessions Judge will also be called upon to report what produce is now raised in the garden, and what is done with it and its value.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Judicial Department.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

from Salem, Wynaad, Malabar, Tanjore, Manargoody, Bangalore, Mysore, &c. I have sent frequent supplies to the Horticultural Gardens Madras for sale, and have supplied the Revenue Board on two or three occasions. To all applicants I have cheerfully responded either in the supply of seed, or information, and have done all I can in my power to extend the cultivation of cotton, in the District I now find that I am shut out from the Jail garden, where most of my experiments not only in cotton, but other articles were carried out hitherto, as the Judge has taken up the whole space for the purpose of cultivating hay. These gardens from their vicinity to my more legitimate duties enabled me to carry out many experiments successfully.

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2. Improved Cotton gins are now on their way from England, and will be distributed when received.

3. Meanwhile Mr. Banbury can communicate with Doctor Hunter, Honorary Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society, in order to obtain the use of the Gins at the Gardens.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras.
„ A. Hunter, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.

Exd. J. Wright.

Just suggest to ascertain why Dr. Shortt cannot be allowed to use the Jail garden for experimental Cotton cultivation with a few prisoners to work in it. The Collector will also ascertain what produce is now raised in the garden and what is done with it and its value.

Copying Letter to England
dt 23rd February 1864

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

No. 3161.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 18th December 1863.
Dep. 23 d
Rec. 24th

No. 8,003.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Madras reporting the results of Cotton cultivation in the District, and instructing the Collector to obtain the use of the Cotton Gins at the Agri-Horticultural gardens till a supply of them be received from England.

With 2 orders
Mg. 15 Jany

No 173 & 174.
Q. Jany/64 Rec.

W-89-

The Govt acknowledge with pleasure Dr Shortt's laudable exertions to improve the Cotton-culture of Chingleput. They expect at an early date to receive the gins ordered from England.

2.— Orders will be issued from the

Fort St George
15th Jany. 1864.

Note. Should any thing be said about the Jail garden? I believe the hospitals of Chingleput in might as well as Dr Shortt cannot have Jail gardens for experimental Cotton cultn with a view