

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 535	<u>Press</u> Mis.
3-4	
Dated	1-6-1928

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st June 1864.*

No. 3. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th May 1864, No. 2,990.

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 2nd May 1864, No. 66:—

1. I have the pleasure to send you the accompanying copy of a further report from Messrs. Keess and Gibbs, giving the result of their experimental Cotton farming close to old Town.
2. From all I have seen and heard of the Peruvian Cotton, I have no doubt that its general cultivation would ultimately prove far more remunerative than any other species of Cotton; and I am quite borne out in the opinion I expressed in my letter of the 6th January last, by the present report of Messrs. Keess and Gibbs, whose details on the peculiar advantageous qualities of this Cotton as practically developed under their own hands, render unnecessary further observations from myself.
3. The specimens of Cotton submitted with the report will be carefully packed in tin, so as to prevent any risk of injury by pressure or otherwise. The Board may expect to receive it in three or four days after receipt of this.
4. In my letter to the Board of the 30th July 1863, I suggested the desirability of having further supplies of the Peruvian Cotton seed; and I observe that at their instance application has been made to the Home Government. It would seem that this Cotton cannot be too speedily or too generally introduced throughout this part of India, and from experience already gained the most valuable results may be confidently looked for from the spread of this hardy and fruitful plant.
5. I will take care that the seed on its receipt shall be distributed in every Talook in order to try the various soils on which Cotton is now grown; and I feel little doubt, if the results at all agree with the experience of Messrs. Keess and Gibbs, that there will be a very great demand for the Peruvian Cotton seed on purchase by all Cotton growers and others throughout the District.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Messrs. D. KEESS and W. GIBBS, to C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 30th April 1864.

1. We beg to supplement our report dated 19th December 1863, on the cultivation of Peruvian Cotton, with the following observations.
2. At the date of our last report, we mentioned that the plants were in blossom and pod for the fourth time.
3. We are glad to be able to state that the pods advanced to maturity and fruited, though a good many were shed at an early stage.
4. The pods were allowed to mature fully on the plants before the removal of the Cotton, which was generally about thirty-six hours after the bursting of the pods.
5. A few pods were attacked by grubs, when some times all three, and at other times one or two only of the capsules had their contents destroyed; they were well developed, and the average weight of Cotton from each is thirty-six grains.
6. The plants have not as yet recovered from the severe shock they received from the gale in October last, which had a blighting effect upon vegetation in general; but for this, their productive powers would in all probability have been greater, and their yield more encouraging.
7. Bugs have to some extent appeared amongst the full blown pods, but they did no harm whatever.
8. The average yield per tree has been ten ounces or five-eighths of a pound.
9. It may be presumed that the out-turn will be progressively greater, as the productive powers of the plants are said to increase until the sixth year.
10. The Peruvian Cotton plants stand the sun well; and our opinion, which we have formed after close observations, is, that if they were properly watered, will prove far more remunerative

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than the indigenous variety, and are admirably adapted for very general introduction into Southern India. The staple is fine and long, and the Cotton commands a high price in the European market, being esteemed, we believe, second only to the Sea Island variety. A little care in the culture of the plants, and collection of the Cotton, is all that is required. The tissue is easily and readily removed from its attachment.

11. From the data furnished by our experience, the yield, at ten ounces per plant, and 900 plants per Cawny, at eight feet apart (much too near, as stated in our last report), will amount to 560 pounds of cleaned Cotton per Cawny, or upwards of one Candy; which at the present enhanced rate, will probably give one Rupee a pound, or Rupees 560 for the produce of one Cawny, for a half year. Or again, assuming that the price of Cotton falls immediately to 9 Pence or 6 Annas per pound, the produce of one Cawny will give a gross income of nearly 210 Rupees half yearly, or 420 Rupees annually. We are confident that the yield will be fully doubled if the plants were set sixteen feet apart. In fact we think that no cereal, or any other description of cultivation, will bear comparison with the Peruvian Cotton so far as remuneration is concerned.

12. We beg to send herewith the yield of one plant, viz., three-quarters of a pound of cleaned Cotton, for examination, and for transmission to the Board of Revenue, if you deem it of sufficient interest.

13. Proportion of seed to fibre one and half to one. The plants are eighteen months old, and are in blossom and pod for the fifth time, having commenced flowering six weeks ago, whilst a good many of the pods of the previous crop were still immature. When the plants re-commence flowering it was a pretty sight to see them covered with snow-white Cotton, and full blown yellow flowers.

14. The plants do not appear to enjoy a period of repose, for before one crop has been fully collected, blossoms shoot out in every direction.

15. The yield of the plants which have not been watered has been less than those which received watering; and plants grown in a sheltered locality have their tissue slightly shaded.

16. One plant amongst the Peruvian has produced Cotton of a brownish tinge, a sample of which accompanies this report. There is no apparent difference between this and the plants of the same variety by which it is surrounded. We have had the Cotton washed with soap and water without any impairment of its hue.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE, *Collector.*

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government with the bulk of the sample. Copy of the papers with specimen of the produce will be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce, the Trade Association, the Agri-Horticultural Society, and the Government Museum.

2. The Board are much obliged to Messrs. Keess and Gibbs for their interesting report.

No. 4.

ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1864, No. 935.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Board will convey to Messrs. Keess and Gibbs the acknowledgments of Government for their interesting and practical report.

2. The samples of Cotton will be forwarded to the Home Government.

(True Extract.)

To the Board of Revenue.

Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 18. 220/64 N. 270. 271

82-935

Cy in a letter to Secy 12 June 1864
The Secy to the Board

The Board

will convey to

Messrs. Keess and

Wills the necessary

documents of cost

for their interest

in regard to

the same

file of cotton

will be forwarded

to the above

Dept -

1st June 1864

29 May 1864

Rev: 1864. Department.

Secy of Govt for China

No. 1334-

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 16th May 1864.

Despatched 208-

Received 21st.

22 copies of Cotton

No. 2,990.

Submitting for information letter from the
Collector of South Arcot forwarding a further
report from Messrs. Keess and Gibbs on the
result of their experimental Cotton cultivation.

1865 1st June

W. L. A. S.