

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2257

Press
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398-399

Dated

19-9-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th September 1865.*

No. 398. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1865, No. 5,531.

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 15th August 1865, No. 151 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXVI., Board No. 3,239, dated 15th June last, I have the honor to enclose transcript of some correspondence which has passed between Messrs. Parry & Co. and myself, respecting the deterioration of the quality of Indigo of late years.

2. The Tahsildar of Wallajah Talook, in which Indigo used to be largely grown, was asked his opinion, and attributes this deterioration to a series of bad seasons, and to the inferior description of seed used by the native cultivators.

3. These causes, combined with unusual activity in the grain markets, have doubtless contributed to the inert and unsatisfactory condition of the Indigo trade. I think, however, that a perusal of Messrs. Parry & Co.'s letter will satisfy the Board, that the active intervention of Government is not required; and that the trade must be left to re-adjust itself under the conditions which influence commerce in general.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector, of North Arcot, to Messrs. PARRY & CO., dated Chittoor, 24th August 1865.

1. On being required, with reference to the Extract from Government Proceedings, dated 12th May 1865, No. 1,005, recorded in the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, dated 15th June 1865, No. LXVI., Board No. 3,239, given in the

"In regard to the alleged deterioration of the quality of Indigo in late years, referred to in paragraph 36 of the Board's Report, and in paragraph 25 of the Government Order, the Board requested the Collectors to ascertain and report to what causes it may be attributed, and to suggest any remedial measures which may be practicable for the improvement of the quality of the article."

margin, to ascertain and report the causes of the alleged deterioration of the quality of Indigo dye, it has occurred to me that you might be willing to favor me with the results of your experience in connection with your operations

in the article at Arni and elsewhere in this District.

2. I was not aware that such a deterioration of quality as that above noticed had been observed in the home markets, although the decreasing breadth of land under the crop has attracted my attention for several years past. This decrease in the area under Indigo crop I was rather ascribing to a succession of bad seasons, which would not only directly affect the cultivation of Indigo, but influence it indirectly in giving the preference to cereals and other products supplying food for man and beast.

3. If the local article has fallen into discredit in the home markets, owing to defective manipulation in the samples exported, the blame, I presume, rather lies at the door of the Cud-dapah traders, whose operations I am supposing are on a scale to influence the general character of the trade. I merely hazard these surmises in view to eliciting from your better informed sources the circumstances which have latterly influenced the Indigo market.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON, Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Messrs. PARRY & CO., to J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, dated Madras, 29th July 1865.

1. We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 1865.

2. The temptation to adulterate Indigo when markets are buoyant, and the article is in great demand, is scarcely ever withstood by native manufacturers in this country; but a deterioration

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of quality becomes conspicuous in the home markets after the tide turns, and the lower qualities are left unsaleable in the hands of importers or consignees, while the good qualities have been disposed of. The effect of this is generally to induce the natives on this side to be more careful in their manufacture, so that good qualities of Indigo are found in larger supply in times of quiet and of low prices. Of late the home markets have not been favorable, and exporters of the article from this country have suffered considerable loss, so that the demand has much fallen off, and encouragement to any increase in the production is wanting. The increased profits, which have for the last year or two attended the cultivation of grain and cotton, must also have withdrawn the attention of the Ryots from Indigo; and if to these causes be added unfavorable seasons, it is not to be wondered at that the cultivation of Indigo is on a smaller scale than before.

3. We believe there are few things the natives of your District understand better than the manufacture of dry leaf Indigo, but as is well known, it is not easy to get a native to go to the trouble and expense of conducting the operation in the manner he knows to be the best. The article he makes answers his expectations and his intentions, and he will not make a better till experience brings home to him the conviction that it is necessary to do so. Both in North and South Arcot we have vats where dye is made of quality superior to what is generally made by the natives, (though at some native factories we know quite as good an article is turned out,) but the example does not produce much effect; our native neighbours look at our operations and perhaps praise them, without making any improvements in their own manufacture.

4. We do not know that any thing can be done by Government to improve the manufacture of Indigo here. Some years ago, in South Arcot the Collector published in the Local Gazette, and distributed through the District a small pamphlet suited to the natives, relating the different processes of manufacture, and containing much information bearing on the trade, and the consequences of imperfect or fraudulent manufacture; but it is only in the price that the native trader realizes the meaning of suggestions and advice of this nature, and we believe that the active intervention of Government is not only unnecessary, but would be ineffective. The native works for a profit, and when an expected profit is converted into a loss, he is generally not without a good idea as to the causes, particularly when he has been dealing in adulterated goods, and the effect of this discipline is generally an improvement in the quality of the article.

5. We believe the native trade in Indigo must be left to the operation of the usual causes which influence trade in general.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. ROBINSON, *Collector.*

1. Submitted to Government with reference to paragraph 25 of their Order, dated 12th May 1865, No. 1,005.

2. The Board concur with the Collector and Messrs. Parry & Co., in considering that nothing is likely to be gained by any interference with the ordinary course of the Indigo trade. As observed by Messrs. Parry & Co., the Ryots themselves are fully aware of the evil results likely to accrue from any adulteration of the article.

No. 399. ORDER THEREON, 19th September 1865, No. 2,255.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

12. May/65. 7. 289-340

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 7th September 1865.
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-No. 5,531.

Submitting letter from the Collector of North Arcot respecting the late deterioration in the quality of Indigo, and concerning with that Officer and Messrs Parry and Co in considering it expedient not to disturb the ordinary course of the trade in that article.

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