

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 476	Press ~~Mis.~~
6263	
Dated	6-3-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1865.*

No. 62. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th February 1865, No. 770.

Read the following letter from J. SHORTT, Esq., M. D., General Superintendent of Vaccination, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chingleput, 23rd January 1865:—

1. Being about to vacate my appointment of Zillah Surgeon of this place, I have the honor to submit a report of the progress of Cotton cultivation up to date before leaving Chingleput. The Peru Valley Cotton, I regret to say, does not thrive well here; the plants already reported on began, as usual, to sicken with the setting in of the north-east winds, and as in the previous year, not only the young shoots, but the branches also to some extent withered away, and are just now beginning to recover from the shock they have experienced, and are pushing out new shoots on which are indications of a few flower buds, and it is possible that as the weather grows warmer, these plants may recover sufficiently to make a small yield, but as they have suffered so severely from the cold winds, they have had barely time to recover before the dry weather set in, so that not even an average crop can be anticipated from them.

2. A few plants under the shade of a large Banyan tree have escaped, and are looking healthy and shrubby, notwithstanding which they did not fruit last year, nor do they as yet shew indications of doing so this year. A few plants that were sown at the village of Timmaveram, about two miles distant from this, on the sandy wastes of the Palar river, did not sicken to, that extent as those in the vicinity of the Civil Dispensary, although equally exposed to the north-east winds; these plants are now covered with young pods and flowers, from which I should not pronounce (as far as this particular kind of cotton is concerned) my experiments conclusive; possibly the soil near the Dispensary is not suited to the plant, and a more sandy soil might enable them to resist the cold winds better, but a more prolonged experiment is required to decide this question.

3. My experience enables me to assert confidently that the Bourbon Cotton, a variety of the *Gossypium Barbadosense*, is the kind best adapted to the soil of the District; it fruits readily and largely for the greater part of the year, and bears both the cold winds and hot sun well, and when the plants have once established themselves, they require no water, or other particular care; although the fibre is somewhat tender, the staple is good, and the wool silky; when irrigated, it attains great perfection with improved staple and produce. The Oopum, or country Cotton, (*Gossypium herbaceum*), grows well, and attains an height of eight or ten feet, fruits largely, but the pods are small, and the wool sometimes crisp when the staple is long; the seeds are scantily covered with fibre, but when the plants are irrigated, they improve considerably in the size of the bolls, length of staple, and produce of fibre; but the great disadvantage of this species of Cotton is the tenacity with which the fibre adheres to the seed, and neither the churka, nor any of the patent gins I have seen, free the seed from the wool effectually, thus causing much loss of fibre, and greater labor to prepare it for the market.

4. The New Orleans grows tolerably well, and should the season prove favorable, or the plants be irrigated, produces freely; the staple is fair, and the wool of good quality.

5. The last supply of Yea Cotton seeds that the Revenue Board were pleased to send me, I regret to say I was unable to put down, with the exception of a few seeds which did not germinate. I distributed small portions among a few friends, and they also made the same complaint. During a residence of nearly seven years in this District, I have devoted the best of my leisure moments to developing its resources, and introducing such new products as were likely to prove beneficial for the future. I submitted large supplies of the various fibres growing in this District, both cultivated and uncultivated, to various Societies in England, and the name of Chingleput is now as familiar to scientific bodies at home as that of any large town in India.

6. A large supply of nearly 100 lbs of Pine-apple, Thoothee, Aloe, and other varieties, is now lying before the Royal Society of Arts, London. I did not confine myself exclusively to the vegetable products, but gave my attention to the improvement of the cattle, sheep, and poultry

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1865.

of the District. It is impossible that the efforts of any single individual could suffice to cause a revolution in long established practices, both as regards animal and vegetable products; yet I am hopeful that my efforts during the last few years have not been entirely thrown away; the apathy of the natives is great, and they are slow to introduce innovations of any kind, unless it can be clearly shewn to them that a speedy return in Rupees will result; nevertheless I believe that an interest has been awakened in the native mind which in progress of time may be productive of much good in the development of the resources of this District.

P. S.—I have just forwarded to the Manchester Cotton Supply Association a bale of 330 lbs. of Cotton, the produce of this place.

1. The Board are much obliged to Dr. Shortt for the above report, copy of which will be submitted for the information of Government. It will also be communicated to the Agri-Horticultural Society, and to the Collector of Madras.

2. The Board share Dr. Shortt's hope that his zealous efforts for the development of the natural resources of his late District may bear good fruit.

No. 63.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1865, No. 476.

The Board will convey the thanks of Government to Dr. Shortt, whose report will be forwarded to the Home Government and laid on the Editor's table.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 770.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th February 1865.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

M. A. J. S.
Acting Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to the Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society.
" to E. G. R. Fane, Esq., Collector of Madras.
" to J. Shortt, Esq., M. D., General Superintendent of Vaccination.

The Board will...
thanks of Government to Dr. Shortt,
whose report will be forwarded
to the Home Government and laid on
the Editor's table.

Esq. J. Wright.

From St. George's
8th March 1865

14 Board of Revenue - Des 8 March

No. 770.

Dated 10th February 1865.
Sd/-
2nd 1865

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
No. 4285

Rev. 1865. Department
of Agriculture

Submitting for information of Government,
and communicating to the Agri-Horticultural
Society and to the Collector of Madras report
of Doctor Shortt on the progress of Cotton cul-
tivation in Chingleput.
With an Order
1865-6 March