M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1598 — Press ~~Mis.~~

621. 622

Dated 29- 6- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 621. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th June 1866, No. 3,973.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Government Central Museum, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 27th April 1866, No. 83 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Government Order, No. 935, of the 21st April 1866, in which I am directed to offer any remarks I may have to make upon paragraphs 1 and 2 of Mr. Walton's letter.

2. With reference to paragraph 1, I beg to observe that my letter, No. 23, of the 8th February 1866, was written in consequence of Mr. Walton's remark, that "no saw-gin has yet cleaned indigenous cotton without destroying the fibre," and that I only intended aw-ginned cotton to be sent. But I have no objection to make to Mr. Walton's proposal to send samples of indigenous cottton cleaned by all the effective machines in the Dharwar Factory.

3. In paragraph 2, Mr. Walton proposes to make the experiment more comprehensive and decided by having sent to him twenty pounds of each kind of cotton, indigenous or acclimatized in the Madras Presidency, a portion of each sample to be ginned with each machine in use at the Factory. On this proposition, I beg to observe that it is, in my opinion, very desirable that steps should be taken to decide at once whether the saw-gin does or does not injure, not only indigenous, but exotic or acclimatized cottons also. It is plain that Mr. Walton, without reference to his superior knowledge of the several gins, which I suppose will hardly be questioned, is in a much better position to try this experiment than we are at Madras. I believe I may say, without the risk of offending any, that the gentlemen who have been present at ginning experiments at Madras are all, or nearly all, amateurs. No one of us, I dare say, considers himself qualified to superintend the spinning or weaving of cotton, but we are all ready, when called upon, to give an opinion upon the ginning of the seed cotton, and it is a question whether any one of us is qualified for the task. Some little want of adjustment, which only a practical man, whose business it is, would be able to detect, might cause the condemnation of a really good machine. There is no doubt that the cotton will have a fair trial if sent to Mr. Walton, neither is there, I believe, any doubt that if the cotton is injured, I shall be able to detect it by a careful microscopic examination. It will, of course, take some time to examine so many samples, but the time will, in my opinion, be well bestowed.

4. I can hardly close this letter without referring to a Report published in yesterday's "Times," on a ginning experiment made at Guntoor, in which it is stated that the fibre was so much hacked that, at times, it came out almost in shreds. It happens that a short time ago, at Mr. Moncrief's request, I attended some ginning experiments at the Public Works Stores, and with one of the gins, the only saw-gin tried, the cotton clogged just in the way the gentlemen at Guntoor describe it to have done, and there was no possibility, apparently, of preventing it. The consequence was, the saws passed through and through the fibre, which was pulled between the bars without being separated from the seed. I remarked that if ever the saw injured cotton that ought to be injured, and that I would take some home

for examination. Now, instead of finding the fibre torn all to pieces, as I fully expected, I did not find a single fibre injured, but on examining the seeds I found that a few, a very small proportion, of the hairs had been cut. I did not make a very exhaustive examination, because it was only for my own satisfaction, and I proposed going into the matter again after a repetition of the experiment which it was decided should be made after some alterations had been made in the machine. It is certain that any one who saw *that* machine at work would have formed the opinion that the cotton was, and must be, utterly ruined; but the microscope shewed the danger of trusting to unassisted vision, when so delicate a substance as cotton fibre is the object.

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1. Forwarded to Government, with reference to paragraph 1 of their Proceedings, dated 21st April 1866, No. 935.

2. The Board agree with Captain Mitchell that it is very desirable to accept Mr. Walton's offer personally to conduct the experiment suggested by him in paragraphs 1 and 2 of his letter of the 15th March last, No. 323, viz., to subject both the indigenous and acclimatized cotton of this Presidency to the operation of all the saw-gins in use at the Dharwar Factory, and to return the samples thus cleaned for examination here by aid of the microscope, as to whether the process has injured the fibre of the cotton, or not. By some such experiment alone can the question of the suitability of a saw-gin for cleaning Indian cotton be fairly tested.

3. If Government approve, the Board will instruct Captain Mitchell to make arrangements for procuring, (through the Agri-Horticultural Society or otherwise,) and forwarding to Mr. Walton direct, 20 lbs. of each of the cottons raised in this Presidency, for the purpose of the above experiment, submitting a bill of expenses for the sanction of Government.

No. 622. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1866, No. 1,598.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government approve the Board's proposal, but request them to collect the samples themselves.

2. The Bellary and Cuddapah samples had better be forwarded direct thence to Dharwar.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,973.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th June 1866.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Superintendent of the Government Central Museum.

Rd. J. Wright.

Dated 11th June 1866.

Forwarding letter from Superintendent Government Museum, and requesting authority to instruct that Officer to make arrangements for procuring and sending to Dharwar Factory 20 lbs of each of the Cottons raised in this Presidency for the purpose of being subjected to the operation of all the Saw Gins at the Factory.

Rev. Dept. 1866.
Pro. of Govt. for Revenue
No. 1712.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
Dated 11th June 1866.
Forwarding letter from Superintendent Government Museum, and requesting authority to instruct that Officer to make arrangements for procuring and sending to Dharwar Factory 20 lbs of each of the Cottons raised in this Presidency for the purpose of being subjected to the operation of all the Saw Gins at the Factory.
No. 3973.

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