

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 396	Press
258-259	~~MTS~~
Dated	15 - 2 - 1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th February 1866.*

No. 258. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th January 1866, No. 622.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 22nd January 1866:—

1. I have been favored with a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 401, dated 17th January 1866.

2. In paragraph 5 of his letter to your address, Dr. Shortt says "he believes the fibre is cut at unequal lengths from the seed," and that "this can be better demonstrated, not by examining the wool, but the seed as it is removed from the gin, when the inequality with which the fibre is cut will become more readily apparent."

3. You are aware that I have disputed the cutting altogether. To ascertain the condition of the hairs remaining on the seeds, I have this morning devoted three or four hours to the examination of the seeds of New Orleans, Egyptian, and Oopum Cottons, all saw-ginned. The result of the examination is, the hairs are entire and *not* cut. They are in fact dwarfed hairs with which, by reason of their shortness, the saw has not come in contact.

4. Dr. Shortt thinks nothing so effective as the Churka for freeing the Oopum seed of its fibre, and he strongly recommends a machine with a small roller, half an inch in diameter, which he saw at Adoni: as the radius of this roller is only a quarter of an inch, and it is the custom, with all gins of this kind, to push the seed against the roller with one hand while it is made to revolve with the other, it will of course seize hold of shorter fibres than a roller of greater diameter; but it is a question whether these short fibres had not better be left behind, as they can hardly be useful to the spinner. The important element of time, moreover, appears to be overlooked by those who advocate the use of the Churka. What the cotton grower wants is something that will enable him to get his crop to market in the cleanest condition, in the shortest space of time, and this, so far as we are at present informed, can only be done by the saw-gin.

5. Dr. Shortt, paragraph 4, thinks the mercantile method of measuring the length of fibre is objectionable, and recommends measuring the fibre while it is attached to the seed. Now it is certain that the whole of the cotton on the same seed is not of the same length, nor are the fibres on different seeds from the same pod necessarily of the same length, nor the pods on the same plant equally developed; this method, therefore, would prove fallacious. But if it were the most perfect method imaginable, it would be useless to the merchant who buys his cotton ready ginned, and requires to know its average length. The method of teasing out a tuft of the cotton, though a very troublesome one if it be properly done, is, in my opinion, that most suited to the wants of the dealer, who must take the cotton as it comes to market, and not as it was on any particular seed. In what other way can the effect of different gins on length of fibre be ascertained?

6. Dr. Shortt draws attention to the word "irregular." This word is much used by cotton men. Its use appears to assume the possibility of all the fibres in a bale being of the same length. I question if this is the case with the most perfect

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cotton brought to market; but my experience on that point is necessarily very limited.

1. Communicated to Dr. Shortt and to the other gentlemen who have favored the Board with their opinions on the effect of the gins on the cotton cleaned, and their comparative merits.

2. The Board are much obliged to Captain Mitchell for his letter.

No. 259.

ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1866, No. 396.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Rev. S. T. Augustin.

No. 622.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th January 1866.

Read the following letter from Captain J. MITCHELL, Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 22nd January 1866 :—

1. I have been favored with a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 401, dated 17th January 1866.

2. In paragraph 5 of his letter to your address, Dr. Shortt says "he believes the fibre is cut at unequal lengths from the seed," and that "this can be better demonstrated, not by examining the wool, but the seed as it is removed from the gin, when the inequality with which the fibre is cut will become more readily apparent."

3. You are aware that I have disputed the cutting altogether. To ascertain the condition of the hairs remaining on the seeds, I have this morning devoted three or four hours to the examination of the seeds of New Orleans, Egyptian, and Opium Cottons, all saw-ginned. The result of the examination is, the hairs are entire and not cut. They are in fact dwarfed hairs with which, by reason of their shortness, the saw has not come in contact.

4. Dr. Shortt thinks nothing so effective as the Churka for freeing the Opium seed of its fibre, and he strongly recommends a machine with a small roller, half an inch in diameter, which he saw at Adoni: as the radius of this roller is only a quarter of an inch, and it is the custom, with all gins of this kind, to push the seed against the roller with one hand while it is made to revolve with the other, it will of course seize hold of shorter fibres than a roller of greater diameter; but it is a question whether these short fibres had not better be left behind, as they can hardly be useful to the spinner. The important element of time, moreover, appears to be overlooked by those who advocate the use of the Churka. What the cotton grower wants is something that will enable him to get his crop to market in the cleanest condition, in the shortest space of time, and this, so far as we are at present informed, can only be done by the saw gin.

5. Dr. Shortt, paragraph 4, thinks the mercantile method of measuring the length of fibre is objectionable, and recommends measuring the fibre while it is attached to the seed. Now it is certain that the whole of the cotton on the same seed is not of the same length, nor are the fibres on different seeds from the same pod necessarily of the same length, nor the pods on the same plant equally developed; this method, therefore, would prove fallacious. But if it were the most perfect method imaginable, it would be useless to the merchant who buys his cotton ready ginned, and requires to know its average length. The method of teasing out a tuft of the cotton, though a very troublesome one if it be properly done is, in my opinion, that most suited to the wants of the dealer, who must take the cotton as it comes to market, and not as it was on any particular seed. In what other way can the effect of different gins on the length of fibre be ascertained?

6. Dr. Shortt draws attention to the word "irregular." This word is much used by cotton men. Its use appears to assume the possibility of all the fibres in a bale being of the same length. I question if this is the case with the most perfect cotton brought to market; but my experience on that point is necessarily very limited.

1. Communicated to Dr. Shortt and to the other gentlemen who have favored the Board with their opinions on the effect of the gins on the cotton cleaned, and their comparative merits.
2. The Board are much obliged to Captain Mitchell for his letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

[Handwritten Signature]

Secretary.

To J. Shortt Esq., M. D.

- „ the Honorary Secretary, Madras Cotton Cleaning Company.
- „ the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.
- „ the Secretary, Trade Association.
- „ the Honorable R. O. Campbell.
- „ Captain J. Mitchell, Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
- „ A. Hunter, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.
- „ the General Superintendent, Public Works Stores and Workshops.
- „ A. Wedderburn, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely.
- „ V. H. Levinge, Esq., Collector of Madura.
- „ T. A. N. Chase, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna District.
- „ the Honorable D. Arbuthnot, Collector of Salem.
- „ P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.
- „ J. W. B. Dykes, Esq., Collector of Nellore.
- „ A. R. McDonell, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly.
- „ A. Hathaway, Esq., Collector of Bellary.
- „ H. G. Smith, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah.

Copy to J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D., for information.

Exd. J. Wright.

the Hon. Secy. to Govt. Secy. Secy.

Communicating remarks of the Superintendent, Government Museum, on the observations of Dr. Shortt regarding the working of the Cotton Saw-gins imported from England.

No. 632.

Dated 26th January 1866.
Despatched 1/22/66
Received 2/2/66

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 370.

1866. Department

For Delg 106/102-53

For Delg 106/102-53