

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1459	Press Mis.
578-79: Dated	26-5-1868.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th May 1868.*

No. 578. Read the following letter from H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., Cotton Commissioner for the Central Provinces and the Berars, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Camp at Oomraotee, 18th March 1863, No. 1,001:—

1. With reference to your No. 2,425, dated 16th October 1867, I have the honor to inform you that a supply of Hingunghat Cotton-seed, the particulars of which are annexed, has been forwarded to your address.

2. I enclose a copy of a brief memorandum regarding the Hingunghat plant, drawn up at the suggestion of some officers in Bengal, and I shall be glad if it should prove of any assistance to you in conducting the experiments you propose to undertake.

3. I should consider it a great favor if, at the close of the season, you could conveniently favor me with information regarding the results of your experiments in the form, copy of which is annexed to this memorandum.

4. An account of the expenses incurred in purchasing and forwarding the seed will follow.

MEMORANDUM.

1. Two thousand pounds of Hingunghat seed have been forwarded through Messrs. Nicol & Co. to Bypore. The bags are marked 

2. Twelve spare copies of the memorandum are enclosed, and Mr. Rivett-Carnac would be glad if a record could be kept, in the form annexed, of the result of the experiments. He would particularly urge the importance of the establishing of seed-gardens, and the selection of seed on the plan noticed in the memorandum.

No. 579. ORDER THEREON, 26th May 1868, No. 1,459.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue in continuation of G. O., 9th instant, No. 1,290, with the

request that they will report the results of the cultivation of this cotton seed in the form desired by the Commissioner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ H. Rivett-Carnac, Esq.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Bye from. The Bags are marked H

Twelve spare copies of the memorandum are enclosed, and Mr Rivett-Carnac would be glad if a record could be kept, in the form annexed, of the result of the experiments. He would particularly urge the importance of the establishing of seed gardens, and the selection of seed on the plan noticed in the memorandum.

Q.P.

MEMORANDUM.

As several gentlemen, who are desirous of making experiments in Bengal this season with Hingunghat cotton seed, have requested me to give them information on certain points regarding the locality and soil in which the cotton thrives, and the manner of its cultivation, I have drawn up the following brief note which, I hope, may be of some use to those who are inclined to assist in extending the cultivation of this superior class of indigenous cotton.

Hingunghat cotton is grown in the Wurdah district of the Central Provinces in the neighbourhood of the town of Hingunghat—an important cotton market—from which place the cotton takes its name.

The cotton is celebrated for its cleanness (freedom from leaf and dirt), brightness of colour, length, strength, evenness, and silkiness of staple. In all these points—all of which are regarded as of great importance by the spinner—the Hingunghat variety is superior to most of the Indian cottons. As compared with the cotton of Bengal, that grown in the Hingunghat country, besides being superior in all the respects noticed above, is particularly glossy and soft, whilst Bengal Cotton is woolly and dull in appearance, and rough and harsh to the touch.

There can be little doubt that the superior quality of this cotton is to be attributed to the physical advantages of the tract in which it is grown. The Wurdah district is situated on the northern extremity of the great Deccan sheet of trap, which extends from Mudnoor—far south in the territory of H. H. the Nizam—to the low hills which form the northern boundary of the Wurdah district. The height of the cultivated plateau is not more than 900 feet above the sea level. The soil is of the well known “regur” or black cotton soil composed of the debris of the trap rock, the basis of the geological formation of the district. The following description and scientific analysis of this soil is extracted from Ansted’s Geology p. 343 :—

“ Its colour is bluish black, greenish or dark grey. It forms into a paste with water, and gives a clayey odour. It absorbs moisture rapidly, and parts with it in dry and hot weather. Its thickness varies from 3 to about 20 feet. It is cultivated very easily, yielding a rotation of crops, consisting of cotton and two kinds of corn. It rarely requires to be left fallow, and demands but little husbandry, although for the last 2,000 years this soil has continued in cultivation without manure, retaining the utmost fertility.”

The following is an analysis of the “Regur” :—

Silica.....	48.20
Alumina	20.30
Carbonate of Lime.....	16.00
Carbonate of Magnesia.....	10.20
Oxide of Iron	1.00
Water and Organic matter	4.30

100

In the Hingunghat country this soil varies in depth from 2 to 15 feet, but the average depth of the best cotton-growing lands does not exceed 6 or 8 feet. Beneath this rich coating, kunker, a sort of hard gravel is found, and below this again is the trap rock already noticed.

* Major Trevor Clarke's "Improvement of Cotton by Purity of Seed," page 8. Published by the Cotton Supply Association, September 1886.

Size of Field and quantity of Seed sown.	Description of Soil.	Yield of <i>Kapas</i> (Cotton for the Seed) in lbs.	Yield of Cleaned Cotton in lbs.	Remarks.
				<p>Here it would be convenient if short description of locality could be entered, with particulars of the treatment the crop received, of the season, &c. &c.</p>

