

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	654	Press Mis.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th March 1868.*

No. 196. Read the following letter from H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., Cotton Commissioner, Central Provinces and the Berars, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Camp at Sheogaon, 28th February 1868, No. 400:—

I do myself the honor to forward, for the information of the Madras Government, copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, on the subject of the exports of Cotton from these Provinces by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway

From H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., Cotton Commissioner, Central Provinces and the Berars, to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, dated Camp at Sheogaon, 28th February 1868, No. 384.

1. I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, copy of a statement shewing the quantity of Cotton exported from the stations of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the Central Provinces and the Berars, during the fortnight ending the 22nd instant.

2. You will not fail to observe how markedly the great rise in the price of Cotton has affected the up-country exports. The peasantry and petty dealers who, as mentioned in former reports, had held back their Cotton in the hope of better prices, are now flocking into the market. That a very large quantity of Cotton has been sent forward during the past fortnight, the accompanying return will shew.

3. The statement for the fortnight ending the 8th February shewed that that season, up to date, 44,403 packages of Cotton had been sent off by railway. The exports for the fortnight were 11,677 packages only. During the fortnight ending the 22nd February, the exports have risen to 38,717, falling not very short of the whole quantity exported during the previous three months.

4. And here, in order to make these returns intelligible, I must refer to the great feature of this season's Cotton traffic, the very large quantity of bales pressed, and half-pressed, that are being sent down from these Provinces to Bombay. Last season, when the preparation of these returns was commenced, the exports were shewn in "Dokras" or bags of Cotton, weighing, on an average, about 140 lbs. gross. In those days, although a few bales were occasionally seen, nearly the whole of the Cotton crop of these Provinces was sent down to Bombay thus loosely packed; and as about six "Dokras" go to the Bombay Candy, there was little difficulty in framing from these returns a sufficiently correct estimate of the quantity of Cotton poured into Bombay from these Provinces during the fortnight. But this season, owing to the increase in the number of presses, the readiness with which the native dealers are using them, and the purchases made by European firms up-country, the quantity of pressed Cotton sent down by railway is very large. The 38,717 packages, for they cannot be called "Dokras," shewn in the 6th column of the accompanying statement as the quantity of Cotton despatched during the fortnight, include 12,507 half-pressed, and 4,938 full-pressed bales, and as, on an average, each half-pressed bale contains two Dokras and each full-pressed bale nearly three Dokras, these 38,717 packages, sent down during the fortnight, represent as many as 63,900 of last season's Dokras, or, in other words, rather more than 10,500 Bombay Candies. The quantity exported during the corresponding fortnight last season was, taking the full-pressed and half-pressed bales to represent respectively three, and two Dokras, a little less than 10,000 Candies.

5. But although a great business has been done during the past fortnight, the total receipts, up to date, compared with those of the corresponding period last season, are small. The total

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receipts amount to 85,543, of what I must still call "packages" of Cotton. The sum includes, however, the large number of 12,050 full-pressed, and 20,627 half-pressed bales, the balance 52,796 being Dokras. Reducing these quantities to Dokras, so as to compare this season's exports with those of last year, gives 1,28,000 Dokras, or about 21,300 Candies. Last year, the quantity of Cotton received in the yards up to the 23rd February was (calculating the bales half-pressed and pressed in the same manner as above) 3,30,000 Dokras, or about 55,000 Candies; of this quantity there were, on the 23rd of last February, stocked in the Cotton yards awaiting despatch by railway, 1,05,490 Dokras. If this quantity be deducted from the total receipts above given, the exports of this season, as compared with those of last year, are but 21,300 Candies to 37,500 Candies.

6. Cotton is, however, now coming in as fast as ever, and the work at the Railway Station at this place (Sheogaon) is almost as brisk as at the same time last year. There is, however, this difference, that no Cotton is now delayed. Owing to the large quantity of pressed Cotton that comes forward, and improved arrangements for loading, no difficulty has as yet been experienced in carrying away the Cotton as fast as it arrives. In illustration of this, I may mention that I learn from Messrs. Knox and Penson, whom I met here, that one day this week as much as 480 tons of Cotton were despatched from this station without any effort. Last year, the greatest quantity sent off in any one day from this station was 360 tons, and this was quite an exceptional case. But the 480 tons above noticed consisted of half-pressed and full-pressed Cotton, which, being thus carefully packed, was loaded on 96 waggons. To carry off a similar quantity of Dokra Cotton, 160 waggons would have been necessary, and those could not, of course, have been loaded or disposed of so easily. With the improved arrangements at Sheogaon, and with the help of the Cotton sidings which now run into the Cotton yard, and afford great facilities for loading, there will, it is hoped, be little difficulty in loading 150 waggons a day, and even more if necessary; and thus if the Cotton continues to come forward in pressed bales, there is not much fear of a very serious block. At this station, where at this time last year as many as 47,000 Dokras of Cotton were stacked awaiting despatch by railway, no Cotton is now detained. A few Dokras are indeed to be seen about the yard, but these have either been brought in to be pressed at the half presses, or the full presses, of which twelve of the former, and two of the latter are now at work at Sheogaon, or have been purposely detained here by native dealers who have not completed their consignments, or who are awaiting instructions from their constituents.

7. I am quite sensible that the present empty state of the yards is chiefly owing to the small quantity of Cotton that has as yet come forward. It is, however, only fair to notice that the arrangements of the Railway Company have been very satisfactory. It is pretty evident that there must soon be a great rush of Cotton to the stations, and that the strain on the Railway for a short time this season will be as severe as ever. But from what I can see, I am sanguine that, with the aid of the presses and the improved arrangements of the Railway Company, there is little chance of any serious block in the Cotton traffic this season similar to those which in former seasons occasioned so much inconvenience and dissatisfaction.

8. A statement shewing the quantity of Cotton carted over the Sawurgaoon ghaut during the month of January is annexed. The return for the first fortnight of this month has not been received, but I learn that the quantity leaving the Provinces by this route is small.

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13th March 1868.*

No. 197.

ORDER THEREON, 13th March 1868, No. 654.

Separate Revenue, No. 6.

Customs.

Communicated to the Board of
Revenue and the Chamber of Com-
merce.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Chamber of Commerce.
.. the Department Public Works.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th March 1868.

Statement showing the quantity of Cotton received at and exported from the Stations of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the Berars and the Central Provinces, during the fortnight ending 22nd February 1868.

Name of Station.	Number of bales received up to the close of preceding fortnight.	Number of bales exported up to the close of preceding fortnight.	Number of bales remaining at close of preceding fortnight.	Number of bales received during the fortnight.	Number of bales exported during the fortnight.	Total number of bales received up to date.	Total number of bales exported up to date.	Number of bales remaining at end of the fortnight.
Nagpore ...	78	78				78	78	
Boree ...								
Sindee ...								
Wurdah ...	823	820		709	638	1,532	1,358	174
Poolgaon ...	529	529		484	363	1,013	892	121
Chandoor ...	117	111				117	111	6
Bednaira ...	3,631	3,631		7,650	7,650	11,281	11,281	
Moortisapore ...	3,206	2,478	728	2,765	3,026	5,971	5,604	467
Akola ...	3,489	3,303	184	3,335	3,316	6,824	6,621	203
Sheegaoon ...	20,160	19,702	458	14,513	14,513	34,673	34,215	458
Nandorah ...	12,883	11,707	1,176	8,580	8,885	21,443	20,592	851
Mulkapore ...	588	761	127	442	426	1,330	1,187	143
Boorhanpore ...	542	542				542	542	
Khundwah ...	739	739				739	739	
Total ...	47,085	44,403	2,682	38,458	38,717	85,543	83,120	2,423

REMARKS.

* Includes 187 half pressed and 290 full-pressed bales.

↑ Do. 5,658 do. 1,425
 ↓ Do. 112 do.
 ↓ Do. 72 do.
 ↓ Do. 4,647 do. 2,667 full pressed bales.
 ↑ Do. 1,921 do. 556
 12,597 4,938

(True Copy.)

CAMP, SEWAGOR,
28th February 1868.

(Signed) W. MCG. DRYSDALE,
Superintendent.
 (Signed) H. RIVETT-CARNAC,
Cotton Commr. for the Cen. Prov. and the Berars.

14 Copies Letter of Prof. Paul Smith to
 1 to Chamber of Commerce
 1 to J. W. N.

Count of the
 Prof. Paul Smith
 Chamber of Commerce
 13th March/68.
 22-656- 3

Statement showing the quantity of Cotton received at and exported from the Stations of the Great India Peninsula Railway in the Berars and the Central Provinces, during the fortnight ending 22nd February 1868.

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