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Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th September 1869.

Read the following papers:—

No. 118. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT.

I took occasion, not long since, to bring under the notice of Council the capacities of the river Tambrapoorney as an instrument of irrigation. I desire now to refer to the water-power which it affords for the purposes of manufacturing industry.

2. In attempting the establishment of a factory, the following important points must be taken into consideration:—

(1.)—Motive power.

(2.)—Access to the raw material.

(3.)—Access to markets of consumption.

(4.)—Labour.

(5.)—Capital.

In all these respects the site of Papanassem in Tinnevelly, where the Tambrapoorney issues from the ghauts, appears to me to offer great encouragements for the creation of a cotton mill.

3. After breaking from the mountains in a magnificent cascade, the Tambrapoorney descends, by a course of rapids, to the Pagoda where the shoal of sacred fish is fed, and where the torrent subsides into a long series of level reaches. The interval between the waterfall and the temple presents more than one spot perfectly adapted for the erection of buildings and machinery. I allude particularly to a place where I think a temporary weir is used, and where the first irrigation channel is taken off. The volume of water is probably more than sufficient at all times of the year; but if it were not, the projected irrigation reservoirs in the hills would repair the deficiency in dry seasons. No objection could be raised by the cultivators below, for the supply would be restored undiminished; and if hereafter dyeing works were established, the river could well afford the insignificant loss which would be caused by the diversion of the contaminated water. On the value of water-power, with reference to cheapness and salubrity, I need not enlarge; the examples of Scotland, Saxony, Switzerland, and of other countries, attest its advantages.

4. The northern parts of Tinnevelly and the adjacent district of Madura produce the raw material in abundance, which would be laid down by the railway twenty miles from the factory. It may also be presumed, that if the mill was established, the ryots in the immediate vicinity would devote themselves to the cultivation of cotton in a greater degree than is at present the case.

5. The facilities for the circulation and export of the manufactured article would be as great as those for the receipt of the raw material. The home consumption in an opulent district would be considerable; the railway would carry the fabrics northwards, while the port of Tuticorin would be their natural outlet towards Ceylon and other foreign markets.

6. Labour is nowhere scarce in India. In Tinnevelly it would be superabundant, for emigrants repair in numbers from the southern provinces to Ceylon

and other colonies. Nor would these people be deficient in aptitude for factory-work. No race in the world has greater flexibility and delicacy of manipulation than the Hindus, and what is done with perfect success at Bombay and at Calcutta, would be done as well at Papanassem.

7. I am not prepared to affirm that the capital of Natives would be immediately invested in the establishment of a cotton mill; but I am justified in asserting that there is more capital in Native hands in Tinnevelly than in any other part of the Presidency, and that it would become available for a purpose of this nature with some encouragement on the part of the English commercial houses of Madras and Tuticorin. There is, in fact, a plethora of money in Tinnevelly derived from the exportation of cotton; and it would be a further benefit to direct these accumulated gains into a reproductive channel, which are now hoarded or employed in usury.

8. Two arguments may perhaps be urged against the project which I recommend to the attention of the Council; (1), that it is not the duty of Government to co-operate in the introduction of any branch of industry; (2), that the development of cotton manufactures here would be detrimental to the interests of Great Britain.

9. It is not the legitimate function of Government to support manufacturing establishments, except, perhaps exceptionally, in the interest of the fine arts; and it would plainly be wrong to foster them by a protective or prohibitive system. It will, however, hardly be affirmed that a Government may not rightfully point the attention of private parties to new avenues of speculation and enterprise, and afford them some kind of aid to the outset. Even the expedient of bounties is not absolutely excluded by the less rigid economists. Should the undertaking, which I now advocate, prove to be unamenable to practical men, I do not contemplate the expenditure of Government assistance than would be involved by the gratuitous concession of water-power and building sites, the improvement of roads, the exemption of imported machinery from duty, the purchase of the manufactured article for public purposes, with due regard to price and quality, and similar occasional measures, which may be indulgently extended to an incipient industry.

10. The increase of cotton manufactories in India would undoubtedly tend to restrict importations of the same articles from England; but we are not to be deterred by this consideration from giving free scope to all the natural facilities for cotton manufacturing industry which India possesses. India is a valuable market for English manufactures, and it is the interest of the great mass of Native consumers themselves that it should not be limited by artificial obstructions, such as high duties; but India is not a preserve for Manchester, and the Government and people of England would repudiate a calculated neglect of the industrial capacities of the country. That we have already been guilty of inadvertency is proved by the fact that Tuticorin cotton, produced by the cotton factory in which the new pictorial issues of the provinces and Travancore territory are worked up with great success, is an article of export from Bombay. For the French Settlement under several drawbacks and disabilities, as compared with Tinnevelly, the chief

II. As a first step towards the introduction of factory-labour into the Presidency, I propose that the Government shall charge Mr. Duval, a gentleman who possesses a competent knowledge of machinery and manufacturing processes, to proceed to Tinnevelly with the view of reporting on the three following points:—

(1.)—On the capacities of the river Tambrapoorney as a motive power.

(2.)—On the adaptability of the site I have designated at Papanassem for the purpose of establishing a cotton factory.

(3.)—On the probable approximative cost of erecting a water-power Mill, including machinery and buildings, which would employ about one thousand hands of both sexes and all ages.

Mr. Duval has been strongly recommended to me by the Governor of Pondicherry; he was employed at that place in the management of a cotton factory, and he has informed me, personally, that he has had some knowledge of water-power engines in France.

A project of this nature, presented with the credit and authority belonging to a Government inquiry, would not fail to attract the attention, and, I trust, eventually to enlist the support of those who possess capital and are disposed to embark it in industrial pursuits.

12*th August* 1869. (Signed) NAPIER.

No. 119. MINUTE BY THE HONOURABLE H. D. PHILLIPS.

THE amount which it will be necessary to assign to Monsieur Duval as remuneration for his labour in examining the locality adverted to by His Lordship the President, and determining the practicability of there establishing a mill to be worked by water-power, will be well laid out. I readily assent to measures being taken for securing Monsieur Duval's services, and for incurring the expenditure which his employment will involve. We shall receive an ample return for it if British energy and capital, or Native capital assisted by European agency, can be drawn in the direction of the Upper Tambrapoorney.

31*st August* 1869. (Signed) H. D. PHILLIPS.

No. 120. ORDER THEREON, 6th September 1869, No. 2,524.

Irrigation, No. 1.

THE Government cordially concur in the opinion expressed in His Excellency the President's Minute above recorded. They accordingly resolve to authorize the employment of Mr. Duval for two months, on a consolidated salary of Rupees 500 per mensem, in investigating the points indicated in paragraph 10 of His Lordship's Minute.

2. Mr. Duval will present himself to the Collector of Tinnevelly before entering upon the contemplated inquiry, and the Collector will be directed to afford to Mr. Duval all the information and assistance which he may deem conducive to the purpose in view.

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3. Mr. Duval will be required to pay his own travelling expenses, and he will report on what date he will be prepared to enter upon the duty which the Government propose to entrust to him.

4. The Officiating Accountant General will be good enough to inform Government to what head in the Budget provision Mr. Duval's salary will, in his opinion, be properly debitable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To Mr. Duval.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Officiating Accountant General.

Ext. P. D. Guillaumin.

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Minute by H.E. The President.

I think occasion serving since Colonel Ouseley and the Collector of Tinnevelly are assembled here to consult with the Collector of Tanjore, as an eligible moment of inviting Colonel Ouseley to report to the Government which of the falls in the Tanjore District would afford the best water power which it affords for the purposes of manufactures, and to say,

II. In attending the establishment of a factory in the following important points should be taken into consideration.

(1) Ground power.

(2) Access to the raw material.

(3) Access to markets of consumption.

(4) Labour.

(5) Capital.

In all these respects the site of Kolaroon in Tinnevelly where the Tambraparny spreads over the flats appears to me to offer great encouragements for the creation of a cotton mill.

III. After hearing from the Engineer on

a magnificent cascade the Sambakonny
descends by a course of cascades & the
Pagoda where the Road of Sacred fish
is fed and where the torrent subsides
into a long series of level reaches. The
interval between the water fall and the
Temple presents more than one site
perfectly adapted for the erection of
buildings and machinery, & all the particulars
to a place where, (Should the proposed irrigation
channel is taken off. The volume of water
is probably more than sufficient at all
times of the year but if it was not the
projected irrigation Reservoir in the hills
would repair the deficiency in dry seasons.
No objection could be taken by the authorities
below for the supply would be restored
undiminished and after executing
works were established the river could
well afford the insignificant loss which
would be caused by the diversion of the
contaminated water. On the value of
water even with reference to cleanliness and
salubrity I need not enlarge, the
examples of Scotland, Saxony, Switzerland
and of other countries attest its advantages.

IV. The northern parts of Tinnevelly and the adjacent district of Madura produce the raw material in abundance which would be laid down by the Railway ready made for the factory. It may also be remarked that if the Mill was established the Ryots in the immediate vicinity would devote themselves to the cultivation of cotton in a greater degree than is at present the case.

V. The facilities for the circulation and export of the Manufactured article would be as great as those for the receipt of the raw material. The home consumption in an opulent district would be considerable. The Railway would carry the pieces to Tuticorin where the port of Tuticorin would be their natural outlet towards Ceylon and other foreign markets.

VI. Labour is in the same manner in Madras. It is generally it would be superabundant for emigrants [illegible] to Ceylon and other [illegible]

which are now loaded or employed in usury.

VIII. Two arguments may perhaps be urged against the Project which I recommend to the attention of the Council. 1st That it is not the duty of Government to cooperate in the introduction of any branch of industry. 2d That the development of cotton manufactures here would be detrimental to the interests of Great Britain.

IX. It is not the legitimate function of Government to support Manufacturing establishments except perhaps, occasionally, in the infancy of the arts, and it would hardly be wrong to foster them by a protective or prohibitive system. It will however hardly be affirmed that a Government may not rightfully direct the attention of private parties to new avenues of speculation and enterprise and afford them some kind of aid in the outset. Even the expedient of bounties

is not absolutely excluded by the too
rigid economists. Should the undertaking
which I am advocate prove to be
acceptable to practical men I do not
contemplate a greater measure of state
assistance than would be warranted by the
protection of water power and
building sites, the improvement of
roads, the exemption of imported
machinery for a limited period,
of the manufactured article for public
purposes, with due regard to price
and quality, and similar occasional
and indirect good offices which may
be indulgently extended to an
incipient attempt. —

IX. The increase of cotton manufacture
in India would undoubtedly tend
to restrict importation of the same
articles from England but we are
not to be deterred by this consideration
from giving free scope to all the
natural facilities for manufacturing
industry which India possesses. Prices

is a valuable market for English Manufactures
and is the interest of the great Mass of
their consumers themselves that market
should not be limited by artificial
obstructions such as high Tariffs, but should
is not a reserve for Manchester and the
Government and people of England could
contemplate a calculated neglect of the
undoubted capacities of the Country. We
we have already seen guilty of
inactivity is proved by the fact that
Pondicherry possesses Mines being Cotton
factory in which the raw material
spun in the District territory
are worked up with great profit
to the proprietors and benefit to the
population. Yet the Lieut Governor
enjoys no advantage for this
industry which does not exist at
Madras and suffers under several
drawbacks and disabilities in
connected with Trinevelly the chief
of which is the total absence of water power

X. As a preliminary towards the introduction of Factory Labour into the Presidency of Fort St. George it will be desirable that the Government should charge Mr. [redacted] Powell a gentleman who possesses a competent knowledge of machinery and manufactures, proceeds to proceed directly with the view of reporting on the three following points.

(1) on the character of the River Sankarapoorny as a Motive Power.

(2) on the advantages of the site I have designated at Polnaveram for the purpose of establishing a cotton factory.

(3) on the probable approximate cost of erecting a water power mill including machinery and buildings, which would employ about [redacted] one thousand hands of both sexes and all ages. Mr. Powell has been charged

Recommended to me by Mr. Secretary Pringle, he was employed at Fort St. George with Managers of a cotton factory, he has informed me personally that he has a knowledge of Water Power as well as Steam.