Bte 2
29-5-72

India Office,
London, 14th December 1869.

Revenue,
No. 52.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

My Lord,

Para. 1. I have considered in Council the Despatch from your Excellency in Council, numbered 53, and dated the 31st of August, with which you transmit the Report on the Government Farm at Sydapet, for the year 1868–69, with your Proceedings thereon.

2. On the receipt of this Despatch and its enclosures, I caused them to be communicated to Major-General Frederick C. Cotton, and forward herewith printed copies of his observations upon them. These appear to me to be very valuable, as coming from a person intimately acquainted with practical farming in England, as well as with the requirements of Indian cultivation. They seem, therefore, well worthy of the consideration of your Excellency in Council, and I shall be glad to be informed in what respects you think they can be taken advantage of in your Presidency.

3. I take the opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your Despatch, No. 35, of the 15th of June, forwarding a copy of your letter to Major-General F. C. Cotton, respecting the steam plough sent to Madras in 1865.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

11284.

Revenue
14 Decr 1869.

The
Letter to Govt. St George
No 52

Received 13th Jany 1870.
Vid
Marseilles & Bombay.

Forwarding printed copies of Major Genl. F. C. Cotton's observations upon the Report of the Madras Experimental Farm for the year 1868-69 & requesting to be informed in what respects they can be taken advantage of in the Madras Presidency. Also acknowledging receipt of Despatch respecting the Steam Plough sent to Madras in 1865.

No 283

Rec'd No 842-29 May/72

Rec'd 7 January 1870 No 1833 D
- 17 December - 215-216 D
- 4 May — 1868 - 21-22
- 7 August - - 77-79.

Revenue 1869 Dept
No 3684.

From
The Chairman
Chamber of Commerce
Madras

Dated 26th
Rec'd 29th } Octr 1869.

Urging on Govt the desirability of creating an appointment in Madras analogous to those of the Cotton Commissionership of Bombay & of the Central Provinces.

No 181

S.O. No 842-29 May/72

c 5 Telegs 70 n 22 May 71

or Bombay. The seco
fa

Revd Despatch

21 Re

9 Re

7 Re

7 7

The Memo: and papers circulated by the Revenue
Secretary have reference to a recommendation
by the Chamber of Commerce for the appointment
of a Cotton Commissioner, & also to a suggestion
made by General J. Olliott for the organization
of an Agricultural Dept -
I am very ill-qualified to give an opinion
on either of these subjects, but after giving
them my best consideration I am of opinion
that General Olliott's suggestion cannot
be carried out at present. Even if we could
furnish from Imperial Funds the money

as compared with that
of the Central Provinces
or Bombay - The seed
safe

Rev

+ Unfortunately his own farming at Hopetoun proved a positive & he has given it up!

required, we have not at our Command the Agency - Except General Cotton himself + I know no one who could successfully organize an Agricultural dept. Mr. Robertson the Supt of the Saidapet Farm has the knowledge of English Farming and of Agricultural Chemistry which is essential. and if he could be allowed to go and inspect the agriculture of a few of our districts North and West, he would in time be competent. I dare say, to advise the Govt on the best means of effecting important improvements in the cultivation of the great staples of the country.

Rev Depart

21 Re

9 Re

think there would be a decided advantage in establishing a branch farm, with a plentiful command of water, so as to determine the important question of the quantity of water really necessary for bringing wet crops to perfection. But beyond this, I should hesitate going. a a

I think that action might with advantage be taken of the representation made by the Chamber of Commerce for the appt. of a Cotton Commissioner. There is no unanimity in the opinion that Mr. Forman's efforts have been successful in the Central Provinces in promoting the extension and improvement of Cotton cultivation

staple. - The cost of a Broach cow. & its

as compared with that of the Central Provinces or Bombay. The seed

fape

in these Provinces. and I have no doubt that the mercantile community, the Ryots & the Public Revenue would benefit by a similar agency in this Presidency.
The Madras & Bombay Chambers of Commerce are I think reasonably averse to the Cotton Frauds Act. It is expensive and the Bombay Chamber avers that it is ineffectual in checking frauds.-
It has the advantage of providing Funds out of which in the Bombay Presidency the expense of a Cotton Commissioner's establishment can be met.
In the Central Provinces so far as I can learn the charge of a Cotton Comr. falls on the Imperial Revenues, by the employment of an officer of the Central Provinces as Cotton Comr.
Although I do not recommend the extension of the Cotton Frauds Act to this Presidency, I am decidedly of opinion that the act of a Cotton Comr. should not be an Imperial charge.
But a very small charge on each bale of Cotton exported from this Presidency would furnish the money required to carry out the inspection of the Chambers of Commerce, & would not be felt by the trade.- The cost of a Cotton Comr. & his

important imposition of the great staples of the country.

13 13 13 Rs

Establishment may be roundly stated at 21.236 Rs. per annum - as follows

	a month Rs	Per annum
Commissioner	1200	14,400
Travelling allowance	100	1200
Assistant Comr:	300	
Travelling allowance	50	4200
1 Writer	35	
1 Do	15	540
Travelling allowance for 1 writer	25	300
Peon -	8	96
		20,736
Stationary & contingencies		500
		21,236

of the great staples of the country

13 13 13 Rs

The quantity of cotton exported in 1868 was 848,000 Cwts - and is roundly stated for 1869 - at 880,000 Cwts.

This latter quantity screwed represents 3 am. wht 325,000 Bales - (each bale 300 lb.)

A duty of 2 Annas per bale would give 40,500 Rs. or at 1 Anna 20,250.

Probably the duty of 2 Annas would be sufficient to enable the Cotton Comr: to pay for cotton seed grain, of various kinds, which he would introduce into our districts & for other expenses such as Cotton Farms. But then Enquiries exhibit simply how easily the charge of a Cotton Comr: could be met -

I have suggested to a leading member of the Chamber of Commerce that such a tax might reasonably be imposed in order to secure the object that the Chamber has in view and he stated to me that he himself saw no objection to this course nor did he think the Chamber would be opposed to so light an impost.

I venture to suggest that the Chamber of Commerce may be told that the Govt are willing to accede to their proposal for the appointment of a Cotton Conr. provided that the mercantile community are willing that a small export duty should be levied to meet the cost.

N.B.

I suppose I am not to mention the proposed official member of the Legislative Council in the Bill to this

I suppose I am not to mention the two functions of the formation of a Department of Agriculture as suggested by Sir Samuel Cotton and 2nd the appointment of a Cotton Commissioner but letter to keep distinct. The first function should be opposed by the Board of Revenue for considerations of expense in connexion with the new Sanctioning of Native Deputies of the 14th December last. As to the expediency of appointing a Cotton Commissioner for this purpose the mercantile community are the probably the best judges and if they are willing to pay the

[illegible] confident that if he does so, he will [illegible]

best in the power of an upright Judge
I am not aware that there would
be any objection to the disposition
he [illegible] but perhaps before any
at any decision on the subject it
might be well to consult the Board
of Revenue and the Collectors of the
Districts in which Cotton is grown

[illegible]

I concur with Mr Archibald that
the question of a Cotton Commissioner
should be kept entirely separate from that
of the formation of an Agricultural
Dept.

I am very averse to the establishment
of a Cotton Commr. Such an officer

P.T.O.

N.B.
a non official member of the Legislature
of the great Bill to this

W.S

[illegible] 17 Dec

[illegible] country and write reports in
[illegible] the people to [illegible] the area of
cotton cultivation by holding out expectations
if profit which might prove delusive
on the principles of a Protecting Tariff
& furnish the Mercantile Community with
Statistics which might prove incorrect.
There are not wanting many dangers. This was
which no one knows can be brought down the
price of cotton greatly & it is fortunate that
fact took no heart Coste year in urging the cyclo
to grow cotton. Again the Bombay Presidency states
that the Comrs returns of the Cotton grown in the
Central Provinces last year was altogether wrong.
There is much that is plausible and talking
in this Province to have a Special Officer. But
I am confident that, if we do so, we shall soon

have the syst. com blaming of having been led into
Cotton cultivation that does not pay & the merchant
from selling on account of incorrect data -

The Govt. have done able that a Govt. can
safely & profitably do - they have tried Cotton
Farms for years - have distributed seed to the
Ryots land tenure - market assessment
& roads are our line - Cultivation & trade
is the Chamber - he should need 2
Comrs for the Salary & 1 for the Tamil Country.
and where is the money to come from? And
if we had the money, where are we to get the
men?

A previous proposal of this nature by the
Chamber was rejected - it should be put by.
If the Chamber wants a Comr & likes to
pay for him, let them employ their own man
& retain & their own agency - as a private thing.

Sir I do not see how I can be of
assistance for Model Farms in - [illegible] - It is, I think,

N.B. a non official member of the Council

Madras
19 Dec

I think it will be best for Mr Grant
to communicate the letters to
the Farm Comr & instruct
them to keep in the strictest confidence
either at the Farm or the P. W.
Store, until we have our op-
portunity of bringing it on to
the ~~floor~~ under favorable cir-
cumstances. At present
we have neither the agency nor
the means of doing this.

L. D. S

17-9

Rev. Dept.

21 Rs

Memo: for orders
on a/cs. 3684, 4089 & 4752

At the end
of last October, the pre-
-desiguel was about
to circulate the first of
the papers above noted
(in which the Chamber of
Comuerce suggest the
a Cotton Comuissioner
should be appointed f
this Residency) with a
recomendation that th
proposal be negative
with reference to the ta
state of the finances, a
the comparatively unim
portant nature of the
cotton trade of Madra
as compared with tha
of the Central Provinc
or Bombay. The reco
safe

paper, was then elici-
-ed, and it will be ob-
-served that in it Major
Genl Cotton announced
his having addressed the
Secretary of State again
-st regard to the formation
of an Agricultural Depart-
-ment. As such a Depart-
-ment would necessarily
include any special Cotton
Department, it was deem-
-ed advisable to defer
disposing of the Chamber
-s Commissioners proposal
until the orders of the
Secretary of State were
elicited on Genl Cot-
-ton's proposals. The
despatch of the 14th De-
-cember last offers these
proposals in connection
with the Lydaford Farm
and the general agri-
-culture of the Presiden-
-cy for the consideration
of this Govt.

On a former occasion Genl Cotton
when commenting upon
the report of the experi-
-mental introduction
of improved agricultu-
-ral implements remark-
-ed as follows:-

"In the present
state of affairs, the Govt
must act if any thing
to be done, there being no
Agricultural Society to
foster improvement
and too large a field
for any but Govt influ-
-ence to reach it all.

"It is probable that
in every country a great
deal more would be
done if there was a De-
-partment of the Govt that
had the power of foster-
-ing every new effort to
economize agricultural
labour, and turn the
soil to the best account.
I find in England and
Scotland, even now, in spi-
-te of all the information
-tion circulated by the
great Societies, by imple-
-ment makers, and
agricultural

agricultural writers, that there is scarcely any part of this country where the value of all modern mechinels and improved modes of cultivation are fully appreciated. One county has adopted certain novelties, a neighbouring county others, each looking doubtfully on the means not yet adopted by themselves. The introduction of machinery, till lately, has indeed been very slow. And if so in England, with its small extent and great facilities for intercourse, what hope is there for India unless the Govt goes into the subject in all parts of the country, and makes the importance of it fully understood?

"If this is to be done, the Govt must do it, and the only question seems to be, whether so much advantage can be derived from the better treatment of the land, & the economy of the labour now wasted, as to justify the attempt on a great scale? And no one who has looked into the results of what is called "high farming" in this country can question this. We are every day more & more astonished with the yield of the land, which really seems to have no limit. And the great fortunes made by the manufacturers of agricultural machinery, with the considerable establishments set up in every small town, for making and repairing agricultural apparatus, shows the immense importance now attached to machinery as a means of saving labour, and doing the work much better than it can be done by hand.

3. General Cotton went on to propose that the present Forest Dept should be enlarged into a Department of Agriculture.

The

4 The Right Honble the Secy of State when forwarding Genl Cotton's letter with his Despatch left it to the Madras Govt to suggest the appointment of a spe=cial officer for the charge of an Agricultural De=partment to the Govt of India, should they deem it advisable to do so, and this Govt in their order under date 17th June 1869, No 1728 stated that they were not then prepared to recommend that such a Department should be created:-

Now

Now that the creation of an Agricultural Department has as it were again been left by the Secretary of State for the consideration of Govt, His Excellency the President and the members may feel disposed to recommend to the Govt of India the institution of a small Department of the kind with special reference to Cotton. If so, a Despatch might be sent to the Govt of India adverting to Genl Cotton's proposals, and forwarding at the same time the communication from the Chamber of Commerce.

5. The charge will however be a new one on the finances, and in the present state of the Govt Exchequer it is not

6 In Burdwan the charge is met from the fees collected under the Cotton Frauds Act but the Chamber of Commerce Bengal advocates the right of Cotton traders not to be taxed to

likely to meet with the sup-
-port of the Govt of India.
If, therefore, the Govt should
not feel at liberty to recom-
-mend the necessary outlay,
it is submitted that the
Chamber of Commerce may
be informed that the Cotton
trade of this Presidency has
not, in the opinion of Govt,
yet attained such dimensions
as would authorize them in
the present condition of the
finances to recommend the
expenditure which would
be required for the establish-
-ment of a special cotton
Department. The letter
from Govt Cotton regarding
the Steam Plough in which,
while in some measure meeting
the

the disparaging remarks upon
the machine, he agrees in
the conclusion arrived at,
that it had best be laid
aside for the present, might
be forwarded to the Farm
Committee with instructions
to carry this conclusion
into effect.

6. The Despatch with Govt
Cotton's other letter might also
be referred to the Board of
Revenue and the Farm
Committee with a request
that they will favor the
Govt with their opinions
upon the two suggestions
that Mr Robertson should
visit the principal agri-
-cultural Districts and
that another farm shall

be

be established under one of the large tanks of the Madras District; and the Farm Committee might at the same time be directed to pay special attention to Major Genl. Cotton's other suggestions in regard to forms of account, the value of water, the effect of deep cultivation, and the value of the several manures, &c. It will be in the recollection of Govt. that the establishment of five small farms in the Mofussil for the experimental culture of Carolina paddy has been recently sanctioned.

What has become of them?

Memo
Estabt of an Agrl
Cultural Dept
Vera Nos 1, 11 4

128
33 Rec

W. 842.

Rep. of the Madras Govt
29th May 72

Read the follg. papers.

From the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

Urges the desirability of creating an appointt in Madras analogous to those of the Cotton Commissionerships of Bombay and of the Central Provinces.

(Here enter 26th Octr 1869)

From Major Genl J. C. Cotton late Madras Engineers.

Expresses opinion upon the correspondence regarding the Steam Ploughing Apparatus sent to Madras.

(Here enter 30th Do)

Desp. from the Secy of State.

Forwards copies of Major Genl J. C. Cotton's observations upon the Madras Experimental Farm Report for 1868/69 and requests to be informed in what respects they can be taken advantage of in this Presidency.

(Here enter 11th Decr 1869 No 52)

Rep. of the Board of Revr.

Submits opinion of Retg Agt for Nuncomar Division respecting the introdn of Agrl Implements into this Presidency.

(Here enter 24th Augt 1870 No 529)

The

The Govt having
in September 1871 sanc-
-tioned the establish-
-ment of experimental
Farms in this Presidency
for the improvement of
agriculture, the progress
papers do not now need
any specific orders, and
will therefore be recorded

EB

Sent

1 Chairman Chamber of Commerce Bes 30 May/72
14 Board of Revenue

1487/RH

60

Renewing certain Patents of 1869 & 1870 & respecting the improvement of agriculture

Rev
842
29.5.72

No 281—285