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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revn. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	123.	Press / Mis.
Dated 20.9.1873		196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th September 1873.

No. 229. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce (Fibres and Silk), dated Simla, 21st August 1873, No. 178 :—

Office Memorandum from Lieutenant-Colonel K. C. PYE, Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated Simla, 31st July 1873, No. 1,325 G. R.

THE undersigned is directed to forward for information the accompanying copy of Resolution No. 473, passed at the official meeting of the East Indian Railway, No. 30 of 1873, on the subject of a reduction in the rate of carriage of rhea fibre.

Extract from Official Meeting No. 30, *East Indian Railway, held on the* 19*th June* 1873.

SUBMITTED the following extract from Minutes of Agency Meeting No. 24, held on 17th instant.

"Submitted Traffic Manager's No. 4,451 of 9th instant, and enclosures.

"Lieutenant-Colonel Thelwall, of Mussoorie, inquired of the Traffic Manager if the Railway Company would be prepared to convey rhea fibre, when pressed, at the same rates as jute, hemp, etc., viz., first class, and stated that the manufacturers in England at present would only purchase the fibre in large quantities when in a very raw state, and that the fibre is therefore prepared of three qualities, the lowest being worth from £10 to £14 per ton in London, the second quality being worth from £15 to £20 per ton, and the first from £25 to £30 per ton, but that the second and third qualities are most in demand and produced at present. Further, that the expenses of cultivating and manufacturing, etc., etc., are very heavy, and unless the planters can secure their produce being carried to the seaports at a rate which will leave them some margin for profit, it would be useless their extending the cultivation on a large scale; that the produce of this fibre in the North-Western Provinces might be unlimited, should it be proved that it can be produced as a remunerative crop, the great obstacle now existing to its extensive development being the high rates of railway freight now ruling. The Traffic Manager replied that he did not see his way at present to recommend the Agency to reduce the rate as requested; that the article was admittedly a valuable one, and the higher class fibres could easily bear the higher rates; that it does not give the Company a full load for their wagons in weight; that he would be glad to do all he could to encourage a remunerative traffic; but that the amount the Company would earn at the reduced rate would not be sufficient to warrant the reduction; that after hearing again from Colonel Thelwall he would be glad to refer the matter to the Agency if he wished it, but that he could not recommend them to agree to his proposal or to bind the Company to so low a rate until something more was known of the traffic.

"Colonel Thelwall explained that the rhea was pressed into bales of 320 lbs. each, covered with gunny and fastened with iron ties; that 7 bales go to the ton, and that the area occupied by a ton would be from 52 to 56 cubic feet; that the fibre in a rough state is what the London firms require, and that the high rate of freight at present is one of the great difficulties; that in a few years the cultivation of rhea will probably increase to an enormous extent if proper encouragement is given to induce its extension.

"The Traffic Manager of the Delhi Railway, to whom a similar representation was made by Colonel Thelwall, agreed with Mr. Batchelor that an alteration of rate at present was not desirable.

"At Colonel Thelwall's desire the matter has been placed before the Agency for decision.

"In the Agency's opinion rhea screwed to 8 feet per bale of 320 lbs. may fairly be called fully screwed, and would give a full load.

"As regards value, it is sold by "ton" and not per "lb.," and the lowest quality is not much above jute, less than one-fourth that of cotton."

"No. 2,377.—Resolved that, as this is a new trade which requires development, and as its conveyance will extend over the entire length of the line, the Agency are prepared to reduce to first class all rhea fibre screwed to 8 feet per bale of 300 lbs., but would let half-screwed bales stand as at present, *viz.*, second class."

With reference to Resolution No. 474 of Official Meeting No. 35 of 1872—

473.—Resolved that the Resolution of the Agency be recorded, the reduced rate to take effect from 1st August next.

COPY forwarded to the Government of Madras, in continuation of Resolution No. 269, dated the 4th December last, for information and for communication to persons interested in rhea cultivation for trade.

By order of the Governor-General in Council.

(Signed) C. J. LYALL,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 230. ORDER THEREON, 16th September 1873, No. 2,282.

RAILWAY, No. 34.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer for Railways and to the Revenue Department in continuation of G. O., No. 31, of 7th January 1873.

(True Extract.)

E. W. Shunker Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Revenue Department.

N. 123
Comm^d to the B^d
of Revenue
B^d Rec^d 22 Sept

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
20 Spare Copies. will be supp^d from Madras office
20 Sept 73

Revenue 1873 Sept.
No 2923.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CONSULTING ENGINEER

FOR RAILWAYS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September 16th.

Read. —"— 19 " " Encl.

G. O., 16th September 1873, No. 2,282.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 229-230

No 2123-20-Rly-P.

Rhea fibre.—Proceedings of the Government of India forwarding copy of Resolution on the subject of a reduction in the rate of carriage of rhea fibre, communicated to the Consulting Engineer and to the Revenue Department.

Wm Tibbs Adam