

- (1) Number of Pages 12. ✓
(2) Date of repair 22-6-67
(3) Initials of the Referencer W. J. L.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1489.

Press
Mis.

Dated

3. 12. 1964

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd December 1874.*

No. 32. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce (Commerce and Trade), dated 11th November 1874, No. 3/204-221:—

Read again—

A Resolution, No. 54-A-Q, dated 29th December 1871, appointing Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carnac to be Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India.

Read also—

A letter from Mr. W. S. Halsey, Offg. Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India, dated the 30th September 1872, stating his views regarding experimental farms and the status of the appointment of Commissioner.

RESOLUTION.

The circumstances which gave rise to the appointment of the Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India are as follow: When in consequence of the American War the United States had temporarily ceased to supply the raw material for the English cotton industry and it came to be considered in England that it would be well if the attention of merchants and spinners were directed to other quarters, an Association was formed in Manchester with the object of fostering and encouraging the production of cotton in various parts of the world, and especially in British colonies and dependencies. India was considered by the Cotton Supply Association to offer a great field for the development of cotton cultivation, and the Association entered into correspondence with the Secretary of State for India on the subject of the most feasible means of improving the quality and increasing the quantity of the produce. After some desultory and tentative efforts had been made, a Cotton Commissioner was appointed in Bombay, and in 1866 the Secretary of State in a letter to the Government of India suggested that "the appointment of an officer possessing powers and exercising duties similar to those held by Dr. Forbes (the Cotton Commissioner) in the Bombay Presidency, but whose attention should be directed to Berar and other cotton-producing tracts of Central India, might be productive of much advantage."

2. Thereupon, after consultation with the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, the Government of India gave effect to the Secretary of State's suggestions in a Resolution of the 30th July 1866, and sanctioned the appointment of a Cotton Commissioner for the Central Provinces and Berar—the great cotton-producing centres in the provinces administered by the Government of India. To this office Mr. Rivett-Carnac was appointed. It was intended that his duties should consist mainly in collecting and diffusing information as to the best modes of cultivating, cleaning, and packing the cotton, and in arranging for the supply to the ryots of seed of superior quality, whether indigenous or foreign, and of the machinery best adapted for cleaning and packing the staple.

3. The Cotton Commissioner's attention was at first confined to the Central Provinces and Berar, and to the removal of impediments to the cotton traffic on the railways caused by the inadequacy of the rolling stock for the conveyance of the large quantities tendered for despatch. But as by degrees his duties were extended to other parts of India, the cotton tracts in the Central Provinces were divided into three circles

to each of which was appointed an officer to aid the Cotton Commissioner by collecting or publication full information regarding the weather and the prospects of the crops, the movements of the traffic in the interior and other details connected with the trade. At the same time cotton farms were established in these circles, and others were afterwards set on foot in the cotton-growing tracts of the North-Western Provinces and Punjab, each farm being placed under a specially trained gardener.

4. In 1871, it was decided that having regard to the extended sphere of Mr. Rivett-Carnac's duties and to the probability of his services being more widely utilized, he should be styled "Comptroller of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India" and be placed under the orders of the Supreme Government. In the Resolution of the 29th December 1871 by which this change was made, it was proposed to employ him in addition to his existing work in the collection and arrangement on a systematic plan of the statistics of the trade of British India and in reporting on them and other cognate matters.

5. Meanwhile, the farms which were first started purely and simply as cotton farms were by degrees converted into model and experimental farms, where the cultivation on improved principles of various classes of Indian produce was tried.

6. Thus the duties of the Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India were—

- I—to develop the cultivation and improve the quality of the produce in the manner set forth in the Secretary of State's despatch of 1866;
- II—to assist the railway traffic and remove blocks;
- III—to supervise the model farms established primarily for cotton and subsequently utilized for other crops;
- IV—to publish periodical reports showing the state of the weather and the prospects of the crops in the cotton-growing districts;
- V—to collect and arrange commercial statistics generally and to report upon them.

7. It now remains to be seen how much of this work has been done and how much remains to be done.

I.—With regard to the development of the cultivation of cotton: A valuable report has been published, which forms a useful book of reference and a complete record of the cotton trade of Western India. Nothing more is now required on the part of Government with regard to cotton in India. The trade settled down and found its level after the excitement caused by the failure of the supply from America had passed away. The supply from the United States has been resumed and there is no prospect of an interruption; the Cotton Supply Association, which was the primary cause of Mr. Rivett-Carnac's appointment, has been dissolved, and it is not probable that Indian cotton will again rise to the same importance in the English market except when other sources fail. It is no doubt an object to maintain a high standard in this article of produce and to encourage it to acquire a good reputation in the English market, but it is equally an object to secure and maintain a good reputation for many other articles of Indian production, such as tea, tobacco, indigo, jute and silk. These and other articles have not, however, enjoyed

the protection of a special Commissioner, but are left to private enterprise stimulated by the encouragement of the Local and Supreme Governments. There is no reason why cotton should, now that the trade has found its normal level, continue to be treated exceptionally.

II.—The assistance of railway traffic and the removal of blocks: The attention of the Commissioner shortly after the creation of his office was directed to the relief of the cotton traffic which was at first seriously mismanaged. In this direction his services were very useful, and he assisted in reducing into system the details of the article and in correcting the abuses which once prevailed. There are now, however, no more impediments to the traffic, nor is the traffic itself of an abnormal character; in this direction the services of a Special Commissioner are no longer required.

III.—The supervision of the model farms: These were first established for the purpose of teaching the natives the culture of cotton on good principles, but the results of their supervision by the Commissioner were hardly satisfactory; it was apparent that no good would be done with them if the existing system of management were maintained, and the local authorities were given no inducement to seek successful results. The whole of the farms have accordingly been made over to the direct control of the Local Governments in whose respective jurisdictions they are located, and the Commissioner has now nothing to do with them.

IV.—The publication of periodical reports on the season and cotton crops: The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces and the Resident at Hyderabad now prepare these regularly and send copies to the Chambers of Commerce, so that this portion of his duties is no longer conducted by the Commissioner.

V.—The collection and arrangement of commercial statistics: Among these are the trade and navigation returns of the Government of India; nothing has been done by the Cotton Commissioner towards improving them, and the work continues to be done in the statistical branch of the Financial Department. The returns of railway traffic have been regularly supplied to the Commissioner, who has submitted two interesting annual reports on the interchange of traffic between the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways. These reports, however, form but a very imperfect contribution towards those general reports on the direction and fluctuations of Indian commerce which it is desirable for the Government of India to receive, and being only fragmentary do not warrant the retention of a special officer for their compilation.

8. With the exception therefore of the statistical portion of his work, there are no longer any duties appertaining to the office which may not be, or have not already been, entrusted with advantage to other agency. He has, it is true, had some miscellaneous work connected with industrial exhibitions, but this does not really appertain to the office of the Commissioner. This work, however, will now cease with the discontinuance of the annual International Exhibitions at South Kensington—the last of which was held this year.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,

3rd December 1874.

9. For the preparation of the statistical portion of the work which it was intended that the Commissioner should do, the Government of India will make other arrangements; but for the rest the time has arrived when the office of Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India may with propriety cease to exist. The appointment when first constituted was highly useful; it was created at an opportune moment and was not costly. But it has gradually become a source of considerable expense disproportionate to the present duties of the office.

10. The appointment will accordingly be abolished from the commencement of the financial year 1875-76. In abolishing the office the Governor-General in Council desires to record his approval of the manner in which Mr. Rivett-Carnac maintained cordial relations between Government and the cotton interests, and kept the public informed of all that related to cotton in all its stages. These important duties Mr. Rivett-Carnac performed with zeal and ability.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to the Local Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab. Chief Commissioners of Oudh, Central Provinces, Burma, Mysore and Coorg, Ajmere, and Assam, and Resident at Hyderabad. Departments noted in the margin; and that a copy be also forwarded to Mr. Rivett-Carnac.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. O. HUME,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 3/201.

To the Government of Madras.

No. 33.

ORDER THEREON. 3rd December 1874, No. 1,489.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue for their information.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. W. H. French.

4
1489

No. 3-21

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue,
Agriculture and Commerce, Dated 11th November 1872.

[COMMERCE AND TRADE.]

READ AGAIN—

A Resolution, No. 54 A-Q, dated 29th December 1871, appointing Mr. J. H. Rivett-Carnac to be Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India.

Read also—

A letter from Mr. W. S. Halley, Officiating Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India, dated the 30th September 1872, stating his views regarding experimental farms and the status of the appointment of Commissioner.

RESOLUTION.

The circumstances which gave rise to the appointment of the Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India, are as follow: When in consequence of the American War the United States had temporarily ceased to supply the raw material for the English cotton industry and it came to be considered in England that it would be well if the attention of merchants and spinners were directed to other quarters, an Association was formed in Manchester with the object of fostering and encouraging the production of cotton in various parts of the world and especially in British colonies and dependencies. India was considered by the Cotton Supply Association to offer a great field for the development of cotton cultivation and the Association entered into correspondence with the Secretary of State for India on the subject of the most feasible means of improving the quality and increasing the quantity of the produce. After some desultory and tentative efforts had been made, a Cotton Commissioner was appointed in Bombay, and in 1866 the Secretary of State in a letter to the Government of India suggested that "the appointment of an officer possessing powers and exercising duties similar to those held by Dr. Forbes (the Cotton Commissioner) in the Bombay Presidency, but whose attention should be directed to Berar and other cotton producing tracts of Central India, might be productive of much advantage."

2. Thereupon, after consultation with the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, the Government of India gave effect to the Secretary of State's suggestions in a Resolution of the 30th July 1866 and sanctioned the appointment of a Cotton Commissioner for the Central Provinces and Berar—the great cotton producing centres in the provinces administered by the Government of India. To this office Mr. Rivett-Carnac was appointed. It was intended that his duties should consist mainly in collecting and diffusing information as to the best modes of cultivating, cleaning and packing the cotton and in arranging for the supply to the mills of seed of superior quality, whether indigenous or foreign, and of the machinery best adapted for cleaning and packing the staple.

3. The Cotton Commissioner's attention was at first confined to the Central Provinces and Berar and to the removal of impediments to the cotton traffic on the railways caused by the inadequacy of the rolling stock for the conveyance of the large quantities tendered for despatch. But as by degrees his duties were extended to other parts of India, the cotton tracts

Cost. of 1874
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated December 3rd

1874

Encl.

G. O. 34 D. 1874, No. 1489.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 32-33.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue resc.
tion of the Government of India, abolishing the
appointment of —

in the Central Provinces were divided into three circles to each of which was appointed an officer to aid the Cotton Commissioner by collecting for publication full information regarding the weather and the prospects of the crops, the movements of the traffic in the interior and other details connected with the trade. At the same time cotton farms were established in these circles and others were afterwards set on foot in the cotton growing tracts of the North-Western Provinces and Punjab, each farm being placed under a specially trained gardener.

4. In 1871 it was decided that having regard to the extended sphere of Mr. Rivett-Carnac's duties and to the probability of his services being more widely utilized, he should be styled "Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India" and be placed directly under the orders of the Supreme Government. In the Resolution of the 29th December 1871 by which this change was made it was proposed to employ him in addition to his existing work in the collection and arrangement on a systematic plan of the statistics of the trade of British India and in reporting on them and other cognate matters.

5. Meanwhile the farms which were first started purely and simply as cotton farms were by degrees converted into model and experimental farms where the cultivation on improved principles of various classes of Indian produce was tried.

6. Thus the duties of the Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India were—

- I—to develop the cultivation and improve the quality of the produce in the manner set forth in the Secretary of State's despatch of 1866;
- II—to assist the railway traffic and remove blocks;
- III—to supervise the model farms established primarily for cotton and subsequently utilized for other crops;
- IV—to publish periodical reports showing the state of the weather and the prospects of the crops in the cotton growing districts;
- V—to collect and arrange commercial statistics generally and to report upon them.

7. It now remains to be seen how much of this work has been done and how much remains to be done.

I.—With regard to the development of the cultivation of cotton: A valuable report has been published which forms a useful book of reference and a complete record of the cotton trade of Western India. Nothing more is now required on the part of Government with regard to cotton in India. The trade settled down and found its level after the excitement caused by the failure of the supply from America had passed away. The supply from the United States has been resumed and there is no prospect of an interruption; the Cotton Supply Association, which was the primary cause of Mr. Rivett-Carnac's appointment, has been dissolved, and it is not probable that Indian cotton will again rise to the same importance in the English market except when other sources fail. It is no doubt an object to maintain a high standard in this article of produce and to encourage it to acquire a good reputation in the English market, but it is equally an object to secure and maintain a good reputation for many other articles of Indian production, such as tea, tobacco, indigo, jute and silk. These and other articles have not, however, enjoyed the protection of a special Commissioner, but are left to private enterprise stimulated by the encouragement of the Local and Supreme Governments. There is no reason why cotton should, now that the trade has found its normal level, continue to be treated exceptionally.

II.—The assistance of railway traffic and the removal of blocks: The attention of the Commissioner shortly after the creation of his office was directed to the relief of the cotton traffic which was at first seriously mismanaged. In this direction his services were very useful, and he assisted in reducing into system the delivery of the article and in correcting the abuses which once prevailed. There are now however no more impediments to the traffic, nor is the traffic itself of an abnormal character; in this direction the services of a Special Commissioner are no longer required.

III.—The supervision of the model farms: These were first established for the purpose of teaching the natives the culture of cotton on good principles, but the results of their supervision by the Commissioner were hardly satisfactory; it was apparent that no good would be done with them if the existing system of management were maintained, and the local authorities were given no inducement to seek successful results. The whole of the farms have accordingly been made over to the direct control of the Local Governments in whose respective jurisdictions they are located, and the Commissioner has now nothing to do with them.

IV.—The publication of periodical reports on the season and cotton crops: The Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces and the Resident at Hyderabad now prepare these regularly and send copies to the Chambers of Commerce, so that this portion of his duties is no longer conducted by the Commissioner.

V.—The collection and arrangement of commercial statistics: Among these are the trade and navigation returns of the Government of India; nothing has been done by the Cotton Commissioner towards improving them, and the work continues to be done in the statistical branch of the Financial Department. The returns of railway traffic have been regularly supplied to the Commissioner, who has submitted two interesting annual reports on the interchange of traffic between the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways. These reports however form but a very imperfect contribution towards those general reports on the direction and fluctuations of Indian commerce which it is desirable for the Government of India to receive, and being only fragmentary do not warrant the retention of a special officer for their compilation.

8. With the exception therefore of the statistical portion of his work, there are no longer any duties appertaining to the office which may not be, or have not already been, entrusted with to other agency. He has, it is true, had some miscellaneous work connected with industrial exhibitions, but this does not really appertain to the office of the Commissioner. This work, however, will now cease with the continuance of the annual International Exhibitions at South Kensington—the last of which was held this year.

9. For the preparation of the statistical portion of the work which it was intended that the Commissioner should do, the Government of India will make other arrangements; but for the rest the time has arrived when the office of Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce with the Government of India may with propriety cease to exist. The appointment when first constituted was highly useful; it was created at an opportune moment and was not costly. But it has gradually become a source of considerable expense disproportionate to the present duties of the office.

10. The appointment will accordingly be abolished from the commencement of the financial year 1875-76. In abolishing the office the Governor General in Council desires to record his approval of the manner in which Mr. Rivett-Carnac maintained cordial relations between Government and the cotton interests, and kept the public informed of all that related to cotton in all its

1689

stages. These important duties Mr. Rivett-Carnac performed with zeal and ability.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to the Local Governments, Administrations, and to the Departments noted in the margin; and that a copy be also forwarded to Mr. Rivett-Carnac.

Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab.
Chief Commissioners of Oudh, Central Provinces, Burma, Mysore and Coorg, Ajmere, and Assam, and Resident at Hyderabad.
Home, Foreign, Financial, Military, and Public Works Departments.

(True extract.)

R. S. S. S.

Secretary to the Government of India.

Sp 3/20/4

L

The Government of Madras

Handwritten signature and scribbles

N^o 4098.
Revenue 1874. Department

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCE and TRADE.

RESOLUTION.

To

Sup
No. 204-221.

Issued Calcutta, the 11th November 1874.

Recd 24. — — —

N^o 1189

Communicated to the Board

of Revenue for their information.

14. To the Board of Rev
Dec 11. 1874
SUBJECT.

ABOLITION of the appointment of Commissioner of Cotton
and Commerce with the Government of India.

O. S. G. P.—No. 1361, R. A. & C.—11-11-74—20.

32-33

With order