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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1554 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 12-12-1874 196—.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 166. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th November 1874, No. 3,294 :—

Read the following letter from J. BROUGHTON, Esq., Government Quinologist, Ootacamund, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th October 1874 :—

In Board's Proceedings, No. 781, of 8th April 1874, I am requested to furnish the Board of Revenue with my opinion on the propositions of Mr. J. E. O'Connor made in his admirable report on tobacco cultivation in India. My late absence from India on leave has delayed the submission of my opinion till now. Though it may possibly arrive too late to be of service, I nevertheless forward it as directed.

2. It has been proposed by Mr. O'Connor to obtain a teacher from Manila from whom the natives of this country could learn the method of curing tobacco, in order to suit the tastes of European smokers. From my experience of the natives of Madras Presidency, I do not at all think they would follow any improved method of dealing with their tobacco, unless indeed a pecuniary advantage in the change could be made immediately apparent to them in their narrow experience. Substantial proof would, I think, be necessary of the money advantage to be obtained before a ryot would voluntarily alter the current method of manufacture which has so long been pursued in his district. It would obviously require much establishment and commercial success in tobacco culture before Government could furnish a motive to the ryot's mind for improving his methods of curing tobacco. This could only, under any circumstances, occur in a few districts, as most tobacco cultivators are quite content with a local sale of their crop, and, furthermore, there are but few districts in this Presidency where tobacco fit for European sale can readily be grown. This latter is, I think, rendered evident in my various reports on tobacco.

3. Furthermore, I do not believe there is any great art in the proper curing of tobacco. This, I think, is evident from the fact that tobacco is successfully cured in the Phillippines by a people that are certainly not more intelligent than a native of South India. Even now the tobacco of the Godavery Lunkas and Dindigul is also successfully cured by natives, though it requires a certain experience before their cheroots are thoroughly liked by Europeans. At the present time there are European firms in South India, as Messrs. Campbell and Co., Dindigul, and Messrs. Roberts, Cocanada, who are attempting not unsuccessfully to produce Indian cheroots for European smokers. The judicious care necessary for the curing of tobacco, which is more necessary to success than special art, will, I think, be produced in the districts as the trade of these firms extends. As a personal opinion, therefore, I cannot see that the introduction of a teacher from Manila would be productive of much good to South India.

4. My previous reports have abundantly shown that it is in the more jungly districts of India that the best tobacco can be grown. Travancore, Burmah, the wilder parts of Coimbatore, the lower Pulneys, etc., have produced the best, with the exception of the centres cited above. I have on several occasions recom-

mended that Wynaad should be the site of further tobacco experiments, as it offers in soil and climate apparently the most favorable conditions for success. The ordinary practice of placing good tobacco seed in the hands of Tahsildars for cultivation in unfavorable districts can never result in success for many reasons. But I would respectfully recommend that small quantities of good seed should be issued to planters who would take a more intelligent care and interest in the growth and curing of the crop than can be expected from the ryot. The planter would also possess a better discrimination in the quality of his product than the latter. I would also recommend that some simple directions for curing should be issued to those who take an intelligent interest in the quality of their crop of tobacco.

5. The land of the Government Farm at Sydapet appears to be quite unfit for the production of good tobacco. Whether farms will be established in other districts by Government I am ignorant, though I known they have been proposed. If such are started, it is hardly likely that they will be situated on the more virgin soil which appears best suited to tobacco for the European market. Though the foregoing reason appears to render success on Government Farms somewhat problematical, a small crop of tobacco should, it appears to me, be tried on all the sites fixed upon, since it is probable an intelligent management of the cultivation and curing will be there available.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 13th August 1874, No. 2,228, and 14th September 1874, No. 2,599.

2. Mr. Broughton agrees with the majority of the officers consulted in condemning the proposal to import curers from Manila for the purpose of instructing native growers of tobacco. The best tobaccos in the world are not grown far within the tropics. The island of Cuba is just inside the tropics, and, being surrounded by the sea, must have a moderately damp climate at all seasons. The best pipe tobaccos, such as Latakia, Turkish, and the North American tobaccos, are not grown within the tropics at all. The plains of India are probably too hot and dry for the production of the best kinds, and doubtless it is not so much ignorance of the proper method of curing which leads to bad results as the dryness of the air which renders good curing impossible.

3. As pointed out by Mr. Broughton, localities, such as the Wynaad, etc., might be tried with considerable success; but even there, though the air is cool compared with the plains, it is very dry in some months. Mr. Broughton's suggestion, that seed should be issued to planters in the Wynaad for experimental cultivation, is deserving of consideration.

4. With the view of selecting the best localities for experiments in this country, the Board would suggest that an application should be made by Government for information as to the exact state of the atmosphere in regard to heat, moisture, etc., during the curing season at Havana and Manila.

5. The Board observe that Colonel Man, Superintendent of Port Blair and the Nicobars, in paragraphs 27 and 28 of his annual report on the Convict Settlement of Port Blair for 1869-70, speaks of trying Latakia tobacco cultivation at the Nicobars. As these islands lie in nearly the same latitude as Manila, a detailed

report of the result of the experiment would be useful. The Board would suggest, however, that experiments should be made with tobacco seed obtained from warmer countries than Latakia, such as Manila, Havana, etc.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 167. ORDER THEREON, 12th December 1874, No. 1,554.

Miscellaneous.

Dated 7th September 1874, No. 1,145.

ORDERED to be communicated to the Government of India in continuation of the letter noted in the margin, and with special reference to the Board's remarks in paragraphs 4 and 5.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Encl. A. Grubert.

No. 3,294.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th November 1874.

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Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 13th August 1874, No. 2,228, and 14th September 1874, No. 2,599.

2. Mr. Broughton agrees with the majority of the officers consulted in condemning the proposal to import curers from Manila for the purpose of instructing native growers of tobacco. The best tobaccos in the world are not grown far within the tropics. The island of Ceylon is just inside the tropics, and, being surrounded by the sea, must have a moderately damp climate at all seasons. The best pipe tobaccos, such as Latakia, Turkish, and the North American tobaccos, are not grown within the tropics at all. The plains of India are probably too hot and dry for the production of the best kinds, and doubtless it is not so much ignorance of the proper method of curing which leads to bad results as the dryness of the air which renders good curing impossible.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Government Quinologist.
Copy to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Ed. A. Grubert.

Revenue Department.

No. 1564

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 12th December 1874.

READ the following Copy of the 23rd ult. from the Collector of Trichinopoly, forwarding a petition from Messrs. Brough, Scott & Co. of Trichinopoly, praying for the grant of a bonus on the export of Cheroot tobacco manufactured in Trichinopoly.

H. E. 10th Nov. 1874. No. 3294.

Ordered that the papers noted in the margin be referred to the Board of Revenue for report.

Dated 5th September 1874.
No. 1145.

14 Nos. Dated 23rd ult. from Collr. of Trichy. — 2. Petition. — 12. Petition. — 15. do.

Received 1874, Sept. 28.

Board of Revenue, Madras.

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH NOVEMBER 1874, No. 3,294.

Copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th November 1874.

Read the following papers:—

Letter from Mr. Broughton, Government Chemist, submitting remarks against proposal to import a skilled tobacco grower and curer from Manila or elsewhere, to instruct native agriculturists, etc., in the art of curing — submitted to Government with certain suggestions.

NOVEMBER.

No. 3,294.

Tobacco.—Letter from Mr. Broughton, Government Chemist, submitting remarks against proposal to import a skilled tobacco grower and curer from Manila or elsewhere, to instruct native agriculturists, etc., in the art of curing — submitted to Government with certain suggestions.

Received 15th November 1874.