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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1777.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 8-12-1875 ~~196~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th December 1875.

No. 116. Read the following letter from A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Statistics,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Calcutta, 23rd November 1875, No. 680 :—

In continuation of the Resolution of the Government of India in this department, dated 12th July 1875, No. 10/383—393, and of Resolution No. 15/540—550, dated 13th September, I am directed to forward a copy of my letter to the Government of Bengal, No. 616, dated 25th ultimo, indicating what is required in the reports on the cultivation of and trade in Cotton called for by the Government of India.

Enclosure No. 1.

From A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, dated Simla, 25th October 1875, No. 616.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the report on the Cotton trade and cultivation of Bengal embodied in your letter of the 25th August, No. 2,980 (Agriculture), and to express the satisfaction with which the Governor-General in Council learns that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will arrange for the collection of full information on these subjects in future years. I am now directed to communicate the following observations as to the nature and scope of the report which is required.

2. The object which the Government of India have in view is the preparation of a complete report on the Indian Cotton trade in which should be exhibited year by year, with all practicable accuracy and detail, the fluctuations of the trade, external and internal, the area under cultivation, the quantity and quality of the outturn, and all other matters of interest connected with the production of this great staple and the trade in it. It is intended to obtain similar reports from all local Governments and to transmit them to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, together with an abstract report compiled for the whole of India.

3. First, as regards the trade. This main branch of the subject may be sub-divided into the two heads of internal and external trade. The internal trade again, *i.e.*, trade with other divisions of British India, comprises the trade by sea (or coasting trade) and trade by land. In a general view of the trade in Bengal Cotton, it is as necessary to touch on the features of the coasting, as on those of the foreign, trade. It should be shown whether at any time Cotton is imported into Bengal from other Presidencies, from what ports the article comes, in what quantities, and the value of the imports. It should also be shown to what extent Cotton is exported from Bengal to other Presidencies, and the proportion taken by each Presidency, as well as the purposes (as far as may be known) to which the Cotton imported is applied.

4. As regards the trade by land, the Government of India would desire to learn, so far as this is possible, from what particular provinces the supply is received and in what proportions, and the manner in which the Cotton is brought down to the port of shipment, whether by road, rail or river, and how the Cotton brought to Calcutta is packed, whether in fully pressed, half pressed or unpressed bales. His Excellency in Council is aware that accurate statistics on these heads are not at present obtainable in Bengal; but His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may perhaps be able to make arrangements to procure for the future such approximately correct information on the subject as will afford a fair idea at any rate of the course of the trade.

5. As regards the foreign trade, I am to remark that the figures given in the report under acknowledgment are scarcely complete, inasmuch as they comprise Calcutta only and not the whole province, and they end with 1873-74 when those for 1874-75 were available. The quantities of Cotton exported also are left out of account. I am to request that, under the orders of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the figures may now be brought up to the 30th June last, as requested in the Resolution of the 13th ultimo, and that they may be completed as above indicated.

6. In treating of the exports of Cotton by sea to foreign ports, it is also necessary to name the countries which take Bengal Cotton, and it would be desirable to notice briefly the fluctuations of the trade with each country, and the causes (as far as they are known) of such fluctuations.

7. The figures for freights and prices in England which have been given are not altogether what is required. A statement of present freights and prices does not throw a sufficiently clear light on the features of a trade the figures for which comprise a period which ended more than eighteen months ago. What should be prepared is a statement of the average freights to, and prices ruling in, the countries to which Cotton was sent for each month of the period under review. Further, a statement of prices in England alone would not be sufficient in connection with the trade in Bengal Cotton, which is largely exported to China and other countries, as well as to England, the demand from which for Bengal Cotton is comparatively small. The freights for the time being approximately known, a comparison of prices ruling in the principal countries of consumption with the prices ruling in the Calcutta market for any given period would afford the means of forming a tolerably accurate conclusion as to the causes which regulated during that period the export of Cotton from Bengal to one country or to another.

8. In connection with this matter, the effect of the demand for raw material by the Cotton mills which now work about Calcutta, upon the export, in regard to both quantity and value, is a subject which the Government of India consider to be well deserving of attention. It would be interesting to know what is the quantity of Cotton absorbed by these mills, whence and in what proportions it is derived, and what have been the average prices given at the mills during the period under review. It would also be interesting to know the quantity and value of the Cotton imported into Bengal from foreign ports, the places whence it is imported, and the uses (as far as these are known) to which the material is applied.

9. In further connection with the demand for local consumption, it seems desirable to record some information regarding the class of Cotton-weavers. These people, it is understood, in some districts form a numerous class (in the district of Hooghly, for instance, there are many of them) and their condition is the reverse of prosperous. In a notice of this industry and of the class by which it is pursued, it would be useful to have some particulars as to the sources whence is obtained the raw material on which they work, whether it is produced in the district, or imported from other districts, or whether it consists, as it does in some cases, of imported English yarn.

10. Second, as regards the cultivation The figures on this head given in the report under acknowledgment seem to be for 1874-75, w le those for trade end with 1873-74. It is desirable that the record of cultivation and of t e should extend over the same period. The local reports, too, seem to require critical exa ination. The returns abstracted in the statement appended to your letter vary so greati hat it is difficult to suppose that they accurately describe the real condition of Cotton culti ion in Bengal. Thus in Burdwan the yield is given at 160 lbs. per acre, while in the neighbo ng district of Bankoora it is said to be 720 lbs. and in Beerbhoom 900 lbs. In Midnapore ag the yield is 144 lbs.; in Nuddea and Backergunge 60 lbs. respectively; in Moorshedabad 960 bs.; while in Hazaribagh it is said to be as much as 840 to 1,200 lbs. to the bigha, *i.e.*, from 2,520 lbs. to 3,600 lbs. per acre. If these figures are intended to represent the yield in cleaned Cotton per acre, which is what the Government of India desired, most of them must be erroneous, for probably in no district of Bengal does the yield of cleaned Cotton exceed 150 lbs. per acre at the most. In the best Cotton-growing districts of the United States, under excellent natural conditions and with the most improved systems of cultivation, the outturn of cleaned Cotton hardly ever averages more than 250 lbs. to the acre. If the figures submitted represent the yield of uncleaned Cotton, then in many districts the figures must be far below the actual outturn, while in others they will, even under this interpretation, largely exceed the possible facts.

11. The figures showing the cost of cultivation vary in the same way, and to a great extent are *prima facie*, not accurate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th December 1875.

12. The column headed "Species Cultivated" is filled with a number of local vernacular names which will be unintelligible to any person not intimately acquainted with the locality of cultivation. It is desirable not to employ these names unless in connection with a clear specification of the kind of Cotton grown, *e.g.*, indigenous of local origin, or indigenous Cotton grown from seed obtained from other provinces, or exotic (the variety being specified), and whether acclimatised or imported. Here, also, might be given a record of the experiments made with exotic Cotton in which should be stated briefly but clearly where attempts were made during the year under review to grow exotic Cotton, the quantity grown, the conditions of cultivation, and the result of the experiment, the causes of failure or of success being, if possible, indicated.

13. Another point to which attention might advantageously be directed is a review of climatic influences on the crop cultivated, information being furnished as to the general effect of the season on the quality or quantity of the Cotton cultivated.

14. These remarks will help to explain what the report on Cotton, which the Government of India desire to have, should so far as may be possible, contain. Many other matters of use and interest will doubtless occur to the officer who may be entrusted with the preparation of the report, and all such may with advantage be embodied in it. The Governor-General in Council is quite sensible of the difficulties with which the local Government has to contend in the collection of statistical information, and is aware that but little of a strictly accurate nature can be expected as yet in regard to agricultural statistics in Bengal. But though this may be the case generally, it would seem possible to obtain approximately correct information of the trade in Cotton, and His Excellency in Council feels confident that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will see that efforts are really made to render the next report as complete as may, under existing circumstances, be possible.

No. 117. ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1875, No. 1,777.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue for early attention in continuation of G. O., 30th July and 29th September 1875, Nos. 1,448 and 1,439.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

From Bo of Rem C.No. 886/76

Govt. of 1875 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated December 8th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 8th December 1875, No. 1,777.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 116-117.

Cotton.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue, for early attention, letter from the Government of India indicating what is required in the reports on the cultivation of and trade in —.

FROM

A. O. HUME, ESQ., C.B.,

Secretary to the Government of India,

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Dept., Madras.

Dept. of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.
Statistics.

Calcutta, the 23d *November* 1875.

SIR,

IN continuation of the Resolution of the Government of India in this Department, dated 12th July 1875, No. $\frac{10}{383\text{-}393}$, and of Resolution No. $\frac{15}{540\text{-}550}$, dated 13th September, I am directed to forward a copy of my letter to the Government of Bengal, No. 616, dated 25th ultimo, indicating what is required in the reports on the cultivation of and trade in cotton called for by the Government of India.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A O Hume

Secretary to the Government of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

STATISTICS.

To

Dated Calcutta, the 23rd November 1875.

SUBJECT.

FORWARDS copy of letter No. 616, dated 25th October to Bengal as a further guide to what is required in the Cotton Reports called for in Resolution No. 10/383 393, dated 12th July 1875.

C. S. G. P.—No. 779, R., A. & C.—19-11-75.—100.

No. 616, dated Simla, the 25th October 1875.

From—A. O. HUME, Esq., C. B., *Secretary to the Government of India,*

To—*The Secretary to the Government of Bengal,* (FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT).

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of the report on the cotton trade and cultivation of Bengal embodied in your letter of the 25th August, No. 2980 (Agriculture), and to express the satisfaction with which the Governor General in Council learns that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will arrange for the collection of full information on these subjects in future years. I am now directed to communicate the following observations as to the nature and scope of the report which is required.

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1875.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

STATISTICS.

To

THE SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL,
(FINANCIAL DEPT.)

No. 616.

Dated Simla, the 25th October 1875.

Rev 4606/75

SUBJECT.

REPORT on the Bengal Cotton Trade.

O. S. G. P., No. 280, R., A. & C.—19-11-75.—100.