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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1318	Press
~~B.P. No.~~	Mis.
Dated 4-4-1877	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th April 1877.

No. 86. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, (Agri and Horticulture,) dated Calcutta, 14th March 1876, Nos. 1—39 :—

Read the following despatches from the Secretary of State.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, (Statistics and Commerce,) to the Government of India, dated London, 21st December 1876, No. 130.

I TRANSMIT, for the information of Your Excellency, an extract of a letter from a merchant in London, on the subject of the qualities of Indian wheat which are most appreciated in the English market, and of the means by which the price given for them might be raised. Besides the points therein mentioned, it is desirable that attention should be drawn to the loss resulting from the mixture of barley or gram with the wheat, and from the want of cleanliness in the granaries in which it is stored and in the boats in which it is carried to the port of shipment. Any means by which the importance of remedying these defects can be impressed on the people may have a very salutary effect on the trade.

2. I have applied for further information on the subject of a system of inspection said to be adopted in the United States and Canada, as described in the accompanying extract from a statement relating to the trade of Canada.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Extract of a letter from a London Merchant, dated December 1876.

WITH reference to the interview I had with you last month as to the growth and production of wheat in the Empire of India, I now beg to lay before you a short statement of the present position of the trade, to which I have paid close attention the last three or four years.

Calcutta.—The wheats that come from this port are fine, mellow, soft, white,—from Cawnpore, Meerut, and Delhi districts,—which bring the highest price in the market (except the finest Bombay, which, however, so far, has not formed an article of import owing to inadequate prices obtained in London and Liverpool), and are very clean on the whole; they could, however, be improved by proper blowing and exhaust machines and sifting machines, and I should recommend this to be done so as to get rid of grain, tares, and barley as much as possible; if this cleaning process is enforced by the district officials, I have no doubt these fine wheats could be made worth 2*s.* to 4*s.* per quarter more money in the United Kingdom. As far as I can make out from merchants who have been in the North-west, the name these fine wheats go by is "Pegu" or "Pegoo." In our market, it goes by the name of "No. 1 C[illegible]."

I next come to a wheat, inferior to the above, which I understand goes generally by the name of "Doodiah" or "Doodeah," being called in our market "No. 2 Club." This is the quality we see most of, and it is very well liked, as in preparing for use it absorbs a great weight of water, which, of course, is very profitable for the miller in this country. The great drawback to it, however, is its foulness, caused by admixture with grain, tares, and barley. There is no reason, however, why, in two or three seasons, this could not be almost entirely remedied by your officers attending to properly cleaned seed being put into the ground.

I next come to a white-grey hard wheat, which appears to me to come from low ground, as it is almost as hard and flinty as rice; on the whole, it is a clear wheat, still it could be improved by the seed wheat being better attended to.

I next come to a soft red wheat, which appears to me to come from the same districts as the "No. 2 Club," as, except in colour, it seems to be the same style of grain; it is quite as foul as the "No. 2 Club," and, by properly cleaning it for seed, I have no doubt its value as an article of trade could be raised also 2*s.* to 4*s.* per quarter.

Another class of wheat we see largely from Calcutta is a rather large-berried wheat, classed between the No. 1 and No. 2, which we call in Mark Lane "Mountain Club," parties who have seen it grow telling me it comes from pretty high ground. This is a clean wheat, but can also be improved by the seed being more carefully attended to.

The last wheat I would name as coming from Calcutta is from the Central Provinces, and is called "Jubbulpore;" the district where it is produced lies about half-way between Bombay and Calcutta by rail, and most of it goes to the west coast for shipment, and I therefore treat this under the head of—

Bombay.—The wheats from this port seem to be all produced in Central India; at least all I have seen, whether soft or hard, show a long, bold grain just like the "Jubbulpore."

No. 1, "White Bombay," is the finest wheat I have ever seen from India, and it does not seem possible to improve upon it, when I state that it sells at close to the same price as Australian (the finest wheat imported).

No. 2, "Bombay White," is also a superior article, but its great drawback is the coarse large-grained brown wheat, and some pains ought to be taken to have this grain extracted. The same cleaning machines named elsewhere in this paper might be tried to get it out, but I doubt the success of this process, and suspect the only way to bring the No. 2 wheat up to the No. 1 is to hand-pick out the coarse brown grain and sow the wheats separate. In three or four seasons, by this mode, I feel sure the quantity of No. 1, "Bombay White," might be much increased, and No. 2 decreased in proportion.

The next wheat to be noticed as exported from Bombay is the long-berried coarse brown wheat, a good article, but not much known on this side, and does not bring within 5*s.* per quarter of No. 2 White.

From Bombay also is exported a very fine long-berried hard wheat, of which large quantities have gone the last two seasons to Marseilles and other Mediterranean ports, but it is not liked here, being too much of rice nature. So far as the Bombay wheat trade is concerned, the production of the fine wheats should be as much encouraged as possible for the United Kingdom consumption, and as regards cleaning, where necessary, the machines mentioned elsewhere are the best.

Madras.—So far as I know, no wheat has reached the United Kingdom from that Presidency, but I have this season seen a sample of red wheat thence which would do well for use in our markets, being of a sound, strong, red type.

Kurrachee.—The export of wheat from the Indus country through this port has been at times considerable, and there seems to me no reason why it should not rapidly increase: the quality of the wheat, white and red, is soft and mellow, but its great drawback is the large admixture of barley it contains, which ought to be got out. I have no hesitation in saying that, in four or five years, Kurrachee-shipped wheat would be improved 3*s.* to 5*s.* per quarter if due attention were paid to the cleaning of the seed wheat. The machines I allude to elsewhere are the very things for the purpose, and I have great confidence in the future of the Indus country as growing wheat, since the grain itself is mellow and easy for the miller to handle.

Machines.—I have taken a good deal of trouble in this matter, consulting Dell and Son, of Mark Lane, who are clever, intelligent machine inventors and makers, and most respectable people. I send you several copies of their last list, and Mr. Dell, Junior, has kindly noted a few remarks against the machine* he specially points out for seed wheat cleaning purposes; he is supplying D. Sassoon and Company with machinery for cleaning the wheat shipped now so freely at Bussorah on the Persian Gulf, and from experiments on foul wheats from India, Persia, and Syria, that I have seen, there is no doubt Messrs. Dell and Son understand their business in recommending the machines they do.

* Prospectus annexed.

Of course, I need hardly tell you that the cause of the sudden increase in the wheat trade with India is the opening up of the Suez Canal, thus enabling wheat to arrive in London and Liverpool in 42 to 48 days from Calcutta, from dates of bill of lading, in 35 to 38 days from Bombay, in 40 to 45 days from Kurrachee, by which means the ravages of the weevil are much checked; and altogether the trade is rapidly settling down to a regular one, the quality of wheat

from India generally competing well with Russian, [illegible] that the grand thing to point to is to get the wheat [illegible] cheapening railway carriage, or improving the rive[illegible] probably you will say, by doing all.

Before ending these remarks, which I fear you may find wearisome, I should not like you to suppose that shipments are made by the Suez Canal alone, though they are so entirely from Kurrachee, and very much so from Bombay; from Calcutta, however, large quantities of wheat are shipped yearly by sailing vessels, and it is found the grain stands the voyage well by being stowed at the bottoms of the ships in bags, where no light or air can get to it, thus keeping the destructive weevil quiet and in a dormant state.

If you want any more information, I shall be glad to give it you, or obtain it for you, if it is not within my personal knowledge.

As far as I can find out, the Calcutta people [illegible] different wheats as follows:—

Soft red, "Jamajallee." }
Hard ,, "Gungajallee." } Gunga and Jumna—wheats of the Doab.
Soft white, "Doodeah." }
Soft ,, " (fine, North-west), "Pe[illegible]" or "Pegoo."

Prospectus referred to in [illegible]eding letter.

BLOWING, WINNOWING, AND [illegible]NING MACHINES.

THE universal approval and many prices accord[illegible] this machine have given rise to many imitations. Every part of these machines is made [illegible] standard gauge, thus ensuring an accuracy of fit, and facility of repair, unequalled in any [illegible]r machine of this class. The care and attention which has been bestowed upon the productio[illegible]n of these improved machines, together with the sound principles upon which they are constructe[illegible]d,—ensuring durability and efficiency to a high degree,—have already brought them into ex[illegible]ensive use. They are made of the very best materials, are light, simple, pleasing in appearanc[illegible]e, such as can only be obtained by first-class design and workmanship.

For separating and cleaning all kinds of grain and seeds for market, this machine has no equal. For export they are not to be surpassed, being durable and simple. They are capable of cleaning grain as fast as one man can fill the machine, being a complete blowing and dressing machine at one time, but can be used as a blower separately, if required. Having an eccentric motion, it can be thrown in and out of gear, making two complete implements in one. Large stock always on hand.

Prices.

No. 1.—Machine complete with blowing apparatus, riddles, 22 by 18 inches, £11.
If of hard wood for hot climate £1 extra.
This machine, with special sieves, will do 8 to 10 quarters per hour of the sample tried.
If put through twice, a great improvement would be made on the first sample.
No. 2.—Same as No. 1, without blowing apparatus, £9.
No. 3.—Small size without blowing apparatus, riddles, 18 by 18 inches, £8.
Blowing apparatus to No. 3, 15*s.* extra.
Seed riddles, 10*s.* extra.
No. 4.—New size for small occupations, riddles, 16 by 16 inches, £6 10*s.*

For shipment, Machines can be made in sections so that six Machines will occupy the measurement of one when erected.

No. 2.

Extract from "Report on the Home and Foreign Trade of Canada, for 1875."

Facilities for Transferring Grain, &c.

* * * * * * * * * *

WITH all the facilities referred to at his command, the grain merchant in Montreal stands in a most important relation to the markets of Europe on the one hand, and the vast corn fields of the

western world on the other. In response to or... wheat on the spot or near at hand, or he direct... Subjected, as it is, at these great centres, to t... it arrives at Kingston and is there transfer... which it is delivered, and, passing through th... of wheat, corn, rye, or other grain, is placed ... the Atlantic. All this is accomplished, as m... being changed, or mixed with an inferior qu... upon by any other route), thus giving addit... issued for the cargo at the original port of sh... that the northerly latitude of the Canadian tra... as to *condition*, even in the summer months, wh...

...ders by cable, he either forthwith buys Canada ... the purchase of grain in Chicago or Milwaukee. ...e most perfect system of inspection in existence, ... to barges of similar capacity to the vessels from ...e cool waters of the river St. Lawrence, the cargo ...alongside the ocean-going ship for transport across ...st be evident, without the possibility of the grain ...ality, by the way (a result which cannot be relied ...ional value to the inspection certificate which was ...ipment. Not the least important consideration is, ...nsportation route relieves the grain from all danger ...en the risk by other channels is comparatively great.

Despatch from Her Majesty's Secr...etary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated London, 18th ... January 1877, No. 14 (Statistics and Commerce).

In my despatch of the 21st u... jimo, No. 130, I drew Your Excellency's attention to the importance of measu... es adapted to encourage the improved cultivation of wheat, and to facilitate its ... ansport to this country in good condition.

2. It seems very desirable th... t a compilation should be prepared, as has already been done with various Indian ... products, showing the main features of its cultivation, consumption and export, the local selling prices for a series of years, and the probable cost of transport from the chief markets to the place of export. An attempt to prepare such a paper has been made in the Department of the Reporter on Products; but it was found that the information in this country was not sufficient for the purpose.

3. A selection should also be made of the chief local varieties of the grain, and samples should be sent to England, carefully named and described, so that their place of production could be certainly distinguished, in order that the opinion of competent persons in this country may be obtained as to their market value. This latter suggestion is one which might, in my opinion, be advantageously acted upon with the least practicable delay.

Read also the following papers showing the action taken by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, with a view to improving the quality of Wheat in those provinces and preventing its admixture with other grains.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, Central Provinces, dated Nagpur, 5th May 1876, Circular No. 11.

It has been represented to the Chief Commissioner that the value of the wheat which is exported from these provinces to England—and of late years a considerable quantity of wheat has found its way to England—is materially affected by its admixture with *lak*, *massur*, and similar pulses.

2. The Chief Commissioner is aware that it is a common practice in these provinces to sow these pulses with the wheat, but the practice is one which it is very desirable to discourage. It is said that, by machinery, stones, dirt and sand

can be easily separated from the wheat, but not so this admixture of pulse, which, on the wheat being ground, gives the flour a bad colour and materially reduces its market value.

3. The Chief Commissioner desire... that Deputy Commissioners will explain to malguzars and cultivators how injuri... s the present practice is, and will try to induce them to keep their wheat free from admixture. The price of agricultural produce has fallen so much of late years, that farmers cannot afford to lose the excellent market for their wheat, which England appears to be likely to become, and if they will only endeavor to suit the English market, it seems probable that Indian wheat will become an important export and may rival the other wheat-producing countries which supply England.

Extract paragraph 3 from a Circular, No. 25, dated 4th August 1876, from the Officiating Assistant Secre...ary to the Chief Commissioner, to all Commissioners and Deputy Co...oners in the Central Provinces.

PARAGRAPH 3.—In a late circular, t... hief Commissioner commented upon the fact that the value of the wheat ... n in these provinces and exported to England was materially affected by i... lmixture with the various pulses, and prizes for wheat free from such admixtu... ould be practical, and direct encouragement to the people to keep their whea... from admixture.

If a beginning is now made, and an... ual show of some kind or other head in each district, it will be possible, bef... long, to arrange for an annual show in each tahsili, and so bring home to the bulk of the people that the Government encouragement is in furtherance of the people's own interests.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, to the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore, dated Nagpur, 9th September 1876, Circular No. 3,433—162.

,, ,, ,, of Saugor,
,, ,, ,, of Narsinghpur,
,, ,, ,, of Hoshangabad,
,, ,, ,, of Raipur,
,, ,, ,, of Bilspur,
,, ,, ,, of Seoni,
,, ,, ,, of Damish,
,, ,, ,, of Nagpur,
,, ,, ,, of Wardha.

I AM directed to send you copies of the marginally noted letters that have passed between this office and Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company of Bombay. You will also receive, in a separate packet, separate samples of the various kinds and qualities of wheat, as described and classified by Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company. A portion of each sample should be given to each of your Tahsildars, and the Chief Commissioner wishes that these samples should be shown to as many of the leading agriculturists, malguzars, and ryots as possible, and that the respective places which these kinds of wheat occupy in the market should be explained.

Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company, Bombay, dated 11th July 1876, to Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.
Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, in reply No. 2,744—126, dated 15th July 1876.
Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company, dated 26th August 1876, to Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

The cultivators should be exhorted to pay attention to the cultivation of a wheat which is sure to fetch a good price; to bear in mind the importance of keeping the wheat in their fields free from any admixture of pulses; remembe[illegible]e necessity of having all the wheat they sell in bulk of the same kind and quality; and [illegible]he effect of *selecting* the seed they put down in their fields. The result of s[illegible]wing *selected* s[illegible]d very soon become visible.

These are all matters that can easily be made comprehensible to the native farmer, and the Chief Commissioner hopes that you and your Tahsildars will again and again impress on them the advantage of acting up to the advice given them.

This office Circular, No. 25, of the 4th August, has suggested a way to strengthen your hands in the matter and to interest the cultivators themselves; and you will perceive from a notice in the *Gazette*, that the Nagpur District Fund Committee have made a beginning in the matter of improving of agricultural produce, by offering prizes of the best of large samples of grain exhibited at the Ramtek fair.

From Messrs. FINLAY, SCOTT and Company, to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, dated Bombay, 11th July 1876.

By the mail to hand last week, we rece[illegible]rom our Mr. R. V. Reid some very interesting information regarding the favor in whic[illegible]s grown in the districts of your Commission were now held in the Home market. The[illegible] there are learning rapidly to appreciate the the great advantage to be derived from mi[illegible]e grains with those grown in England, especially after a wet harvest with them, the rea[illegible]g that the extreme dryness of the Indian grain serves to absorb much of the excess of mois[illegible]n the Home grain, and reduces the average of what is thus mixed to a proper condition of[illegible]re.

2. Mr. Reid then remarks upon the i[illegible]one to the market of this wheat at Home by the large admixture of foreign grains. As a question in which we know you have particularly interested yourself, and as it is on[illegible]reat importance to us, being, as we are, the largest exporters of the article from Bombay, we gladly lay before you our knowledge on the subject, and will be happy to provide you with any further information you many require with regard to it.

3. The quantity of pure wheat exported from Bombay is very small compared with that of the lower and adulterated quantities; but, under present circumstances, it does not pay as well to ship the former as the latter, the scarcity of the best wheat here making the margin of price between it and the lower kinds greater on this side than in the Home market. On an average, the cost of good wheat is 1 shilling per 100 lbs. dearer to ship than the other, and fetches only 6 pence to 9 pence more in Liverpool. We send you, herewith, two samples of *best* quality shipped by one of our neighbours, which obtained top prices on account of purity.

4. This pure wheat, called by the natives "Ek dana pissie," comes mostly to the Seonee and Etarsi stations from the Bhopal State, and is found in Doleeria market; and its present value in England is from 10 shillings 3 pence per cental (106 lbs).

5. The wheat that comes from Nagpur is pretty free from admixture of foreign grains, but contains a large percentage of hard red wheat, which prevents its getting as good a price as the pure white Pissie.

6. The largest export from Bombay is of the Mundie Pissie, which comes from the neighbourhood of Jubbulpore—from Sehora Road, Chindwara, and adjacent stations; this in itself is a very pretty grain, but much depreciated owing to heavy mixtures of foreign seeds. Mr. Reid writes in this connection:—

"Fearful are the complaints of *dhall* and gram in it, principally the *wild* dhall, *which discolours the flour*.

7. There can be no doubt that this injurious result is brought about by carelessness and want of method in sowing, and we think that a great improvement would very soon be forthcoming if by any means the ryot could be persuaded to be more careful in sowing an unmixed grain.

8. The wheat trade with India is now becom[illegible] course, for the interests of all concerned that the [illegible] possible from the primitive and ignorant way in [illegible] standing the advanced period of the season, we pr[illegible] showing the various descriptions of grain as they c[illegible]

From the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commis[illegible] SCOTT and Company, Bombay, dated 15t[illegible]

I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to [illegible] 11th instant, and am to say that the subject of it[illegible] these provinces and preventing its admixture with [illegible] Chief Commissioner's consideration. I enclose c[illegible] and also copy of a letter to the Chamber of Co[illegible] the best kinds of wheat. If you would, either [illegible] Commerce, supply samples showing the best kinds [illegible] Chief Commissioner will be much obliged, and wi[illegible] ryots the advantage of clean sowing, and of p[illegible] inferior grains. No doubt, improvement will [illegible] confident that, in time, the ryots will desist fro[illegible] field when they find that by doing so they spoil t[illegible] be cultivated if it is known that they fetch a highe[illegible]

There are some ten districts in these provin[illegible] divided each into three or four sub-divisions; an[illegible] should have small samples of [illegible] hopes you will be able to send samples large en[illegible] less than 2 lbs. of each kind of wheat.

The Chief Commissioner will, at all times [illegible] which may enable him to enlarge the market for [illegible]

From Messrs. FINLAY, SCOTT and Company, [illegible] dated Bombay, 2[illegible]

Referring to our letter of 11th July, on th[illegible] enclose railway receipt for two bags sent to y[illegible] descriptions of grain grown in the districts of you[illegible]

These we divided into five small bags contai[illegible]

No. 1.—White (Ek Danna), despatched to [illegible]
" 2.—White Pissie from districts near Na[illegible]
" 3.—Mundi Pissie from districts near Ju[illegible] in our letter of 11th July).
" 4.—Red Pissie from districts near Sim[illegible]
" 5.—Akola Pissie.

These descriptions of red wheat are daily [illegible] a good business having taken place with Mars[illegible] small percentage of hard grains, this admixture[illegible] Akola; in the latter description, the hard Ku[illegible] its presence serves considerably to diminish the [illegible]

We may mention that the cause of our be[illegible] due to the great difficulty that always exists, [illegible] samples to represent the fair quality of the cro[illegible]

1318/9

[illegible]re important every day, and it is, of [illegible]f the article should suffer as little as [illegible] ryot is content to farm. Notwithstanding [illegible] send you at our first leisure samples [illegible]s market in their order of merit.

[illegible]ntral Provinces, to Messrs. FINLAY, [illegible]876, No. 2,744—125.

[illegible]edge the receipt of your letter of the [illegible] the quality of the wheat produced in [illegible]r grains has already been under the [illegible] circular addressed to district officers, [illegible] asking to be supplied with samples of [illegible]es or in concert with the Chamber of [illegible], and the order in which they come, the [illegible]what lies in his power to impress on the [illegible]ng their wheat from admixture with [illegible]dual; but the Chief Commissioner is [illegible]ing various kinds of grain in the same [illegible]rket, and the better kinds of wheat will

[illegible]nce wheat is procured, and these are [illegible]esirable that every sub-divisional officer [illegible]f merit, so that the Chief Commissioner [illegible] supply a small sample to each, say [illegible]

[illegible] to receive hints or information from you [illegible]e staples of these provinces.

[illegible] Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, [illegible]gust 1876.

[illegible]ct of the sowing of wheat, we [illegible] [illegible]tress, containing standard samples of the [illegible]mission, and known in the Home markets. [illegible]e half-hundred weight each.

[illegible]rket from Seonee and Etarsi stations.

[illegible] (These three descriptions we described

[illegible]g into greater favor in the Fren[illegible] market, [illegible]t favorable prices. The S[illegible]ree has only a [illegible]g on a larger scale in the lower quality fr[illegible]rain is found as much as ten per cent., a[illegible] of the bulk.

[illegible]able to send you these samples earlier is [illegible] close of the season, in procuring reliable

OTION.

Observations.—The de
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except perhaps California an
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Seeing that the quality
millers, it may be hoped th
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prevent any cause for complaint

3. It appears from the d
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complaints regarding the dirty
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supersession of boats, and with t
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sorting of the grain before it is s
firm of Messrs. Scott, Finlay and
the Central Provinces, that in the
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an increased demand for cleaned
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Bombay, Kurrachee, and Calcutt

the export trade in Indian wheat has long
nt of India. In January 1873, on the
Commerce, who urged that the weight
sea voyage practically disabled Indian
h any country in the English market,
the Government of India freed Indian

other circumstances, particularly the
and recently the state of exchange, and,
tion of Eastern Europe, the increase in
een from the figures appended, showing
ed to foreign countries:—

		Cwts.	Rs.
	...	637,099	23,56,445
	...	394,010	16,76,900
	...	1,755,954	82,76,064
	...	1,069,076	49,04,352
	...	2,498,285	90,10,255
	...	4,839,290	1,67,34,001

eat has commended itself to English
advantages she now possesses, India
trade at a high level. But it must
and eager competitors in the United
and Egypt; and that some of these
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he quality of the grain exported.

130, received from Her Majesty's
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admixture with inferior grains. The
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information. To some extent the
our wheat will diminish with the
carriage to the port of shipment, in
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agricultural community of India, the G
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4. The question of admixture of w
and gram, is a separate matter. It is no
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either to cease to cultivate inferior grai
careful in reaping to keep them apart.
cause them to be properly instructed in
impress upon the cultivators the need
good may result from judicious acti
General in Council commends the matt
authorities. His Excellency in Council
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by the Chief Commissioner of the Centra

eneral in Council does not con-
mployment in the rural districts
e capital which is probably not
en, could not be effected except
Council considers however that
struction by district officers to
so treating his crop, after it has
at such advice will be welcomed
est as soon as it is made clear to
better market than dirty grain.
inferior grains, such as barley
the adulteration is alto-
vating classes, who do not largely
eriors, have hitherto been in the habit
in the same field, the object being
vent either of failure in the wheat
rative price. As long as circum-
a steady and sure trade in wheat
only be regarded as dictated by
nd a practice which formerly was
and indeed its continuance will
here seems little reason to doubt
to modify this habit on becoming
at they may easily be persuaded
e same field with wheat, or to be
cal officers in each district should
e particular attention of the local
ficial selection of their seed. Much
this direction, and the Governor-
noticed with much satisfaction the
e attainment of the object desired

5. The Secretary of State for Indires that a paper may be prepared, bringing together all the facts procurregarding wheat cultivation in India. To assist in the preparation of such r, the Governor-General in Council requests that in each province a memorn may be drawn up showing, as far as the information may be available,

(1) the names of the districts in which wheat is grown;
(2) the area (in acres) under wh each of the last five years to the end of 1876-77;
(3) the average outturn in pounds per acre;
(4) a brief account of the cultiv in which should be stated the kind of land preferred, the qu ot seed sown per acre, the crop which wheat follows, the season cultivation, and other useful particulars;

(5) the average wholes heat;

(6) average consumpti of the population of the district;

(7) total consumption strict;

(8) annual imports in for five years, and places whence imported;

(9) annual exports for riod, places whither exported, and proportion carried b or river;

(10) estimated average age to the railway station nearest the district;

(11) cost of transit to pc ient (Calcutta, Bombay, or Kurrachee), by rail, by ..au, er;

(12) local names for the ..f wheat cultivated, and their description in English; and

(13) a general summary fo province, showing the total area under wheat, the average o per acre, the total outturn, and the details of the import and exp de.

6. It is also requested that no ay be lost in obtaining the samples of wheat required by the Secretary o It is desirable that these should be put up in bags containing two pounds labelled with the name of the district in which the wheat was gr distinctive name. These samples should he forwarded to this office c ssible, without waiting for the completion of the information asked fo

ORDERED.—Ordered that a copy s Resolution with a copy of the papers read in the preamble be forwarded t Government of Madras with a request that the necessary measures may be without delay to carry into effect the suggestions and instructions contain his Resolution. The Governor-General in Council will be glad to receive an gestions which local Governments and Administrations may desire to make view to the further development and improvement of the trade.

(True extract.)

(Signed) G. H. M. BATTEN,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 87. ORDER THEREON, 4th 1877, No. 1,318.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED, with the enclosures, o the Board of Revenue and Chamber of Commerce.

2. The Board will issue instruc or giving effect to the suggestions and orders of the Government of India i Proceedings above recorded. Their special attention is called to the requi in paragraph 6 of the Resolution.

1318/58

Proceedings of the Madras Gov
4th Apri

3. The Board will also duly submi in view to the further development and the Chamber of Commerce will also be their remarks on this point.

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...GROVE
...ene Board of Revenue.
,, the Chamber of Commerce.
,, the Editors' Table.

Erd. L. F. Zephir.

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No. 86. Read the following Extract from the Procs of the Govt of India in the Dept of Rev, Agriculture and Commerce, dated Calcutta 14th March 1876, No 1-39:— (Agri and Horticulture)

No. 130 (Statistics and Commerce), dated India Office, London, 21st December 1876.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,

To—The Government of India.

I TRANSMIT, for the information of Your Excellency, an extract of a letter from a merchant in London, on the subject of the qualities of Indian wheat which are most appreciated in the English market, and of the means by which the price given for them might be raised. Besides the points therein mentioned, it is desirable that attention should be drawn to the loss resulting from the mixture of barley or gram with the wheat, and from the want of cleanliness in the granaries in which it is stored and in the boats in which it is carried to the port of shipment. Any means by which the importance of remedying these defects can be impressed on the people may have a very salutary effect on the trade.

2. I have applied for further information on the subject of a system of inspection said to be adopted in the United States and Canada, as described in the accompanying extract from a statement relating to the trade of Canada.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 1.

Extract of a letter from a London Merchant, dated December 1876.

WITH reference to the interview I had with you last month as to the growth and production of wheat in the Empire of India, I now beg to lay before you a short statement of the present position of the trade, to which I have paid close attention the last three or four years.

Calcutta.—The wheats that come from this port are fine, mellow, soft, white,—from Cawnpore, Meerut, and Delhi districts,—which bring the highest price in the market (except the finest Bombay, which, however, so far, has not formed an article of import owing to inadequate prices obtained in London and Liverpool), and are very clean on the whole; they could, however, be improved by proper blowing and exhaust machines and sifting machines, and I should recommend this to be done so as to get rid of grain, tares, and barley as much as possible; if this cleaning process is enforced by the district officials, I have no doubt these fine wheats could be made worth 2s. to 4s. per quarter more money in the United Kingdom. As far as I can make out from merchants who have been in the North-West, the name these fine wheats go by is "Pegu" or "Pegoo." In our market, it goes by the name of "No. 1 Club".

I next come to a wheat, inferior to the above, which I understand goes generally by the name of "Doodiah" or "Doodeah," being called in our market "No. 2 Club." This is the quality we see most of, and it is very well liked, as in preparing for use it absorbs a great weight of water, which, of course, is very profitable for the miller in this country. The great drawback to it, however, is its foulness, caused by admixture with grain, tares and barley. There is no reason, however, why, in two or three seasons, this fault should not be almost entirely remedied by your officers attending to properly cleaned seed being put into the ground.

I next come to a white-grey hard wheat, which appears to me to come from low ground, as it is almost as hard and flinty as rice; on the whole, it is a clear wheat, still it could be improved by the seed wheat being better attended to.

I next come to a soft red wheat, which appears to me to come from the same districts as the "No. 2 Club," as, except in colour, it seems to be the same style of grain; it is quite as foul as the "No. 2 Club," and, by properly cleaning it for seed, I have no doubt its value as an article of trade could be raised also 2*s*. to 4*s*. per quarter.

Another class of wheat we see largely from Calcutta is a rather large-berried wheat, classed between the No. 1 and No. 2, which we call in Mark Lane "Mountain Club", parties who have seen it grow telling me it comes from pretty high ground. This is a clean wheat, but can also be improved by the seed being more carefully attended to.

The last wheat I would name as coming from Calcutta is from the Central Provinces, and is called "Jubbulpore"; the district where it is produced lies about halfway between Bombay and Calcutta by rail, and most of it goes to the west coast for shipment, and I therefore treat this under the head of—

Bombay.—The wheats from this port seem to be all produced in Central India; at least all I have seen, whether soft or hard, show a long, bold grain just like the "Jubbulpore".

No. 1, "White Bombay", is the finest wheat I have ever seen from India, and it does not seem possible to improve upon it, when I state that it sells at close to the same price as Australian (the finest wheat imported).

No. 2, "Bombay White", is also a superior article, but its great drawback is the coarse large-grained brown wheat, and some pains ought to be taken to have this grain extracted. The same cleaning machines named elsewhere in this paper might be tried to get it out, but I doubt the success of this process, and suspect the only way to bring the No. 2 wheat up to the No. 1 is to hand-pick out the coarse brown grain and sow the wheats separate. In three

or four seasons, by this mode, I feel sure the quantity of No. 1, "Bombay White", might be much increased, and No. 2 decreased in proportion.

The next wheat to be noticed as exported from Bombay is the long-berried coarse brown wheat, a good article, but not much known on this side, and does not bring within 5*s.* per quarter of No. 2 White.

From Bombay also is exported a very fine long-berried hard wheat, of which large quantities have gone the last two seasons to Marseilles and other Mediterranean ports, but it is not liked here, being too much of rice nature. So far as the Bombay wheat trade is concerned, the production of the fine wheats should be as much encouraged as possible for the United Kingdom consumption, and as regards cleaning, where necessary, the machines mentioned elsewhere are the best.

Madras.—So far as I know, no wheat has reached the United Kingdom from that presidency, but I have this season seen a sample of red wheat thence which would do well for use in our markets, being of a sound, strong red type.

Kurrachee.—The export of wheat from the Indus country through this port has been at times considerable, and there seems to me no reason why it should not rapidly increase; the quality of the wheat, white and red, is soft and mellow, but its great drawback is the large admixture of barley it contains, which ought to be got out. I have no hesitation in saying that, in four or five years, Kurrachee-shipped wheat would be improved 3*s.* to 5*s.* per quarter if due attention were paid to the cleaning of the seed wheat. The machines I allude to elsewhere are the very things for the purpose, and I have great confidence in the future of the Indus country as growing wheat, since the grain itself is mellow and easy for the miller to handle.

Machines.—I have taken a good deal of trouble in this matter, consulting Dell and Son of Mark Lane, who are clever, intelligent machine inventors and makers, and most respectable people. I send you several copies of their last list, and Mr. Dell, Junior, has kindly noted a few remarks against the machine* he specially points to for seed wheat cleaning purposes; he is supplying D. Sassoon & Co. with machines for cleaning the wheat shipped now so freely at Bussorah on the Persian Gulf, and from experiments on foul wheats from India, Persia, and Syria, that I have seen, there is no doubt Messrs. Dell and Son understand their business in recommending the machines they do.

* Prospectus annexed.

Of course, I need hardly tell you that the cause of the sudden increase in the wheat trade with India is the opening up of the Suez Canal, thus enabling wheat to arrive in London and Liverpool in 42 to 48 days from Calcutta, from dates of bill of lading, in 35 to 38 days from Bombay, in 40 to 45 days from Kurrachee, by which means the ravages of the weevil are much checked; and altogether the trade is rapidly settling down to a regular one, the quality of wheat from India generally competing well with Russian, British, and American sorts. It appears to me that the grand thing to point to is to *get* the wheat as cheaply as possible to the ports, either by cheapening railway carriage, or improving the rivers, or increasing and extending canals,—probably you will say, by doing all.

Before ending these remarks, which I fear you may find wearisome, I should not like you to suppose that shipments are made by the Suez Canal alone, though they are so entirely from Kurrachee, and very much so from Bombay; from Calcutta, however, large quantities of wheat are shipped yearly by sailing vessels, and it is found the grain stands the voyage well by being stowed at the bottoms of the ships in bags, where no light or air can get to it, thus keeping the destructive weevil quiet and in a dormant state.

If you want any more information, I shall be glad to give it you, or obtain it for you, if it is not within my personal knowledge.

As far as I can find out, the Calcutta people call the different wheats as follows:—

Soft red, "Jamajallee."
Hard " "Gungajallee." } Gunga and Jumna—wheats of the Doab.
Soft white, "Doodeah."
Soft " (fine, North-West), "Pegu," or "Pegoo."

Prospectus referred to in preceding letter.

BLOWING, WINNOWING, & SCREENING MACHINES.

THE universal approval and many prices accorded to this machine have given rise to many imitations. Every part of these machines is made to a standard gauge, thus ensuring an accuracy of fit, and facility of repair, unequalled in any other machine of this class. The care and attention which has been bestowed upon the production of these improved machines, together with the sound principles upon which they are constructed,—ensuring durability and efficiency to a high degree,—have already brought them into extensive use. They are made of the very best materials, are light, simple, pleasing in appearance, such as can only be obtained by first-class design and workmanship.

For separating and cleaning all kinds of grain and seeds for market, this machine has no equal. For export they are not to be surpassed, being durable and simple. They are capable of cleaning grain as fast as one man can fill the machine, being a complete blowing and dressing machine at one time, but can be used as a blower separately, if required. Having an eccentric motion, it can be thrown in and out of gear, making two complete implements in one. Large stock always on hand.

1318
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Prices.

No. 1.—Machine complete with blowing apparatus, riddles 22 by 18 inches, £10.
If of hard wood for hot climate £1 extra.
This machine, with special sieves, will do 8 to 10 quarters per hour of the sample tried. If put through twice, a great improvement would be made on the first sample.
No. 2.—Same as No. 1, without blowing apparatus, £9.
No. 3.—Small size without blowing apparatus riddles, 18 by 18 inches, £8.
Blowing apparatus to No. 3, 15*s.* extra.
Seed riddles, 10*s.* extra.
No. 4.—New size for small occupations, riddles, 16 by 16 inches, £6 10*s.*

For shipment, machines can be made in sections so that six machines will occupy the measurement of one when erected.

No. 2.

Extract from "Report on the Home and Foreign Trade of Canada, for 1875."

Facilities for Transferring grain, &c.,

* * * * * * * *

With all the facilities referred to at his command, the grain merchant in Montreal stands in a most important relation to the markets of Europe on the one hand, and the vast cornfields of the western world on the other. In response to orders by cable, he either forthwith buys Canada wheat on the spot or near at hand, or he directs the purchase of grain in Chicago or Milwaukee. Subjected, as it is, at these great centres, to the most perfect system of inspection in existence, it arrives at Kingston, and is there transferred to barges of similar capacity to the vessels from which it is delivered, and, passing through the cool waters of the river St. Lawrence, the cargo of wheat, corn, rye, or other grain, is placed alongside the ocean-going ship for transport across the Atlantic. All this is accomplished, as must be evident, without the possibility of the grain being changed, or mixed with an inferior quality, by the way (a result which cannot be relied upon by any other route), thus giving additional value to the inspection certificate which was issued for the cargo at the original port of shipment. Not the least important consideration is, that the northerly latitude of the Canadian transportation route relieves the grain from all danger as to *condition*, even in the summer months, when the risk by other channels is comparatively great.

1877.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.

FROM

HER MAJESTY'S SECY. OF STATE FOR INDIA.

No. 130.
Enclosures.

Dated 21st December 1876.

Recd. 15th January 1877.

D.
Proceedings—
No.

Rev: 1/1868/77

SUBJECT.

TRANSMITS an extract from a letter from a merchant in London on the subject of the qualities of Indian wheat which are most appreciated in the English market, and of the means by which the price given for them might be raised.

Government Central Press.—No. 1037, R., A., & C.—8-3-77.—320.

No. 14 (Statistics and Commerce), dated India Office, London, 18th January 1877.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

IN my despatch of the 21st ultimo, No. 130, I drew Your Excellency's attention to the importance of measures adapted to encourage the improved cultivation of wheat, and to facilitate its transport to this country in good condition.

2. It seems very desirable that a compilation should be prepared, as has already been done with various Indian products, shewing the main features of its cultivation, consumption and export, the local selling prices for a series of years, and the probable cost of transport from the chief markets to the place of export. An attempt to prepare such a paper has been made in the Department of the Reporter on Products; but it was found that the information in this country was not sufficient for the purpose.

3. A selection should also be made of the chief local varieties of the grain, and samples should be sent to England carefully named and described, so that their place of production could be certainly distinguished, in order that the opinion of competent persons in this country may be obtained as to their market-value. This latter suggestion is one which might, in my opinion, be advantageously acted upon with the least practicable delay.

1877.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.

FROM

HER MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

No. 14

Dated 18th January 1877.
Recd. 10th February

Proceedings— D. No.

SUBJECT.

IN continuation of his despatch No. 130, dated the 21st December last, on the subject of wheat cultivation, thinks it very desirable that a compilation should be prepared, as has already been done with various Indian products, shewing the main features of its cultivation, consumption and export, the local selling prices for a series of years, and the probable cost of transport from the chief markets to the place of export.

Government Central Press,—No. 1037, R. A. & C.—7-3-77.—320.

Read also for fuller Papers showing

1318/9

Circular No. 11, dated Nagpur, 5th May 1876.

From—The Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces,
To—All Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, Central Provinces.

IT has been represented to the Chief Commissioner that the value of the wheat which is exported from these provinces to England—and of late years a considerable quantity of wheat has found its way to England—is materially affected by its admixture with *lak*, *massur*, and similar pulses.

2. The Chief Commissioner is aware that it is a common practice in these provinces to sow these pulses with the wheat, but the practice is one which it is very desirable to discourage. It is said that, by machinery, stones, dirt and sand can be easily separated from the wheat, but not so this admixture of pulse, which, on the wheat being ground, gives the flour a bad colour and materially reduces its market value.

3. The Chief Commissioner desires that Deputy Commissioners will explain to malguzars and cultivators how injurious the present practice is, and will try to induce them to keep their wheat free from admixture. The price of agricultural produce has fallen so much of late years, that farmers cannot afford to lose the excellent market for their wheat which England appears to be likely to become, and if they will only endeavour to suit the English market, it seems probable that Indian wheat will become an important export and may rival the other wheat-producing countries which supply England.

Government Central Press,—No. 1037, R., A., & C.—7-3-77.—320.

Rev: 1868/77

1318/10

Extract, paragraph 3, from a Circular, No. 25, dated 4th August 1876 from the Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, to all Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Central Provinces.

Para. 3. In a late Circular, the Chief Commissioner commented upon the fact that the value of the wheat grown in these provinces and exported to England was materially affected by its admixture with the various pulses, and prizes for wheat free from such admixture would be practical, and direct encouragement to the people to keep their wheat free from admixture.

If a beginning is now made, and an annual show of some kind or other held in each district, it will be possible before long to arrange for an annual show in each tahsili, and so bring home to the bulk of the people that the Government encouragement is in furtherance of the people's own interests.

Government Central Press.—No. 1037, B., A., C.—7-3-77.—320.

1318/11

Circular No. 3483-162, dated Nagpur, 9th September 1876.

From—*The Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces,*
To—*The Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore,*
" " " *of Saugor,*
" " " *of Narsinghpur,*
" " " *of Hoshangabad,*
" " " *of Raipur,*
" " " *of Bilaspur,*
" " " *of Seoni,*
" " " *of Danish,*
" " " *of Nagpur,*
" " " *of Wardha.*

I AM directed to send you copies of the marginally noted letters that have passed between this office and Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company of Bombay. You will also receive, in a separate packet, separate samples of the various kinds and qualities of wheat, as described and classified by Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company. A portion of each sample should be given to each of your Tahsildars, and the Chief Commissioner wishes that these samples should be shown to as many of the leading agriculturists, malguzars, and ryots as possible, and that the respective places which these kinds of wheat occupy in the market should be explained.

Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company, Bombay, dated 11th July 1876, to Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, in reply No. 2744-125, dated 15th July 1876.

Messrs. Finlay, Scott and Company, dated 20th August 1876, to Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

The cultivators should be exhorted to pay attention to the cultivation of a wheat which is sure to fetch a good price; to bear in mind the importance of keeping the wheat in their fields free from any admixture of pulses; remember the necessity of having all the wheat they sell in bulk of the same kind and quality; and to try the effect of *selecting* the seed they put in the ground. These are all matters that can easily be made comprehensible to the native farmer, and the Chief Commissioner hopes that you and your Tahsildars will again and again impress on them the advantage of acting up to the advice given them.

This Office Circular, No. 25 of the 4th August, has suggested a way to strengthen your hands in the matter and to interest the cultivators themselves; and you will perceive from a notice in the *Gazette*, that the Nagpur District Fund Committee have made a beginning in the matter of improving of agricultural produce, by offering prizes for the best of large samples of grain exhibited at the Ramtek fair.

Dated Bombay, 11th July 1876.

From—*Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co.,*
To—*The Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.*

BY the mail to hand last week, we received from our Mr. R. V. Reid some very interesting information regarding the favour in which wheats grown in the districts of your Commission were now held in the Home market. The millers there are learning rapidly to appreciate the great advantage to be derived from mixing these grains with those grown in England, especially after a wet harvest with them, the reason being that the extreme dryness of the Indian grain serves to absorb much of the excess of moisture from the Home grain, and reduces the average of what is thus mixed to a proper condition of moisture.

2. Mr. Reid then remarks upon the injury done to the market of this wheat at Home by the large admixture of foreign grains. As this is a question in which we know you have particularly interested yourself, and as it is one of great importance to us, being, as we are, the largest exporters of the article from Bombay, we gladly lay before you our knowledge on the subject, and will be happy to provide you with any further information you may require with regard to it.

3. The quantity of pure wheat exported from Bombay is very small compared with that of the lower and adulterated qualities, both under present circumstances it does not pay as well to ship the former as the latter, the scarcity of the best wheat here making the margin of price between it and the lower kinds greater on this side than in the Home market. On an average, the cost of good wheat is 1 shilling per 100 lbs dearer to ship than the other, and fetches only 6 pence to 9 pence more in Liverpool. We send you herewith two samples of *best* quality shipped by one of our neighbours, which obtained top prices on account of purity.

4. This pure wheat, called by the natives "Sk dana pissie," comes mostly to the Seonee and Etarsi stations from the Bhopal State, and is found in Dolceria market; and its present value in England is from 10 shillings to 10 shillings 3 pence per cental (100 lbs.)

5. The wheat that comes from Nagpur is pretty free from admixture of foreign grains, but contains a large percentage of hard red wheat which prevents its getting as good a price as the pure white Pissie.

6. The largest export from Bombay is of the Mundie Pissi, which comes from the neighbourhood of Jubbulpore—from Sehora Road, Chhindwarn, and adjacent stations; this in itself is a very pretty grain, but much depreciated owing to heavy mixtures of foreign seeds. Mr. Reid writes in this connection :—

"Fearful are the complaints of *dhall* and gram in it, principally the *wild* dhall, *which discolours the flour.*

7. There can be no doubt that this injurious result is brought about by carelessness and want of method in sowing, and we think that a great improvement would very soon be forthcoming if by any means the ryot could be persuaded to be more careful in sowing an unmixed grain.

8. The wheat trade with India is now becoming more important every day, and it is, of course, for the interests of all concerned that the character of the article should suffer as little as possible from the primitive and ignorant way in which the ryot is content to farm. Notwithstanding the advanced period of the season, we propose to send you at our first leisure samples showing the various descriptions of grain as they come to this market in their order of merit.

No. 2744-125, dated 15th July 1876.

From—The Offg. Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces,

To—Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co., Bombay.

I AM directed by the Chief Commissioner to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and am to say that the subject of improving the quality of the wheat produced in these provinces and preventing its admixture with inferior grains has already been under the Chief Commissioner's consideration. I enclose copy of a circular addressed to district officers, and also copy of a letter to the Chamber of Commerce, asking to be supplied with samples of the best kinds of wheat. If you would, either yourselves or in concert with the Chamber of Commerce, supply samples showing the best kinds of grain, and the order in which they come, the Chief Commissioner will be much obliged, and will do what lies in his power to improve the ryots the advantage of clean sowing, and of preserving their wheat from admixture with inferior grains. No doubt, improvement will be gradual; but the Chief Commissioner is confident that in time the ryots will desist from spoiling their wheat by mixing various kinds of grain in the same field, when they find that only one kind will be cultivated if it is known that they fetch a higher price.

There are some ten districts in these provinces whence wheat is procured, and these are divided each into three or four sub-divisions; and it is desirable that every sub-divisional officer should have small samples of the wheats in their order of merit, so that the Chief Commissioner hopes you will be able to send samples large enough to supply a small sample to each, say not less than two lbs. of each kind of wheat.

The Chief Commissioner will, at all times, be glad to receive hints or information from you which may enable him to enlarge the market for any of the staples of these provinces.

Dated Bombay, 28th August 1876.

From—Messrs. Finlay, Scott & Co.,

To—The Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

REFERRING to our letter of 11th July on the subject of the sowing of wheat, we now beg to enclose railway receipt for two bags sent to your address, containing standard samples of the descriptions of grain grown in the districts of your Commission, and known in the Home markets.

These we have divided into five small bags containing one half-hundredweight each.

No. 1.—White (Ek Danna), despatched to this market from Sconce and Etarsi stations.
" 2.—White Pissie from districts near Nagpur.
" 3.—Mundi Pissie " " Jubbulpore. (These three descriptions we described in our letter of 11th July).
" 4.—Red Pissie from districts near Simree.
" 5.—Akola Pissie.

These descriptions of red wheat are daily coming into greater favour in the French market, a good business having taken place with Marseilles at favourable prices. The Simree has only a small percentage of hard grains, this admixture being on a larger scale in the lower quality from Akola; in the latter description, the hard Kuthia grain is found as much as ten per cent., and its presence serves considerably to diminish the value of the bulk.

We may mention that the cause of our being unable to send you these samples earlier is due to the great difficulty that always exists, at the close of the season, in procuring reliable samples to represent the fair quality of the crop.

Government Central Press.—No. 1631 H., A., & C.—8-11-77.—320.

1318/12

No. 1/39—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 14th March 1878.

[AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.]

READ the following despatches from the Secretary of State :—

No. 180 (Statistics and Commerce), dated the 21st December 1876, forwarding an extract from a letter from a merchant in London, on the subject of the qualities of Indian wheat which are most appreciated in the English market, and of the means by which the prices given for them might be raised, and drawing attention to the importance of the adoption of measures with a view to encourage the improved cultivation of this grain and to facilitate its transport to England in good condition.

No. 14 (Statistics and Commerce), dated the 18th January 1877, requesting that a compilation be prepared, showing the main features of the cultivation of wheat, its consumption and export, the selling prices, the probable cost of transport; and that samples of the chief local varieties of the grain carefully named and described may be made and sent to England.

Read also the following papers showing the action taken by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, with a view to improving the quality of the wheat in those Provinces and preventing its admixture with other grains.

Circular No. 11, dated the 5th May 1876.
Extract, paragraph 3, from a circular, No. 25, dated the 4th August 1876.
Circular letter No. 3433-162, dated the 9th September 1876, and enclosures.

RESOLUTION.

OBSERVATIONS.—The development of the export trade in Indian wheat has long occupied the attention of the Government of India. In January 1873, on the representation of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, who urged that the weight of the export duty and the length of the sea voyage practically disabled Indian wheat from successfully competing with any country in the English market, except perhaps California and Australia, the Government of India freed Indian wheat from all duty on export.

2. Since then, aided by various other circumstances, particularly the shortened transit through the Suez Canal, and recently the state of exchange, and perhaps to some extent the political condition of eastern Europe, the increase in the trade has been very great, as will be seen from the figures appended showing the quantity and value of the wheat exported to foreign countries :—

	Cwt.	Rs.
1871-72	637,099	23,56,445
1872-73	394,010	16,76,900
1873-74	1,755,954	82,76,064
1874-75	1,069,076	49,04,352
1875-76	2,498,285	90,10,255
1876-77 (first ten months) . .	4,839,290	1,67,34,001

Seeing that the quality of Indian wheat has commended itself to English millers, it may be hoped that with the advantages she now possesses, India will be able to maintain this important trade at a high level. But it must not be forgotten that this country has active and eager competitors in the United States, Southern Russia, Austro-Hungary, and Egypt, and that some of these countries are naturally possessed of great advantages in the shipment of wheat to England. It is necessary, therefore, that the greatest care should

be taken by every body interested in the trade, from the cultivator to the shipper, to prevent any cause for complaint regarding the quality of the grain exported.

3. It appears from the despatch No. 130, received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, that complaints are now made of the dirty condition of Indian wheat received in England, as well as of its admixture with inferior grains. The Governor-General in Council desires that these papers may be circulated amongst district officers and published for general information. To some extent the complaints regarding the dirty condition of our wheat will diminish with the extended employment of the railways in its carriage to the port of shipment, in supersession of boats, and with the increased facilities of despatch from the port. A great deal may also be done by the trade in undertaking the cleansing and sorting of the grain before it is shipped. It would appear from a letter from the firm of Messrs. Scott, Finlay & Co. of Bombay to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, that in the present state of the market it would hardly be profitable to incur much expense in such cleansing and sorting. But probably with an increased demand for cleaned and sorted wheat, it will prove remunerative to set up winnowing and sorting machines of the kind referred to in the communication from Her Majesty's Secretary of State at the great centres of shipment, *viz.*, Bombay, Kurrachee, and Calcutta. In view of the poverty and ignorance of the agricultural community of India, the Governor-General in Council does not consider that it would be expedient to suggest the employment in the rural districts of machines, the purchase of which would require capital which is probably not forthcoming, and the repair of which, when broken, could not be effected except at the Presidency towns. His Excellency in Council considers however that much may be done in the way of advice and instruction by district officers to impress upon the agriculturist the necessity of so treating his crop, after it has been reaped, as to keep it reasonably clean, and that such advice will be welcomed and acted upon by the cultivator in his own interest as soon as it is made clear to him that clean wheat will command a readier and better market than dirty grain.

4. The question of admixture of wheat with inferior grains, such as barley and gram, is a separate matter. It is not probable that the adulteration is altogether fraudulent. The truth is that the cultivating classes, who do not largely consume wheat themselves but the inferior grains, have hitherto been in the habit of sowing these inferior grains with their wheat in the same field, the object being to have some resource to fall back upon in the event either of failure in the wheat crop or of difficulty in selling it at a remunerative price. As long as circumstances operated against the development of a steady and sure trade in wheat, this practice of the cultivator could perhaps only be regarded as dictated by prudence. But circumstances have changed, and a practice which formerly was reasonable, has now no reason for continuance, and indeed its continuance will have an injurious effect on the cultivator. There seems little reason to doubt that the agricultural community will be ready to modify this habit on becoming acquainted with the facts of the case, and that they may easily be persuaded either to cease to cultivate inferior grains in the same field with wheat, or to be careful in reaping to keep them apart. The local officers in each district should cause them to be properly instructed in this matter, and they should specially impress upon the cultivators the need for careful selection of their seed. Much good may result from judicious action in this direction, and the Governor-General in Council commends the matter to the particular attention of the local authorities. His Excellency in Council has noticed with much satisfaction the steps which have already been taken toward the attainment of the object desired by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

5. The Secretary of State for India desires that a paper may be prepared, bringing together all the facts procurable regarding wheat cultivation in India. To assist in the preparation of such a paper, the Governor-General in Council requests that in each province a memorandum may be drawn up shewing, as far as the information may be available,

(1) the names of the districts in which wheat is grown;

(2) the area (in acres) under wheat in each of the last five years to the end of 1876-77;
(3) the average outturn in pounds per acre;
(4) a brief account of the cultivation, in which should be stated the kind of land preferred, the quantity of seed sown per acre, the crop which wheat follows, the season of cultivation, and other useful particulars;
(5) the average wholesale price of wheat;
(6) average consumption per head of the population of the district;
(7) total consumption within the district;
(8) annual imports into the district for five years, and places whence imported;
(9) annual exports for the same period, places whither exported, and proportion carried by road, rail or river;
(10) estimated average cost of cartage to the railway station nearest the district;
(11) cost of transit to port of shipment (Calcutta, Bombay, or Kurrachee), by rail, by road, and by river;
(12) local names for the varieties of wheat cultivated, and their description in English; and
(13) a general summary for the province, shewing the total area under wheat, the average outturn per acre, the total outturn, and the details of the import and export trade.

6. It is also requested that no time may be lost in obtaining the samples of wheat required by the Secretary of State. It is desirable that these should be put up in bags containing two pounds each, properly labelled with the name of the district in which the wheat was grown and its distinctive name. These samples should be forwarded to this office as soon as possible, without waiting for the completion of the information asked for.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution with a copy of the papers read in the preamble be forwarded to the Government of Madras with a request that the necessary measures may be taken without delay to carry into effect the suggestions and instructions contained in this Resolution. The Governor-General in Council will be glad to receive any suggestions which local Governments and Administrations may desire to make with a view to the further development and improvement of the trade.

(True Extract.)

W. M. Hatten

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

To
The Secretary to the Government of Madras.—

Pro 1877. Dept

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.
No. 1868

AGRICULTURE and HORTICULTURE.

RESOLUTION.

To

Dated Calcutta, the 14 March 1877.

Recd 23

E. S.

G.O. 4-4-77. No. 1318

SUBJECT.

ADOPTION of measures for improving the qua[lity] of Indian wheat.

Government Central Press No. 1036, R., A., & C.—12-3-77.—300

1318/14

No. 1318 of 4-4-77

Read Procs. of the Govt. of India Dept. of R. A. & C. dated 14 March 1877 No. 1/39

Communicated, with the enclosures, to the Board of Revenue and Chamber of Commerce.

The Board will issue instructions for giving effect to the suggestions and orders of the Govt. of India in the Proceedings above cited. Their special attention is called to para the requisition in para 6 of the Resolution.

The Board will also duly submit any suggestions they may have to offer in view to the further development and improvement of the trade in wheat.

and

and the Chamber of Commerce will also be invited to favour the Govt with their remarks on this point

May the papers [illegible]

14 To the Bd. of Revenue 18-4-77
1 " Chairman Chamber of Commerce
1 each to 11 Editors excepting "Times"

This has not yet appeared in the Gazette of India

1318/15

40

Wheat culture

86-87

R.C. G. Nan. Sci. P.R. 27/2/77, R 28/2/77.
C. 23/3/77, R 23/3/77