

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2926	Press
150.151	~~Mis~~
Dated 6 — 12 — 19 — 1887	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th December 1867.*

No. 150. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th November 1867, No. 7,552.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 26th September 1867, No. 185 :—

1. I have the honor to submit the report, called for in the Proceedings of Government, 8th July 1867, No. 1,515, on the inferior quality of the Coir yarn supplied from Mangalore.

2. It is admitted, I observe, that a certain share* in the deterioration is debitable to objectionable storing in Calcutta. For the rest Mangalore is held responsible.

3. The Mangalore coir is said to be inferior both in the quality of the material and in the way the yarn is laid up. This would appear to have resulted from two causes, an objectionable manner of storing at Mangalore itself, and the negligence of the islanders by whom it is made.

4. Coir is a bulky material, and we have not room for properly storing it in well ventilated buildings; the season in which we have to keep it in store is the monsoon, during which period of four months there is an average rain-fall of 120 inches, and the air is surcharged with moisture; these two facts naturally result in the coir undergoing a sweating process, and as it is generally not unpacked for from eight to ten months, the fibre loses some of its elasticity.

5. The remedies I would propose are to arrange to store as little as possible through the monsoon on this coast, and to provide better ventilated buildings for such quantity as it is found unavoidable to store here.

6. Latterly, the coir has been stored in the Museum building, now given up for Offices for the Engineer Range Officer, the Assistant Collector, and the Municipal Committee, and this year the coir has been stored in a part of my own Cutcherry, which can be ill-spared for it, and is ill-adapted. Some also has been stored in the old Tobacco weighing shed as usual, and some in one of the salt godowns. Immediately on receipt of the Proceedings of Government under reply, I requested the Superintending Engineer to estimate for improving the arrangements for storage in the existing buildings, as well as for extra accommodation if necessary.

7. But, as I have already said, as little as possible should, I think, be stored here, both on account of the climate and of the expense of providing store-room.

8. If the requirements of the Calcutta dockyards could be estimated for in advance, I could tranship the coir to them without delay in the same fair season in which it is received, and I would then be in a position to sell the surplus at public auction at once; and thus little, if any, coir need be stored here at all except most temporarily. At present our hands are tied, and we have to store and sweat and deteriorate it all until we are advised of the requirements of the Calcutta dockyard.

9. To enable me to do this, I shall also have to make trustworthy arrangements with the islanders for the early receipt of the coir. Hitherto, the time of the

† See Enclosure A.

arrival of the coir has been uncertain† generally too late for transhipment in

the same fair season, and twice so late that the islanders were not able before the bursting of the monsoon to get back to their homes with their winter supply of grain. They have been ordered and urged to come earlier, but with varying success. I would suggest the experiment of trusting to their self-interest, rather than their simple obedience, and appealing to it by informing them that, for all the coir that may reach Mangalore by the 1st March, they will be paid at the same rate as heretofore; that they will lose one per cent. per week on those rates for every week after time, and gain one per cent. per week for every week in advance up to six weeks. Thus they will gain or lose as the case may be one per cent. for the first week, two per cent. for the second week, three for the third, and so on. A somewhat similar arrangement was once before proposed by Mr. Webster and modified by the Board, (Proceedings, 23rd October 1863, No. 6,812A,) but no orders of Government were passed on the point.

10. The reasons for their coming late would appear to be that, besides being rather a well-to-do easy-going people, as Mr. Sewell points out, they being Mahomedans, object to starting from their homes till after the close of the Ramzan fast. But as the Enclosure A. shews, some boats come much earlier than others, and I should think the per-centage system would lead to their coming as regularly and early as practicable. This coming year they will have no excuse for doing otherwise, the Ramzan closing on the 25th January 1868.

11. The deterioration in the manner of making would appear to have resulted from the way the islanders have been paid for their manufacture. For some thirty years it has been paid for at fixed rates without inspection and irrespective of quality. Prior to 1837, it was always inspected and separated into lots of first, second, and third quality, and paid for accordingly; but it being found that the

	RS.	A.	P.
* First quality, per candy...	21	14	0
Second do. do. ...	17	8	0
Third do. do. ...	13	2	0

	Kiltan and Chetlat.
† The Amindivi and Kadmat coir proportioned.	80
First sort at 70 per cent...	15
Second 20 ,, ...	5
Third 10 ,, ...	

result was much bribery and partiality, Mr. Lewin fixed three rates* of price per candy according to quality, and with reference to past experience apportioned† to the different islands a certain per-centage of first, second, and third quality, and this arrangement has been in force ever since, and it would appear to have

been considered practically a wise one, and to have worked well. From the Calcutta report it would seem that the islanders have now learnt to trade on their past reputation, rather than their present performances. This would be the natural consequence of increased contact with the main land, formerly they were more unsophisticated. Still, they are people that are easily led and easily governed, and I should be loth, till it is proved to be necessary, to introduce any change in the system to which they have so long been accustomed. I would prefer to try the experiment of warning them that their work has been found faulty, and that if it is not better this year, we shall have to revert to the old and vexatious system of examination, the coir being inspected, and the qualities sorted and paid for accordingly. The inspection would have to be conducted by a Deputy Collector or Covenanted Assistant, or myself, and that carefully, or the old malpractices would be revived. Such an examination would be a tedious and laborious process

extending over some twenty days of exposure to the sun all day, and its expediency is doubtful.

12. Neither the islanders nor the people of the main land have any implements for separating the fibre from the nut and for twisting it. All is done by hand. If any can be supplied them, their work will probably be better.

13. Not later than the 1st February, and earlier, if possible, we ought to be advised of the quantity of coir for which the Calcutta dockyards propose to indent on this district. On my early application, the Bombay Government would then be in a position to arrange with Bombay ship-owners for freight for the coir expected in March, for it must be remembered that it is only one class of vessels that will take such bulky freight. English vessels will not; and the small coasting vessels fear to run so far as Calcutta. I shall also require to be early advised, in order that I may advertize and sell the coir not required for Calcutta.

14. The amount available yearly may be roughly estimated at 600 candies. Any quantity not required by Calcutta finds a ready sale in the local market.

15. If these proposals meet with the approval of the Board and Government, I will at once apprise the islanders of the per-centage system, and warn them that they are on their trial, in order that they may be forewarned, and act accordingly.

Memorandum shewing the dates of arrivals and storage of Coir.

In 1860, from 8th February to 8th April, Coir stored by 25th April.	
„ 1861, „ 23rd „ to 22nd „ „ by 5th May.	
„ 1862, „ 6th „ to 28th „ „ by 10th „	
„ 1863, „ 19th March to 4th May „ by 20th „	
„ 1864, „ 15th February to 14th April „ by 30th April.	
„ 1865, „ 3rd March to 13th „ „ by 30th „	
„ 1866, „ 7th „ to 14th „ „ by 30th „	
„ 1867, „ 5th „ to 6th „ „ by 25th „	

MANGALORE,

26th September 1867.

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Acting Collector.

1. In their letter, dated 19th June 1867, No. 2,746, the Government of Bengal forwarded to the Madras Government a report from a Special Committee appointed to report upon the quality of the Coir yarn supplied to the Bengal Government from Mangalore, from which it appeared that the Committee were of opinion that this yarn was very inferior to that imported from the Maldiv Islands, both as regarded the fibre itself, and the manner in which it had been laid up. The Madras Government in their Order, dated 8th July 1867, No. 1,515, desired the Acting Collector of South Canara to report upon the subject, through the Board, and the foregoing letter is that Officer's reply to this requisition.

2. Mr. Thomas shews clearly that his department is in no way to blame in the matter, and the remedies he suggests are, in the opinion of the Board, well worthy of consideration. Storage on the Western Coast must operate considerably in causing deterioration, but this can be obviated by early intimation of the wants of the Bengal Government in each year being given to the Acting Collector, and by the measures he proposes in order to induce the islanders to deliver the coir at an early period of the year. The Board on a former occasion made somewhat

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th December 1867.

similar proposals to insure early deliveries, in order that the islanders might have time to return to the islands with their annual supply of food before the breaking of the monsoon, but no orders were then passed by Government on the subject, and the matter appears to have been allowed to drop.

3. The Board also concur with Mr. Thomas in considering that it will not be advisable to revert to the old system of paying for the coir according to the quality, involving as it did great labor and considerable risk of improper practices. If the Moniagar is directed to impress upon the islanders the necessity of more care in the manufacture, the Board do not despair of seeing an early improvement in the quality delivered. Should this, however, not take place after due warning, the matter may again be brought forward for consideration.

4. Mr. Thomas is requested to ascertain and report in what manner the suggestion made in paragraph 12 can best be carried out.

No. 151.

ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1867, No. 2,926.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government authorize the Acting Collector to adopt the plan of a bonus for deliveries before 1st March in

each year, and a penalty for those received after that date, as proposed by him; but he will yearly notice the results in his report of the out-turn of the sale of the surplus stock, and he is vested with discretion to waive the penalty when he is satisfied that sufficient reason existed for the late arrival.

2. He will at the same time specially notice the quality of the yarn delivered both as to material and manufacture, and will, as proposed, warn the islanders that the quality has been objected to in regard to recent deliveries.

3. The report will be communicated to the Bengal Government, with the request that intimation of their requirements may be regularly made so as to reach this Government by 1st February at latest.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

88-2926-3.
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W. H. Hudleston
6th Dec 1867

14 Decr/63 No 234-5
8 July/67 - 124@126
26 Augt - 492-493

Rev. 1867. Department.
Pro of Govt for Deer

No. 3291.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 19th November 1867.

Dep 23 -
Rev 25 -

Pro of the Board of Revenue
No 2947.

No. 7,552.

Passing remarks on report of Acting Collector of South Canara, on the inferior quality of the cotton yarn supplied to Bengal Government from Mangalore, and on his proposals for improving it and requesting Collector to ascertain and report in what manner the suggestion to introduce implements for separating the fibre from the nut and for twisting it can best be carried out.

No 2926-6 Decr

14 Copies to be sent to the Board of Revenue

No 150-151