

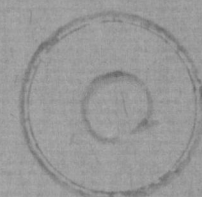
Educational (190 /) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No 725

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Inspector-General of Agriculture.

Recording proceedings, Revenue department, on letter from the Government of India intimating the appointment of Mr J. Mollison as

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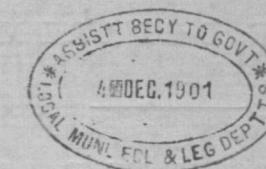
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G.O., No. 1040, 8th November 1901.

NOVEMBER.

Inspector-General of Agriculture

Communicating to the Board of Revenue letter from the Government of India intimating the appointment of Mr. J. Mollison as — and specifying his duties.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from J. B. FULLER, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture—Agriculture, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, the 24th October 1901, Circular No. 17—60-6:—

I am directed to inform you that the Governor-General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, has sanctioned the appointment of an Inspector-General of Agriculture, and has selected Mr. J. Mollison for the post. Mr. Mollison has attained high academic honours in the study of agriculture: he has had practical experience of farming in Canada as well as in England, and his service of the past eight years as Deputy Director of Agriculture in the Bombay Presidency has given him an acquaintance with Indian conditions.

2. In chapter XVII of his report on Indian Agriculture, Dr. Voelcker insists very strongly on the need of a central expert authority to stimulate agricultural research, and to guide and co-ordinate the efforts of those who are engaged in agricultural experiments in different parts of the country. Particular stress is laid on the utility of chemical investigation, but it is recognized that the expert need not necessarily be an Agricultural Chemist, and that an acquaintance with the details and requirements of agricultural practice would be an indispensable qualification. Since these recommendations were made the appointment of an Agricultural Chemist has led to a substantial advance in our acquaintance with Indian agricultural problems on the chemical side. But experience has shown that our experiments and investigations need direction from other than the purely chemical point of view and that the services of an officer are required who can bring practical knowledge to bear on the question of agricultural improvement and can act, generally, as an adviser in agricultural matters to both the Provincial and the Imperial Governments.

3. Apart from the prosecution of such independent enquiries as may be desirable, it will be the duty of the Inspector-General to guide and co-ordinate the experiments which are being made under the orders of Local Governments, and to publish and criticize their results, to indicate new lines which enquiry may profitably follow, and to respond to the requests of private investigators for assistance or advice. It will be open to Provincial Governments to consult him on subjects in which the opinion of an agricultural expert will be of value, and his opinion should obviously be taken on any new schemes of experiment or enquiry which may be in view. In regard to the Government of India, his position will be that of an adviser on matters connected with agriculture. It is not proposed to invest him with any direct authority over Provincial Departments of Agriculture; nor is it anticipated that any such authority will be needed in order to secure the advantages which will result from his guidance. But he will be authorized to correspond direct with the heads of these departments, and he will, indeed, regard the maintenance of close personal relations with them as essential to the proper discharge of his functions. His duties will of course lie more in the field than in the office, and constant tours will be necessary, not only in order to keep him in touch with other investigators, but to gain that close acquaintance with the agricultural conditions of the country which alone can indicate the scope which exists for improvements and the possibilities of effecting them.

ORDER—No. 1040, Revenue, dated 8th November 1901.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

E. S. S. S.
for Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land
Records and Agriculture).

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