Th. Ch. 1089

No. 3557 Way 11th Decr/83

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Govt. of {1883} Madras.

REVENUE.

20. 1.C.

Issued

Recd. 7/12/83

Encl.

G.O., &c., 7th November 1883,
Nos. 1373, 1373A.

No. 3557 Way 11-12-83

NOVEMBER.

Agricultural Exhibition.

Reviewing report on the — of 1883.

with order
Entd in Receipt Regr

Entd in Despatch Regr

former. The proposal made in paragraph 47, that an Agricultural Conference should form a part of any future scheme for a Central Exhibition, also has the approval of Government.

7. The total grant for the Exhibition will be raised from Rupees 18,000 to Rs. 18,800, and an additional allotment of Rs. 800 will be made in the Financial Department, but the Board's attention will be called to G.O., 18th September 1874, No. 1191, wherein the total expenditure of an Agricultural Exhibition was estimated at Rs. 15,000. In view of the large expenditure incurred, the Government are not prepared to sanction any sum for distribution among the members of the Police force engaged at the Exhibition.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.
" Public Department.
" Financial Department.
" Judicial Department.
" Military Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Accountant-General.
" Superintendent of the Government Press.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 7th November 1883, No. 1373A, Revenue.

Copy to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, with ten copies of Committee's report, for information.

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. W. H. French.

160 Copies.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th September 1883, No. 2775 :—

Read—the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Agricultural Reporter to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue (through the Director of Agriculture), dated Saidápet, 11th August 1883, No. 1287 :—

I have the honor to submit the report (two copies) on the Agricultural Exhibition recently held in Madras.

2. The Committee regret that their expenditure has somewhat exceeded the amount that was sanctioned ; their estimates were based on the only data available, those, viz., of the Exhibition of 1874. The length of time that has elapsed since the Exhibition was held and the somewhat altered circumstances under which it was necessary to hold the last Exhibition will, it is hoped, sufficiently explain the slight excess—about Rs. 750—of expenditure over the estimates.

3. I am to ask that Government will be good enough to raise the total grant from Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 18,800. The whole sum may not be required, but the medals have not yet been supplied, and it is expected that at the least Rs. 500 will be required to meet their cost.

4. At page 34 of the report a statement appears showing the entire expenditure incurred on behalf of the Exhibition, vouchers for which have been sent to the Accountant-General.

5. The Committee desire me to bring to notice the obligations they are under to the members of the Police force of the town of Madras engaged at the Exhibition for the services then rendered ; and I am directed to state that the Committee will be glad if Government can sanction a small grant of money, say Rs. 200, for distribution amongst the men and subordinate officers of the force.

Endorsement by W. WILSON, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture, dated Cumbum, 17th August 1883, No. 265.

Forwarded.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Report.

Resolution—dated 15th September 1883, No. 2775.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Exhibition was fairly attractive, 9,207 persons having paid for admission during the five days of Exhibition, and the total gate receipts being Rs. 1,226-3-0.

3. The union of an exhibition of manufactures with one in the main agricultural gave rise to several difficulties, as noted in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the report, and by the judges in the section of manufactures (paragraph 41 of the report). These difficulties and the point raised by the judges in the above-mentioned section will, no

doubt, be disposed of by the next Exhibition Committee. In the matter of the sale and subsequent removal of goods, improvement may also be made. It is suggested that though a detailed catalogue would be impossible by reason of cost and want of time, yet that a brief pamphlet might be drawn up in the vernaculars, giving a list of the classes of goods, the qualities most desired in such goods, the best modes of inspection, the uses and objects of the exhibition, and other matters of general interest bearing on the subject. This might be sold or given gratis to visitors at entry.

4. The annexed table gives the sections, classes, and prizes offered and won :—

Section.	Class.	Nature.	Prizes offered.	Prizes won.	Percentage won to offered.
		Live-stock—	Rs.	Rs.	
A	I	Horses	1,975	990	50·1
	II	Cattle	3,385	2,435	71·9
	III	Sheep and Goats	551	316	57·3
	IV	Poultry, Rabbits, &c.	707	501	70·8
		Vegetable Produce—			
B	I	Field Produce	1,290	792	61·3
	II	Plantation and Special Produce	682	565	82·8
	III	Forest Produce	730	455	62·3
		General—			
C	I	Dairy Produce	140	62	44·2
	II	Indian Manufactures	871	686	78·7
	III	Miscellaneous (oils, leather, &c.)	531	485	91·3
D		Machines, Implements, Tools, &c.	1,887	987	52·3
E		Essays	1,150	900	78·2
		Total	13,899	9,174	66·

5. The four districts that headed the prize lists were Madras, Nellore, Salem, and North Arcot in the order named, Nellore taking most of the cattle prizes and winning Rs. 1,400, all of which, except Rs. 5, were taken by stock. Salem, on the other hand, won Rs. 800 by prizes in almost every class.

6. The show of horses was fair, but was not representative, the prize-winners being chiefly owned by Madras residents. The Committee suggest that in future exhibitions prizes shall be confined to animals "*bonâ fide* used for breeding purposes in India or to the produce of such animals." The suggestion has the approval and support of the Board. The show of cattle was good, but was chiefly confined to the cattle of the Madras, Nellore, and North Arcot districts, the distances and risks being considered too great for other considerable breeding districts when the object was display rather than sale as at the great cattle fairs of the south.

Sheep and goats being considered mere manure producers, and not being chiefly bred for wool and mutton, were naturally but poor in quality and few in number.

7. The show of grains was fairly good and representative, but nothing remarkable was exhibited; probably the specimens of the very nutritious and productive ragi and cholum and the numerous samples of paddy were most interesting.

Among other vegetable produce the oil-seeds were well represented, but nothing noteworthy was displayed either amongst plantation, special or forest produce. It is to be regretted that the sugar sorghums now so firmly established and so profitable in America are no better represented in Southern India than they were twenty years ago: if the success attained in America could be approximately reached in India, it would be but a small thing to use special efforts such as were successful in the matter of chinchona and other exotics.

8. Amongst the products of other industries, the muslins of Arani and a few laced cotton fabrics of 200 and 230 thread showed that the artisans have not lost their cunning in the manufacture of delicate textile fabrics. Carpets and silk were fairly represented; the glazed pottery was rather curious by its novelty than practically useful. Excellent Mangalore roofing tiles, some of them glazed externally,

were shown; also some good leather from Coimbatore and an excellent collection of oils from South Canara. The specimens of sugar were poor, but there was a good show of jaggery and sugar-candy.

9. Under Machines and Implements there was an interesting display; ploughs attracted much attention, and local firms showed that they are doing good practical work in making ploughs suited to the present circumstances of the ryot; amongst other implements they deservedly took nearly all the prizes; it is to be regretted that there were no entries of seed drills.

Among machines the Boomer oil-press was the most interesting as likely to supply a want in Southern India, viz., a machine of no great complication, but great power for the expression of pure bright marketable oil; the transfer of the industry to India is very desirable in the interests both of her ryots and merchants. The Beheea Mill attracted much attention, and has been put to a practical and successful test in Bellary. It is noted that both Messrs. Oakes and Messrs. Massey and Co. speak of a large number of inquiries and purchases of agricultural plant traceable directly to the Exhibition; this is a very gratifying result.

10. The essays were not of a very high standard; but it is hoped that the important subjects of which they treated will attract more practical attention in future.

11. While the Exhibition did not attain complete success, there is evidence—notably that of Messrs. Oakes and Massey—that it has borne fruits in awakening inquiry after new implements, modes, and processes, while it cannot be doubted but that it has stimulated a healthy interest in practical agriculture.

12. Thanks are due to the Committee, judges, and other gentlemen who so readily gave their time and aid in the matter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) F. A. NICHOLSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with a copy of the report.
Copy to the Director of Agriculture.

ORDER—dated 7th November 1883, No. 1373, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council regrets the delay which has occurred in the submission of this report. The Exhibition closed in the third week of February, and the report, which was not submitted till 11th August, did not reach Government till the 26th September. A few points will be briefly noted below for observance in future exhibitions, and the Director of Agriculture, who forwards Mr. Robertson's report without remark, will be called on to explain the delay which has taken place in its submission. The report will be advertised for sale by the Superintendent, Government Press.

2. LIVE STOCK.—The show of Nellore cattle was satisfactory, that of sheep very poor. It is much to be regretted that the Mysore, Punganúr, and Kongyam breeds of cattle were not better represented. Native gentlemen of experience should have been included among the judges of sheep and goats, and a Nellore ryot should have found a place among the judges of cattle. With reference to the show of horses, the Government entirely concur in the remarks made in paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings, and they regret that nearly Rs. 1,000 should have been awarded, chiefly to residents of Madras, for an admittedly poor show of horseflesh, while Rs. 186 only were awarded for grains and Rs. 106 for pulses. The horse has no part or lot in Indian agriculture, and the offer of a moderate prize for animals

bonâ fide used for breeding purposes in India is the most that should be made. It is noted with regret that only two mules were entered for competition.

3. DEAD STOCK.—The most interesting show was that of ploughs, to which England, America, Sweden, and India contributed. It is satisfactory that a local firm—Messrs. Massey and Co.—obtained the second prize for ploughs of medium size. It seems advisable that in future exhibitions the competing ploughs should be subjected to some practical test on the ground.

Though prizes were offered, no competition took place for fibre-cleaning, oil-pressing, and paddy-husking machines. It is hoped that the waste now experienced in the use of native oil mills and the increasing interest awakened in the fibrous plants of India, as affording material for paper stock, will stimulate enterprising local firms and others to essay improvements in this direction.

4. RAW PRODUCE.—The confusion experienced in all branches of the Exhibition owing to the want of a catalogue was most severely felt in this department. The exhibits were good and a marked contrast to those of the Exhibition of 1874.

G.O., 18th September 1874, No. 1161.

In future, exhibits should be received earlier with lists and cards from the District Committees, and at least half of the judges of grains should be native agriculturists. The show of fodders was disappointing and points to the conclusion that the Saidápet experiments in this direction have had but little practical effect. Information as to the rates at which they sell should be appended to exhibits of grain and manufactures. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, it will be observed that the orders of Government were that the Exhibition

G.O., 9th September 1882, No. 959.

should be confined to agriculture. The addition, however, of manufactures added much to its attractiveness and utility, and the next Exhibition Committee will doubtless devise some means of overcoming the difficulties referred to in paragraphs 10 and 12 of the report. Meanwhile the Government are of opinion that in future exhibitions manufactured articles should find a place. Further they consider that a catalogue is indispensable and that it might be prepared by arrangement with the District Committees, who could forward lists in English and the Vernacular with their exhibits to the Central Committee at Madras some time before the Exhibition opens.

5. The show of muslins, cotton fabrics, carpets, and silk was only fair, and the only sections which can be considered to have been wholly satisfactory were—

A-II.—Cattle.
B-I.—Field Produce.
D-I.—Machines and Implements.

These are, however, most important, and the success attained in them justifies Government in considering the Exhibition as a whole to have been a success. Perhaps the most gratifying testimony yet afforded as to the results obtained is that of Messrs. Oakes and Messrs. Massey to the effect that the Exhibition has already borne fruit in awakening a demand for new implements of agriculture.

6. The poor show of wheat is much to be regretted, and the Government trust that energetic action will be taken on their late order communicating to the Board of Revenue the very favorable report received from the Secretary of State on

G.O., No. 1167, dated 24th September 1883.

Indian wheat. No pains should be spared to bring home to the ryots the fact that they are neglecting a product which will pay them handsomely, and to the cultivation of which in some districts no known obstacle exists. The show of fibres was not remarkable. The observation made in paragraph 40 of the report, to the effect that it is greatly to be regretted that such indigenous manufactures as Arani muslins should be thrown out of competition by machine-made fabrics owing to their high cost, has the entire concurrence of Government, who would gladly welcome any effort on the part of officials or private persons interested to impress on the manufacturers the fact that it is not the low price of imported goods, but the very high price of their own that leads to an universal preference for the