M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2070	Press Mis.
358.359	
Dated 29. 10. - 1861.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 29th October 1861.

No. 358. Read the following letter from the Reverend J. RUTHVEN MACFARLANE, M.A., Honorary Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 2nd October 1861 :—

SIR,

1. The interest which Government has manifested on the subject of Cotton supply and its extended and improved cultivation in India, and also the vital importance of the questions at the present moment to the manufacturing classes of Great Britain will, I trust, be considered a sufficient warrant to request you to be good enough to submit the following proposition to the consideration of his Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. Much has been done in recent years, and great expense has been incurred to improve the quality of Indian Cotton by the introduction of foreign seed ; but comparatively little to improve the indigenous plant, which possessing certain acknowledged advantages over exotics has yet important defects, such as brittleness and shortness of staple, which by improvement in cultivation, but still more in the quality of the seed, may, it is believed, be wholly removed. This may be done—

(1.) By careful and high cultivation and continuous and careful selection of the best seed by which it can be made to out-grow in the course of two or three croppings its present defects, in the same manner and by the same process successfully followed in England, by which cereals and other seeds are improved and even altered in some of their qualities.

(2.) By hybridizing the indigenous seed with some of the best varieties of foreign countries which possess in the greatest degree those qualities in which the country seed is defective, but which are found difficult to cultivate in India, as for example Sea Island Cotton. If the properties of great length and flexibility of fibre could by hybridizing be communicated to the indigenous cotton, a staple would be obtained of great value in the English market.

3. A portion of the Society's Nursery Ground and also of Homes' Gardens, to the extent of from 8 to 10 acres in all, might be put under crop for these two purposes, the expense of which would be about Rupees 100 per mensem. As this would entail very great additional labor and responsibility on the Superintendent, it would be but fair to add to his present scanty salary a sum of Rupees 50 per mensem.

4. A journal should be kept briefly detailing every step taken from first breaking ground to the last process of cleaning, with a full statement of the results.

5. The process for the two experiments would probably be different in the first instance, as in the one the object sought for would be a superior quality of seed, in which case the Cotton might be sacrificed, and in the second, the object sought for in the experiment at first would be what might be called a new variety of Cotton.

6. Should His Excellency the Governor in Council see fit to sanction these experiments, I would venture to suggest that as the season is far advanced an early decision is desirable.

No. 359. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1861, No. 2,070.

1. The Governor in Council accepts the proposal of the Committee with only the stipulations that the improved seed shall be at the disposal of Government (the Society of course having as much as they may require for their own use), and that the Government are supplied with a portion of the Cotton annually produced. The Cotton being required merely as a sample of the crop raised, a moderate quantity will suffice.

2. The Committee will be furnished with a copy of the Honorable the Governor's Minute on the improvement of the indigenous Cotton.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Copy in a Letter to England
Dft. dated March N. 10 of 1862

From A Hunter M.D.
Secy to the Agri & Horti
cultural Society N 26
S/f 1/63. C N 2319

Copies to the Accountant
3 — Cust Pay
Dep Sec
Copy to the Sec of India
3rd Dec 1862 N. 3083.

N. 358 & 359.

Revenue 1861 Oct 1st
Rec: of Govt for October.
N. 2557.

From the Honorary
Secty. Agri-Hort-
Society-

Dated 2d } Octr.
Recd 29th } 1861.

N 2070. 29th October
From Dr C. S/f 1/63 C N 2319
Proposing certain ex-
=periments for the
improvement of
Indian Cotton
Pro. 29 Jany 1862 N. 188

With accounts

N. 2070.

The Governor in council
accepts the proposal of the committee,
with only the stipulation that the
improved seed shall be at the
disposal of Govt (the Society of
course having as much as they may
require for their own use) &
and that the Government
are supplied with a portion
of the cotton annually pro-
=duced - The cotton being
required merely as a sam-
=ple of the crop raised, a
moderate quantity will suffice.

The committee will be furnish-
=ed with a copy of the Accounts
the

The Governor in Council on the
improvement of the Indigenous
Cotton
Ref: to the Secretary to the Govt of India
Agri-Hort: Society
Dft dated 29th Oct 1861.

~~R 1914/211/85~~

12/5/54 RH/54

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