M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1001	Press Mis.
143 144	
Dated 9-6-1863	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th June 1863.

No. 143. Read. the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st May 1863, No. 3,011 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th April 1863, No. 58.

SIR,

1. Agricultural exhibitions are generally admitted to be productive of improvement, but in nineteen out of twenty Districts in this Presidency they were considered to have been mostly failures. I have the honor to submit what appears to me to have been the cause of the failure, and to suggest a remedy.

The first cause is the poverty and apathy of the people. Exhibitions held at a distance from the centre of production are affected by these two reasons. I support this assertion by the fact that there were only two competitors for a prize of Rupees 10,000 for Cotton last year. I recommend that so large a prize should have been divided and locally offered. It was not so done then, but still the same objection holds to the division of prizes adjudicated at Madras, which is distant from the centre of production. Instead of the present arrangement, I consider that each Cotton District should have separate prizes, to be adjudicated by the Collector and a Committee. I am not aware that the reward of Rupees 10,000, to an European producer, has created much native excitement or competition up-country.

2. I beg to recommend a change of plan, for agricultural exhibitions, founded on the success of the Nellore Cattle show.

If prizes for Nellore bred cattle had been adjudicated at Cuddapah, there would have been no success; the cattle can walk to an exhibition, and other products must be carried. The Cattle must be fed, whether they walk to an exhibition, or remain in the farm-yard; there is little additional expense, therefore, in exhibiting them; and yet they have never been exhibited at a distance from their breeding places.

3. The exhibitions were too centralized, the distances too great, and competition was not aroused; my suggestion is, that a sum of Rupees 1,500 be apportioned, and that the exhibition should be a Talook one, when the Collector is present on his circuit. There are then, of necessity, an ex-officio, two representatives (the village Head and Accountant) from each village, besides, the Ryots who come on business connected with their lands. Others would come ten or fifteen miles to see the show, and probably to take part in it. Let prizes be given for the best production of the Talook. Cotton in Cotton Talooks, grain, oil-seeds, fibres, jungle products, sugar, indigo, cattle. The Nellore exhibition is a success, because the cattle are bred in the neighbouring villages. Cattle would be exhibited at Oossoor in Salem, Kungondi (one of the finest breeds of carriage cattle) in North Arcot, excellent milch Cows at Kongiam in Coimbatore, Cotton in the Ceded Districts, as well as sugar, indigo and fibres. If 100 Rupees in prizes were distributed by the Collector for the best products of each Talook, there would be abundant competition; and, when public interest was awakened, *then* will be the time for District Exhibitions.

4. If it be objected that a Talook Exhibition would be but a petty affair, I do not deny it, but the effect will be disproportionately great. If it be objected that prizes to the Reddies of villages will be exclusive, I consider that there is no more reason why the village Magistrate should not get a prize, he being the chief farmer of the village, than that a Squire of a parish should get a prize. I venture to state that the owner of the prize bull of Nellore, and the winner of the Governor's gold ring, are very well content with their prizes and local celebrity; and local prizes, adapted to the peculiar product of the Talooks, will call forth equal emulation and exertion *elsewhere*. I do not recommend prizes for agricultural machinery where the implements are those used since the flood, but a reward to any one producing an improved implement, would be well bestowed. In short, I venture to say that Rupees 1,500 apportioned to fifteen Talooks, would have more results than the same sum adjudicated at a point 70 or 100 miles distant from the centre of production. Even if the fibre of improved Cotton be not equal to that of sea

island, an improver of the staple might merit a reward. If a Talook produced only Cotton, I would divide Rupees 100 in two or three prizes. If sugar, I would give a prize for the best specimen of cane, and of the manufactured article, seed, oils, fibres and other exportable produce in like manner: ten people getting prizes in different directions for improvement of the same articles, will produce more exertion than one man getting a single prize in a District for it. I attended the Guntoor Exhibition of 1856 held at Vinconda; coming from Cumbum sixty miles distance, I could not persuade people to send their products, so I chartered a cart or two to exhibit our products and would have got prizes had the producers come too, but they would not; and the articles were sold at a loss; this shows the advantage of de-centralization. We had better oils, honey, and wax, and fibres, and a Cumbum Exhibition would have been beneficial. At the Cuddapah Exhibition of the same year, I persuaded the owner of a splendid pair of Kungondi bullocks, to take them 75 miles to Cuddapah. But for this, they would not have been exhibited; they got a reward of Rupees 100, and were sold at a high price.

5. I understand that Government is still anxious to keep up exhibitions, and I, therefore, suggest Rupees 1,500 to be apportioned to Bellary, the District where I am now appointed, for Talook Exhibitions at the settlement. The Officer conducting it, to be the President. The amount to be divided among the Talooks, according to the relative importance of their peculiar products. The number of prizes is a matter of detail; the recent interest that has been taken in the experiment of foreign Cotton seed in Cuddapah, in the three Cotton Talooks, is an earnest that my recommendation will not be unsuccessful. If my suggestion meet the approval of the Board and Government, I shall submit a list of local prizes adapted to this District. There will be no expense for buildings, and the articles would be sold off, as at a fair, or taken home, without expense.

6. I have only further to add that a prize or two given in each Talook to such parents as come and show the largest number of children who had been vaccinated, might have the same effect on vaccination, as in stimulating improvement in agriculture. All Government rewards have an effect; as an isntance, I may quote the effect of rewarding gallant resistence to robbers. It is sufficiently well known that the beneficial effects of vaccination are not yet appreciated by the people. If Rupees 20 or 30 were distributed as presents in each Talook, either in money, or, what is more valued in ornament; I cannot doubt of its having a good effect, from the analogous results already quoted.

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1. Ordered to be submitted for the favorable consideration of Government. Should they approve the Acting Collector's proposal, Mr. Wedderburn will, in sending up his detailed proposals, state how the necessary funds can be provided.

2. The Board are doubtful of the expediency of a prize for vaccination. Any temporary stimulus by this artificial means might be more than counter-balanced by the subsequent reaction on its withdrawal, as was probably the case with the former grant of rice to the parent of each child vaccinated.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 144. ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1863, No. 1,001.

1. The Governor in Council approves the proposal of Mr. Wedderburn to hold agricultural exhibitions in each Talook instead of at one place for the entire District; and the Government will be prepared to place a moderate sum at his disposal for the prizes, on being informed how the expenditure can be met from the Budget grant for 1863-64.

2. Paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter and paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings will be referred to the Public Department.

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

Pro. 15th March 62 No 270

Copy in a Letter to Engt
of 24th Decr 1863 No 132.

Rev. 1863. Department.
Pro: of Govt for June.

No. 1218.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 21st *May* 1863.
Despatched. 26 "
Received. 27 " "

Pro of the Board of Revd of 23d October 63 No 2576

Further Pro. 16 June 63 No 1074

No. 3,011.

Submitting with the Board's opinion a letter from the Acting Collector of Bellary on the subject of Agricultural Exhibitions and recommending a change of plan for the Exhibitions.

No 1001. 9th June

With an order

No 1001-

The Governor in Council approves the proposal of Mr Nedderburn to hold agricultural exhibitions in each Taluk instead of at one place for the entire District, and the Govt will be prepared to place a moderate sum at his disposal for the prizes on being informed how the expenditure can be met from the Budget grant for 1863/64.

Para 6 of the Collector's letter and para 2 of the Board's proceedings will be referred to the Public Depts.

Fort St George
9th June 1863

By Order of the Board of Revenue
Public Department

No 1143 & 1144.

Cl. June 63 R5