M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2005 Press ~~Mis.~~

87

Dated 7—11—19-1863

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
7th November 1863.

No. 2,005.

No. 87.

From

J. D. SIM, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

To

The Secretary to the Government of India.

SIR,

1. I am directed to forward for submission to the Government of India the accompanying Minute recorded by His Excellency the Governor on the subject of improving the system of Native agriculture in this Presidency, and with reference to paragraph 33, to request that this Government may be favored with an early reply to my letter of 13th May last, No. 834, on the subject of the reform of the system of Weights and Measures.

2. The Minutes recorded by the Honorable Messrs. Maltby and Pycroft in reference to His Excellency's Minute together with the Proceedings of Government on the papers are enclosed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Read the following Minutes:—

No. 63. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT.

1. During my absence from Madras I have travelled, in various directions, through much of Mysore; I have visited the Districts of Bellary and Kurnool, and have resided for some time in the higher part of the Salem District. The whole of the country which I have visited is under, what are termed, dry crops. Of course advantage is taken of every opportunity of collecting the drainage of the country into tanks, and the water, thus stopped in its progress to the sea, is utilized to the utmost extent; still, however, by far the largest portion of Mysore, and of the other Districts named, is dependent upon the rains for the moisture required for the crops. In fact, the character of the dry cultivation is analogous to that of England, with, however, this marked difference, that while in England, as a general rule, farming operations can be carried on throughout the year, with only the occasional interruption caused by excess of moisture, in these Districts the rain is periodical, being the product of the two monsoons, and may last for five or six months, and during these wet months the whole work of the farm must be completed, the dry months from January to May putting a stop to all operations upon the baked and burned up surface, with the exception of a few detached fields, where advantage is taken of the casual showers which fall generally about April.

2. The time for farming operations being thus limited, it is a matter of importance that the work should be performed as speedily as possible, that each process should be got over with the utmost rapidity compatible with efficiency; the tools and implements should, therefore, be as effective as possible, regard of course being had to the power at the disposal of the farmer, and no loss of time or of labor should be allowed. The actual state of things, so far as they came under my observation, was widely different from this.

3. The ground being left untouched during the dry season, the weeds have ample time to seed and to develope themselves, and the ground is well covered with a variety of trash, among which a species of couch grass is the commonest, and the most obstinate in resisting removal.

4. The first ploughing, having for its object the clearance of the soil from weeds, is performed with such an indifferent tool as to produce but little effect; it does indeed but scratch the surface, and of course must leave much of the roots of the couch grass in the ground. As this ploughing is ineffective, it has to be repeated several times, while women and children follow the plough for the purpose of picking up the loose weeds.

5. The ground being prepared by frequent ploughings, the seed is sown by a species of drill (I am speaking now more particularly of Raghi, which is the principal crop in this part of Salem and in Mysore); too little attention, however, has been paid to the petty arrangements of this drill, so that much seed is wasted by being sown too thickly. A bush harrow is used to cover the seed, and does its work effectually.

6. When the plant makes its appearance above ground, it comes up much too thick, and it is necessary to cross hoe it with a kind of heavy rake, worked by bullocks, and having four teeth. This operation serves two purposes, it loosens the ground, and by thinning the drills, leaves the plants room to grow. The distance between the drills in Raghi is from 5 to 6 inches, and under the system above detailed it grows, under favourable circumstances as to moisture, strong and healthy.

7. The Native, however, is not contented with one or even two strings to his bow; having sown the Raghi he proceeds to insert the seeds of various other plants in rows at distances of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 feet apart; that is, about every eighth drill of Raghi has other plants, interpolated, and I have seen in one field as many as five different kinds of plants; Raghi being the staple, Mustard is found growing irregularly, then in the drills there are varieties of Beans which are pressed for oil; then a variety of Cholum or Millet is found, and not unfrequently plants of Castor Oil; in some Districts Cotton is planted in this way. All these come to maturity at different times, and of course the ground must not only be gone over in reaping as many times as there are kinds of

plants, but each crop must be reaped more slowly and carefully in order to avoid injuring the standing plants. To proceed, however, regularly: after these various plants have made their appearance, and been thinned out by the hoe as beforementioned, a body of weeders is turned into the field; this is necessary, for the ground, being very foul when the seed was sown, notwithstanding the many ploughings it has received, the weeds would choke the crop unless they were kept down by the hand, and this process of hand weeding is a part of the annual labour bestowed upon the crop.

8. When the crop is ready for reaping, the Raghi is reaped with a short sickle. Some of the beans are pulled up by the roots, and other crops are disposed of in different ways. In some cases the threshing is done in the field, in other cases the crop is stacked. I have, however, in a former Minute alluded to the rudeness of the process of threshing, and cleaning the grain. My object now is to bring under the notice of the Government the slovenly character of the cultivation, and to point out the steps which it might be advisable to take with the view of bringing about, *gradually*, a more wholesome state of things.

9. That any change for the better must be gradual, is very certain; for the different processes dovetail into each other, and are so dependent upon the power which the Ryot can dispose of, while this power is in direct relation to the climate, that no sudden change can be expected. It would, however, be very absurd were those, who are in a position to suggest and carry out some kind of remedial action, to sit down with such a set of evils staring them in the face, and assume them to be irremediable. I will, therefore, try whether I cannot suggest a course of procedure which may, in the course of time, have a beneficial effect upon the whole aspect and produce of the country. Before, however, I allude to the remedies, I will give a list of some of the evils and of their possible causes.

No. 1.—The ground is cropped continuously, and but lightly manured; much of the manure being consumed as fuel, owing, in great measure, to the absence of wood. Nothing can be more bare of trees than the whole of the tract through which I have passed.

No. 2.—The ground is badly cultivated, or prepared for the crop, owing, first, to the want of weight and power in the animals used for draught; and secondly, to the poor and inefficient character of the tools used.

No. 3.—The mode of cropping a field with various sorts of plants is very objectionable

10. The first step towards increasing the quantity of manure would be to provide the population with a better description of fuel. The loss of labor in bringing in the small amount of wood now consumed, and of preparing the cow-dung is enormous.

11. Some arrangement might be made for planting a portion of the waste land of each village with Casuarinas, or other trees. I mention Casuarinas, for these seem to grow equally well at Madras, in the low country on a level with the sea, on the Mysore plateau 3,000 feet above the sea, and on the Neilgherries 3,000 feet higher still: it would seem to be a tree very well suited to the climate, and being indigenous, or thoroughly acclimatized, there could be no difficulty in propagating it to any extent from seed. It is a tree which grows rapidly, does not cast much shade and would not therefore do much injury to crops growing near it; besides all this, it furnishes the very best kind of firewood. In Australia an extra price was always paid for She Oak, as the Casuarina was there called. It might also be as well to use trees for the boundary marks of the different holdings, the present stones, or mounds of earth, are of too slight a character to be maintained for any time; whereas a tree is a lasting mark, which the owners of the land would be induced to maintain by the promise of being allowed to make use of it on condition of planting another in its place.

12. The effect of planting upon the climate cannot but be beneficial, and it would be well worth the consideration of the Government whether it might not be advisable to provide nurseries of such plants as might be best suited to each District, at all the stations where there is an officer who could be trusted to look after them; the cost would be very trifling, and the

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young trees might be given to the Natives upon the sole condition of planting them. With a large supply of firewood. the necessity of employing cow-dung for fuel would cease, and this would be turned to its proper use as manure; the labor of manipulating and bringing this into the form of small cakes would be saved, and the cost of collecting it would not be more than at present. Changes, however, such as this require time, but this would seem to be a good reason for anticipating the results, and for taking the necessary steps to secure them with as little delay as possible.

13. More immediate results will follow from the improvement of cultivation.

14. The first cause of bad cultivation, viz., the want of weight and power in the animals employed for draught can only be remedied very gradually. As manure becomes of more importance, more care will be taken of the stock; they will be kept nearer the homestead, fed better and will gradually increase in size and capability of working. A good effect has been produced in Nellore by the annual exhibition of stock, and by giving prizes for the best animals. A similar course should be followed in other districts, as soon as the Revenue authorities think that a beneficial effect is likely to result from it.

15. More immediate effects would be produced by the introduction of better implements. The native plough is a light, cheap article, but it can do little but scratch the ground; the horse hoe to which I have alluded before, is but a heavy rake. I have seen no harrow, but a bush is used to cover the seed when sown. A good, light and *cheap* plough, proportioned to the power of the bullocks which have to draw it, and which would turn a furrow deep enough to expose the roots of the couch grass, would be a very valuable implement. One good ploughing with this, and an after-harrowing with a proper harrow, would save the Ryot the numerous ploughings with which he prepares his land. In a report upon the cultivation of different crops in the Godavery District I find it stated, that, in a sandy loam, the ground is ploughed for Cholum (a species of Millet) twice in June, and then once in every fifteen days till September, that is the ground is gone over six times. Again for Cumboo (Panicum spicatum) the ground is ploughed twice every six days for three weeks; and for Cotton it is said that the ground is ploughed twice in June, twice in July, this process being repeated in September and October.

16. Now, all these ploughings are more for the purpose of cleaning the ground and keeping the weeds down than as a preparation for the crop. They occupy, however, the time of men and cattle; increase the number of the latter which the Ryot must keep, and add unnecessarily to the cost of cultivation. I am very much disposed to believe that one good ploughing and harrowing at the commencement of the season, and another as a preparation for the crops would answer every purpose.

17. The plough which would, I think, be found best suited to the country would be a light one with wheels, capable of being worked by a pair of light bullocks; the wheels would keep the untrained bullocks in the furrow, and lighten the labor of the man between the stilts.

18. The third evil to which I have alluded is that of growing a variety of crops intermixed with each other. This though carried out with some regularity, inasmuch as most of the extra plants occupy the drills, is yet productive of great loss of labor, to say nothing of the loss arising out of the action of the plants on each other. The Castor Oil plant, for instance, grows up to be a shrub, and must affect in various ways the growth of the ordinary crop in its neighbourhood. Cotton too is a spreading shrub. Irrespective, however, of the loss occasioned by the action of the different plants on each other, the additional cost of going over the ground four or five times instead of once is by no means trifling, while a stop is put altogether to the introduction of the scythe in place of the reaping hook.

19. The following account of an experiment lately made by Colonel Thompson, the Remount Agent at Oossoor, will give practical evidence of the extra expenditure in gathering in the crops resulting from the use of the reaping hook, which, however, so long as mixed crops are grown in the

same field must be employed for that purpose. In a meadow, carrying a heavy crop of Doab or Hurreala grass, two equal strips of land were marked off; to one of these an Englishman with a scythe was allotted, while alongside of the other twenty-two women, each with a small reaping hook, were posted. These latter were encouraged to do their best by the promise of a Rupee in addition to their ordinary wages. At a given signal both parties commenced to work, and the women in consequence of the extra stimulus applied, won the race. On looking over the land it was evident that the man would have beaten sixteen women, even under the excitement of the stimulus, and I believe that, at the ordinary rate of working, the scythe would go over as much ground in a day as twenty men, or rather women, would go over with the reaping hook. If then a Native, who by the way is very quick in learning the mode of handling these implements, be considered to be physically equal to half an European, and if he is rewarded for his intelligence in learning the use of a scythe by the receipt of double wages, he would in fact do the work of ten labourers, receiving the payment of two, and a saving of eight workers would be made.

20. From what I have mentioned above as the result of the cursory observations made by me during the last few months, it is evident that great improvements might be made in carrying out the commonest agricultural processes. I think, too, that better implements, if properly adapted to the circumstances of the country, and the means and powers of the people, would soon save their cost by the saving of labor which would result from employing them.

21. The mere importation of implements, however, or their exhibition at an agricultural show, will not be sufficient to induce the Natives to purchase or use them; they will naturally require to see the implement, whatever it may be, fairly at work; to be able to criticise its performances, and to compare these with the work of their own tools. The Government then should be not only in a position to exhibit the working of the different implements, but it should show them worked by Natives, so that no doubt should exist as to the power of these latter to employ them beneficially.

22. Luckily the Government has an establishment at Oossoor which offers all these advantages. There is already a farm of about 240 Acres attached to the Remount Establishment, and it has been proposed to add to this 150 or 200 Acres, so as to give to the Remount Agent the means of making a profitable use of the power he has at his disposal, by raising produce of different kinds, either for the food of his horses or for sale.

23. There is at the establishment a fair proportion of the different kinds of soil; the upland is similar to the great mass of the land in Mysore, a red sandy loam; while in the bottom there are some acres of irrigated land. On this farm, therefore, experiments might be made with most if not with all of the new implements sent out, with the certainty that every really good tool is not only paying its cost in diminishing the expense of cultivation, and enhancing the produce of the farm, but that it is making its way in the estimation of the people, and will be the parent of many contingent benefits to the Government which introduces it.

24. Natives, in certain numbers might be permitted to attend at the Depôt, not merely for the purpose of examining the tool and witnessing its action, but to learn the mode of employing it. The number of these pupils must of course be limited, but the instructions to the Remount Agent would be to the effect that the object of the Government would be best gained by the wide diffusion among the Natives of the knowledge of the mode of using the tool. It would also be as well that, at the two periods of seed time and harvest, when the farm work is in full operation, a sort of exhibtion should take place. A ploughing match might be held about June or July, and some trifling prizes given to the best Native ploughmen. While at or about Christmas the various reaping and threshing machines might be exhibited in action, and eventually, such improved machinery for oil pressing, &c., &c., as might be adapted to the power available, might be exhibited, and compared, as to their results, with the existing Native machines.

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25. Looking upon this Minute as supplemental to my former one on the introduction of machinery, I should wish to add the following to the list of implements and machines therein contained:—

(1.) 6 *Light* Ploughs with wheels.
(2.) 1 Read's sub-soil Plough.
(3.) 6 Sets Harrows, wooden, Rhomboidal.
(4.) 1 Horse Hoe.
(5.) 1 Do. expanding.
(6.) 1 Slight's improved Drill prepared for sowing seeds of different sizes, from Mustard up to Wheat.
(7.) 30 Scythes for short people and light weight.
(8.) 12 Hay Rakes, wooden, American.
(9.) 1 Horse Rake.
(10.) 1 Good one-horse Cart.
(11.) 1 Reaping Machine.

26. These would be fair specimens of the class of tools and implements for which use might be found on the farm at Oossoor, and modifications of these in material easily procurable in India, might be soon manufactured here by Native workmen. What we ought to seek to impress on the Native mind is the principle or the idea. When once this is fairly engrafted, it will soon grow and produce the required fruit.

27. There is one subject in connection with those discussed in this Minute, to which I wish to direct the special attention of the Government. It forms part, it is true, of a general question, but may, with advantage, be dealt with separately, and form a suitable introduction to the remainder. I mean the collection of agricultural statistics.

28. From the nature of our connection with the country we have hitherto either found, or fancied, difficulties in the prosecution of statistical enquiries. I cannot, however, but think that these difficulties are gradually disappearing; even as regards those questions which have a more close relation to the domestic arrangements of the people, I mean those which require a record to be kept of births, deaths, and marriages, would not now be so distasteful as used to be anticipated.

29. The difficuties, however, which impede the collection of a variety of useful agricultural FACTS, are not greater here than elsewhere. The Government has here far better means of arriving at them, and they are of much greater importance to the Government here than they can be in other parts of the world, where the revenue does not bear so direct a relation to the produce of the soil as it does in India. The field is so wide and the information in our possession so scanty that the sooner a methodical system of collecting, arranging and registering these facts can be established, the better.

30. I see no reason why the Collector in each District should not be called upon to forward a Report annually upon all matters connected, directly or indirectly, with the agriculture of a portion of his District, a Talook for instance, or a portion of a Talook. To ask him for a report upon more than a small portion would but ensure the return of a general sketch of the district, instead of a finished microscopical analysis of a portion; more information, such as that which is required, would be got from an exhaustive report upon one village than from a sketch of a district.

31. The information derived from these reports would be valuable in two ways, it would give to the members of Government a vast mass of facts of which they are at present ignorant, and it would be the means of inducing the Collectors to look closely into many matters to which, as not directly affecting the execution of their duties, they now pay but little attention.

32. A general form might be prepared, noticing the subjects to which attention should be paid, more, however, as a Memorandum for the use of the Officers employed than as a check upon the

introduction of any subsidiary information. I here mention the subjects which immediately occur to me, of course it would be easy to make additions from year to year :—

(1.) Description of Talook or of village in full detail, physical aspect, number of population, means of communication, &c., &c.

(2.) Area of cultivation, of cultivable waste, jungle, &c., &c.

(3.) Character of soil, of sub-soil, quarries, mines, presence of minerals, metals, &c.

(4.) Quantity of irrigation, mode of increasing this.

(5.) Quantity of stock, cattle, sheep, donkeys; prices of each; size and weight of cattle, do of sheep, load for each bullock, for each donkey, power of draught, &c., &c.

(6.) Cultivation, wet and dry crops; mode of cultivation; number of ploughings; state of soil; quantity of seed, quantity of produce, grain straw, length of time in ground, how reaped, how threshed; price, wages of labor, how paid.

These are mere general heads, as soon as the Collector begins to make his enquiries he will be struck with the mode in which subsidiary enquiries interpolate themselves; the more the subject is looked into the more interesting will it become, and a marked difference will be seen between the reports sent in at first, and those which will be the result of three or four years' experience.

33. In order to produce as beneficial effects as possible, a summary of the facts placed before the Government should be drawn up with every attention to the details, and not too much condensed, and printed in the different vernacular languages for general circulation; while the report of each Collector should be published, in full, in the District Gazette. There is one most important preliminary to the collection of statistical information or rather to the comparison of the facts collected, which has already attracted the attention of Government, I mean the improvement of our system of Weights and Measures. Unless these can be simplified, the bare facts will require so much calculation and reduction to bring them into a form to admit of comparison as will render them practically useless. I would suggest then that a reference be again made to the Supreme Government, calling its attention to the substance of the recommendation of this Government in the letter dated 13th May 1863, No. 831, and requesting to know whether there is any intention on the part of the Government of India to adopt the suggestion therein contained, or to make any effort to bring about anything in the shape of an uniform system of Weights and Measures. Should the reply be in the negative, the Government may then take up the subject so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, and do its best to methodize and arrange upon some simple basis the relation between the different Weights and Measures now in use.

1st October 1863.

(Signed) W. T. DENISON.

No. 64.

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE Mr. MALTBY.

1. This Minute of the President forms a supplement to his former one on the introduction of machinery, and the implements and machines detailed in paragraph 25 should be added to the list of those for which application has been made to the Secretary of State.

2. In paragraphs 1 to 18 His Excellency comments on the imperfect system of agriculture carried on in those Districts which he has lately visited. The subject is an important one, and has long engaged the attention of Government and its officers. I would refer more especially to the elaborate details collected by Dr. Buchanan in the agricultural tour which he was directed to undertake for the purpose of obtaining information, and the records of the Revenue Board will be found to contain more recent reports from many intelligent officers, which throw much light on the subject.

3. In my opinion the apparently backward state of agriculture arises less from ignorance or from unwillingness to use improved methods than from poverty and the discouragement of small gains. In Districts where a handsome profit is obtainable from the land, as in Cuddapah, Malabar, &c., the agriculture will be found to be of a superior description, and I argue from

this that the surest way of promoting improvement is to render land valuable and attract capital to it, by such methods as fixing a light and permanent assessment, giving security of title, enlarging the means of irrigation and facilitating the conveyance of produce to market towns and ports by improving the communications of the country. In proportion as efficient measures are carried out for making land valuable, the mode of farming will, I am confident, become better, and I should wish to see the chief energies of the Government directed to measures of the above description.

4. In support of my remarks I would point out the readiness with which the people have improved their lands and introduced new products, such as indigo, ground-nut, &c., where the state of the assessment and the power of disposing of their produce permitted them to do so without imprudence. It seems to me also that although poverty often obliges them to conduct farming on a humble scale, they exhibit much aptitude for turning their means to the best account. English commercial houses, for example, seem generally to purchase the produce which they require for their sugar, indigo and other factories, although they have made attempts to grow it for themselves with the appliances of European skill and art.

5. But even should it be conceded that I have pointed out the primary method of advancing the agriculture of the country, I by no means wish to undervalue the means which His Excellency proposes for the same purpose. Improved implements placed by Government, for use as models, in the hands of some of the more enlightened Native land-holders may lead to important results; but they should be tried in our more advanced Districts. Manuals adapted to the climate and soils of this Presidency and explaining the principles of agriculture in simple language, might also produce much benefit when circulated in the native languages. Hints for the cultivation of cotton and indigo have, if I mistake not, been published in this manner.

6. On the subject of statistics, I propose that His Excellency's suggestions be referred to the Revenue Board for their consideration and report. My impression is that statistical details already abound in their records. Elaborate enquiries have been made from time to time by various officers to ascertain the yield of the land and the cost of cultivation. The quinquennial returns show the more important statistics of each Province. All the sources of irrigation are carefully registered in the Public Works Department, and under instructions approved by Government the Survey Land Registers now being prepared will contain a statistical Memoir for each village. The question is attended with some difficulty and requires careful treatment, as attempts to obtain agricultural returns have been found to give the lower Native Revenue servants an opening for interference and exaction.

15th October 1863.

(Signed) E. MALTBY.

No. 65.

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE Mr. PYCROFT.

Minute by His Excellency the President, dated 1st October 1863.

1. His Excellency the President in the above interesting Minute has correctly described the present condition of native agriculture generally in this Presidency, and the defects incident to it.

2. Those defects can, as it seems to me, only be remedied gradually as the general improvement of the country proceeds, and as the people become more enlightened. The main remedies are the lowering of the land assessment where unduly high, and placing it on a permanent footing, security of tenure, development of internal communications, roads, canals, tramways and light railways, extension of irrigation, reduction of the interference of subordinate Revenue officials to a minimum, cheaper and more prompt administration of justice, and diffusion of education—every thing in fact which promotes the free action of the cultivator, opens out to him fresh markets, brings him into communication with the European merchant and settler, and by creating a greater and more certain demand for his produce gives him the strongest stimulus to raise it in the best state, and with the utmost economy of time and labor. This has already been

effected to some extent as respects exports for foreign countries, Indigo, Ground-nut, &c., and the progress is likely to continue.

3. At the same time I see no objection to the immediate agency of Government towards the desired end in the way proposed by His Excellency. The implements which he specifies should be applied for in addition to those in the list already sent home. Agricultural exhibitions should be encouraged, and the improved machines, tools and implements shown in practical operation, and their uses, modes of action and results explained to the assembled Ryots. A model farm in which these several machines and tools should be seen in constant use may also be established, but I would not place it at Ossoor which is on the very frontier of the Madras Presidency, nor under the Remount Agent who, however zealous and intelligent he may be, cannot have that intimate knowledge of the natives, their ways, prejudices, and feelings, which is only to be acquired by long residence in the Provinces, and constant intercourse with the people. I would rather locate it in some central spot on a line of Railway, say at Coimbatore, where it would have the best chance of success under the present able and energetic Collector. If a second farm were required for the Northern Division of the Presidency, I would suggest Cuddapah as the best site

4. The promotion of the growth of trees is on many accounts an object of first-rate importance. His Excellency's views on this head might be communicated to Captain Beddome, for his suggestions as to the best mode in which they could be practically carried out.

5. Paragraphs 27 to 33 of His Excellency's Minute might be referred to the Board of Revenue for their remarks. I must confess myself averse to adding to the number of reports and returns at present laid before Government, and to throwing more labor on the Collectors, who are over-worked already, but the matter may be considered more fully when we are in possession of the Board's sentiments.

6. The Supreme Government may be requested to favor us with an early answer to our letter of 13th May last, on the adoption of an uniform set of Weights and Measures. I continue of opinion that the simplest and easiest course would be to introduce the English standards, which are now (practically) in use on the Railways and at the Sea Custom Houses. The question however has no doubt been complicated by the late Resolution of the House of Commons in favor of the Decimal system.

24th October 1863.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT.

No. 66.

ORDER THEREON, 6th November 1863, No. 1,994.

1. Resolved that the Minutes above recorded be forwarded to the Home Government with a request that the additional implements, noted in paragraph 25 of His Excellency the President's Minute, may be sent out with those applied for on the 13th July 1863.

2. The Board of Revenue will be instructed to communicate with the Acting Conservator of Forests and the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement on the subject of encouraging the growth of firewood on waste lands. By the existing rules such land is granted free of assessment for twenty years, and the planter is also allowed to cultivate the land in the spaces between the trees, without any charge. At the end of that period, the land assessment only is chargeable. These are liberal terms, but assistance might also be afforded in the way of supplying seeds and young plants, and the importance of not employing valuable manure, as fuel, should be explained to the people.

3. The Board will provide in the Budget of next year as already desired, for agricultural exhibitions in those Districts where there is a reasonable prospect of their being appreciated, and will take care that suitable prizes are offered for cattle and improved agricultural implements.

4. Paragraphs 23 and 24 of His Excellency's Minute will be communicated to the Military Department, with a view to instructions being issued accordingly to the Remount Agent. Funds for the grant of prizes will be provided in the Revenue Department.

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5. The Board of Revenue will report on the general question of agricultural statistics, and suggest the best mode of procuring them after communicating with a few of the Collectors on the subject.

6. The Government of India will be requested to favor this Government with an early reply to their letter of May last on the subject of "Weights and Measures."

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
" Conservator of Forests.
" Director of Revenue Settlement,
" Military Department.
" Financial Department.
" Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Recd.

No 2005

To
The Secretary to the Govt of India
Fin

I am directed to forward for submission to the Govt of India the accompanying Minute recorded by His Excellency the Governor on the subject of improving the system of native agriculture in this Presidency, and with reference to para 33 to request that this Govt may be favored with an early reply to my letter of 13 May last No 836 on the subject of the reform of the system of Weights and Measures.

The Minutes recorded by the Honorable Messrs Maltby and Cycroft in reference to His Excellency's Minute to be laid with the Proceedings of Govt on the papers are enclosed

I have &c
Geo Noel Hodgson

30. 6. 16

Revenue 1862 Oct 10
Dis: of Govt for Nov:

N° 2005.

To
The Secretary
to the Govt of India.
Dated 1st Nov: 1863.

From Do date 25 June 1864
N° 1680, & Enc:

Letter to Govt of
India requesting
early reply to the
reference made about
weights and measure

No 87.