M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 430 — Press — Mis.

415. 416

Dated 28. 2 — 1918 63

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th February 1863.

No. 415. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1863, No. 851 :—

Read again letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 16th August 1862, No. 170, recorded in Board's Proceedings, 27th idem, No. 5,680.

Read also the following letter from the same Officer, dated 17th January 1863, No. 8.

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of my letter of the 16th August 1862, No. 170, I beg to append precis of further reports received from the gentlemen on the Neilgherries to whom the flax seed was distributed for experimental cultivation.

2. The native cultivator at Anamalli, who sowed the flax seed in a Coffee plantation on the Poonachy range of the Anamalli Hills, has not yet sent in his report; he has been called on to forward the same, which when received, will be submitted to the Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

PRECIS OF REPORTS received from the following gentlemen on the experimental cultivation of Flax seed :—

COLONEL R. COOPER, *25th September* 1862. *Kotagherry.* — The flax seed was sown for a seed crop, not for fibre as stated by mistake; the result has not been satisfactory; whilst part of the crop has ripened, some of it was in flower, a state of a things to be attributed, it is believed, to the very dry weather at the time the crop came into flower originally, which retarded the growth of many of the plants, which were brought forward by the subsequent late rains. The last supply of seed has been sown for a fibre crop and will be duly reported on.

F. COCKBURN, Esq., *17th September* 1862. *Kotagherry.* — No flax seed has been sown since last report; the best time for sowing will be in the month of April or May.

A. R. W. LASCELLES, Esq., *26th September* 1862. *Ootacamund and Wynaad.* — One hundred seeds were sown in a pot at Ootacamund, 41 germinated, the plant stunted having grown 6 inches only in five months. In Wynaad it has grown about ten inches in the same time, but is now being much eaten by a beetle, which attacks all vegetables at this season. This is not a flax growing country; there are such excellent substitutes in the Neilgherry Nettle at Ootacamund, and the wild pine apple fibre in Wynaad, that it will not be cultivated for local use; it shall however be tried.

J. OUCHTERLONY, Esq., *18th October* 1862. — The flax growing experiment must be pronounced a failure. It was sown in rich soil, broadcast, and in the manner prescribed, where the cultivation is for the fibre. It seeded after obtaining a height of not more than 15 inches on an average, the seeding also failed, perhaps from the unusually wet weather at this season. A gentleman familiar with flax cultivation in Bengal considered the appearance of that tried, to indicate the non-adaptation of the locality for the growth of the plant.

LIEUT.-COLONEL S. P. SCOTT, *24th September* 1862. — The flax has as yet attained maturity in only one of the three localities in which it has been sown, and there it cannot be said to have succeeded, having grown to a height of (18 inches) only the plants "tillering" but little, and being so slender as to be unable to support themselves. In the middle and upper localities it has not yet matured; in the former there is a promise of better success, but in the latter there will be a total failure, as the plants have only attained the height of six inches in the course of three months. The seed supplied was found to be largely intermixed with the seed of the wild mustard plant, a common weed.

(Signed) **P. GRANT**, *Collector.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th February 1863.

1. Ordered that the foregoing communications, enclosing precis of reports on the results of experimental flax cultivation on the Neilgherries, be submitted for the information of Government, in continuation of paragraph 11 of Board's Proceedings 23rd January 1863, No. 553, and Order of Government thereon 28th February following, No. 436.

2. The cultivation generally on the Hills, as far as it has gone, may be said to have proved a failure, and it would appear from Mr. Ouchterlony's remarks that the soil of the Neilgherries is not suited to the growth of flax.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 416. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1863, No. 430.

The Government regret to learn that the experiment of growing flax on the Neilgherries and in Wynad, so far as it has yet been tried, has been unsuccessful. The Board will convey the thanks of Government to the gentlemen who so obligingly tried the experiment.

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

No. 7,936.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th December 1862.

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 17th November 1862, No. 240:—

1. I have the honor to submit for the orders of the Board, the fact that the Travellers' Bungalow at Ummapetta near Chellembrum has for the last 12 months, been without a Sweeper, the last incumbent having left the service, and that in consequence of the trifling pay attached to the situation (Rupees 2 a mounth) I have been quite unable to re-place him. No one in that part of the country will take the office for less than Rupees 3.

2. A Sweeper, as the Board will know, is absolutely indispensable to ensure the Travellers' Bungalow being kept clean and no less for the convenience of travellers; and as every effort on the spot and elsewhere has failed to secure the services of this class of person, I am compelled to recommend that the pay be raised from Rupees 2 to Rupees 3 a month as a permanent charge.

3. If this cannot be allowed I request sanction to carry the difference to the account of contingent charges. The only other mode of meeting this extra salary is by the abolition of the Sepoy who can, I submit, be better spared than the Sweeper.

The increase of salary proposed for the Sweeper attached to the Amapettah Bungalow cannot be charged to the Collector's contingent account, but must form part of the regular Establishment charges. To enable the Board therefore to seek the sanction of Government to the Collector's proposal, he will please submit the usual Tabular Statement, and state from what source in the Budget grants the extra expense may be met.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To C. W. Reade, Esq., Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

Exd. J. Wright.

Requesting the usual Tabular Statement for increase of salary to the Sweeper attached to the Annapettah Bungalow in South Arcot, and to state from what source in the Budget the charge can be met.

No. 7,936.

Dated 6th December 1862.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Rec'd 4 Dec 1862.

1862. Department.

No. 851.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th February 1863.

Read again letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 16th August 1862, No. 170, recorded in Board's Proceedings, 27th idem, No. 5,680.

Read also the following letter from the same Officer, dated 17th January 1863, No. 8:—

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of my letter of the 16th August 1862, No. 170, I beg to append precis of further reports received from the gentlemen on the Neilgherries to whom the flax seed was distributed for experimental cultivation.

2. The native cultivator at Anamalli, who sowed the flax seed in a Coffee plantation on the Poonachy range of the Anamalli Hills, has not yet sent in his report; he has been called on to forward the same, which when received, will be submitted to the Board.

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(Signed) P. GRANT, Collector.

1. Ordered that the foregoing communications, enclosing precis of reports on the results of experimental flax cultivation on the Neilgherries, be submitted for the information of Government, in continuation of paragraph 11 of Board's Proceedings 23rd January 1862, No. 556A, and Order of Government thereon 28th February following, No. 436.

2. The cultivation generally on the Hills, as far as it has gone, may be said to have proved a failure, and it would appear from Mr. Ouchterlony's remarks that the soil of the Neilgherries is not suited to the growth of flax.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 28 February 62 No 5715-
5749
Despatch a Letter to England
19th March 1119 of 1863.

Rev = 1863. Department.
Proc.s of Govt for Feby

No. 436.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 12th February 1863.
Despatched 17
Received 19
£21-

No. 851.

Submitting letters from the Collector of Coimbatore, enclosing precis of reports on the results of experimental flax cultivation on the Neilgherries.

No 430 28 Feby

William Oakes

Fol 415 & 416-

No. 436-

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Jas. F. George
28th Feby 1863.

Copies to the Collr Coimbatore & Distt Judge Nilgiris

Orders Table
Annexure