

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	921	Press
		~~Mis.~~
	332.333	
Dated	28-8-19	1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 332. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1863,
No. 3,004:—

Read the following letter from J. SHORTT, Esq., M.D., Zillah Surgeon, Chingleput, to
W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 10th May 1863.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th December 1862,
and the receipt of a small quantity of Imphee seed about 4 oz., forwarded to me for experiment,
I beg to submit the following report.

2. The seeds consisted of different samples and were numbered 3, 13, 2, 5 and 11; they
were all of the same kind of seed but differently grown, I believe, and were looking rather dark
colored and musty.

3. The season for sowing the Imphee had just gone by, nevertheless I had a plot of ground
30 x 23 yards at the back of the Dispensary ploughed up for its reception. The soil was gravelly
and greatly interspersed with stones, and was both high and dry. The country Cholum was
cultivated on either side, and the plants were pushing out their ears, when, on the 2nd January,
1863, I had the Imphee seeds sown broad-cast, and as the quantities were so small, the different
numbers were mixed and sown together. The seed sprang up well, but were subsequently
thrown back by the want of rain, nevertheless they attained about 3½ feet in height, and began
to push out their ears when between six weeks and two months old. The only difference
between the Imphee and the country Cholum grown near it was that the former was rather the
smaller, and on close examination, its leaves were found more linear than those of the country
Cholum. The flower spikes were also larger, being in shape like a pear with the rounded base
uppermost, the panicles were looser, the peduncle with its pedicles supporting the seeds were
covered with wooly glumes, the calyx slightly hairy; roots branched; culms erect, round jointed
leaves linear and sheathing flowers paired one hermaphrodite and the other neuter.

3. About the time the plants were in flower, it rained rather heavily about the middle of
March from which the stalks suffered. The sparrows, crows, parrots, and squirrels that had been
first attracted by the Cholum in the vicinity when this was gathered exhausted their force on the
small plot of Imphee, and committed much damage on the ears, the smaller birds picking out the
grain from the ear, while the large ones carried away entire ears, to feed on at their leisure,
nevertheless 12 oz. of seed was collected one half of which I beg to submit. As will be seen
from the sample, the Imphee grown here is superior to the seed sown in the size and fulness
of the grain.

4. The stalks were rather slender and juicy, the juice had an insipid sweetish taste. As
the quantity of culms was small, and the stalks had not attained any size, I did not deem it fair
on this occasion to test its sugar yielding properties, but hope to be able to do so next season
as I have the 6 lbs. of seed sent by your Board on the 21st January 1863, and a portion of my
own grown of this season in reserve.

Ordered to be submitted to Government, and that copy be furnished to the Agri-Horti-
cultural Society, and to the Professor of Botany. The Board are much obliged to Doctor Shortt
for his report.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

No. 333.

ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1863, No. 921.

Ordered to be recorded.

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

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th May 1863.

Read the following letter from J. SHORTT, Esq., M. D., Zillah Surgeon, Chingleput, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 10th May 1863 :—

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 10th December 1862, and the receipt of a small quantity of Imphee seed about 4 oz., forwarded to me for experiment I beg to submit the following report.

2. The seeds [consisted of different samples and were numbered 3, 13, 2, 5 and 11; they were all of the same kind of seed but differently grown, I believe, and were looking rather dark colored and musty.

3. The season for sowing the Imphee had just gone by, nevertheless I had a plot of ground 30×23 yards at the back of the Dispensary ploughed up for its reception. The soil was gravelly and greatly interspersed with stones, and was both high and dry. The country Cholum was cultivated on either side, and the plants were pushing out their ears, when, on the 2nd January 1863, I had the Imphee seeds sown broad-cast, and as the quantities were so small, the different numbers were mixed and sown together. The seed sprung up well, but were subsequently thrown back by the want of rain, nevertheless they attained about 3½ feet in height, and began to push out their ears when between six weeks and two months old. The only difference between the Imphee and the country Cholum grown near it was that the former was rather the smaller, and on close examination, its leaves were found more linear than those of the country Cholum. The flower spikes were also larger, being in shape like a pear with the rounded base uppermost, the panicles were looser, the peduncle with its pedicles supporting the seeds were covered with woolly glumes, the calyx slightly hairy; roots branched; culms erect, round jointed, leaves linear and sheathing flowers paired one hermaphrodite and the other neuter.

3. About the time the plants were in flower, it rained rather heavily about the middle of March from which the stalks suffered. The sparrows, crows, parrots, and squirrels that had been first attracted by the Cholum in the vicinity when this was gathered exhausted their force on the small plot of Imphee, and committed much damage on the ears, the smaller birds picking out the grain from the ear, while the large ones carried away entire ears to feed on at their leisure, nevertheless 12 oz. of seed was collected one half of which I beg to submit. As will be seen from the sample, the Imphee grown here is superior to the seed sown in the size and fulness of the grain.

4. The stalks were rather slender and juicy, the juice had an insipid sweetish taste. As the quantity of culms was small, and the stalks had not attained any size, I did not deem it fair on this occasion to test its sugar yielding properties, but hope to be able to do so next season as I have the 6 lbs. of seed sent by your Board on the 21st January 1863, and a portion of my own growth of this season in reserve.

Ordered to be submitted to Government, and that copy be furnished to the Agri-Horticultural Society, and to the Professor of Botany. The Board are much obliged to Doctor Shortt for his report.

(A true Copy and Extract)



Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to A. Hunter, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society.

" H. B. Montgomery, Esq., M. D., Professor of Botany.

" Honorable R. S. Ellis, C. B., Collector of Madras.

" Doctor Shortt.

Exd. J. Wright.

Enail

N. 332 + 333.

14 Copies to the B^d of Rev. (Sept 29).

Pres - 1863. Department.
Bo. of Govt for allay

No 1192.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 20th May 1863.

Despatched 23rd May

Received 26th May

No. 3,004.

Submitting a letter from the Zillah Surgeon
Chingleput, reporting on the experimental culti-
vation of Imphee Seed.

He contd. 29th 921.

28th May 1863. L.R.
Edw. M. Ke.

20)