M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1572 Press ~~Mis.~~

24.25

Dated 3-9- 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd September 1864.

No. 24. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th August 1864, No. 5,343.

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, dated Camp Perambalur, 5th August 1864, No. 98 :—

1. As requested in the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,605, dated 21st ultimo, I have the honor to report on the insect that I have observed destroying the common yellow flowering prickly-pear in this village.

2. The insect is a small white maggot with a black head, similar to that commonly found in fruit and nuts, it is apparently very active and passes up within the stalk and leaf of the plant entirely destroying them and leaving nothing but a brown outer-covering containing decayed fibre and a yellow watery fluid; the natives call these insects "Velli Puru" (which means simply "white worm"), and state that they may be propagated with care in the wet weather by placing a leaf containing them in a prickly-pear bush that has previously been beaten and bruised with a stick.

3. The prickly-pear I sent to Mr. Walhouse, last year, contained a number of these insects, but as they did not spread in Trichinopoly they may have been destroyed in transit, or by the water sprinkled on the plant to keep it moist.

4. Mr. Walhouse pronounced them to be the grubs of a description of beetle that frequents the prickly-pear, but the natives say that they never assume wings, but live and die within the plant on which they feed. I have only found these insects in one particular clump of prickly-pear close by my camp, and cannot hear of their having been found elsewhere, though the man who pointed them out to me asserts that he last year destroyed a clump of prickly-pear in his field on the other side of the village by transplanting a portion of the plant that I sent to Mr. Walhouse, but that owing to want of rain (and probably to want of care), the insects did not spread further than within this single clump.

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1. Communicated to the Collector of Salem with reference to his letter, dated 13th July 1864, and submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board request Mr. Puckle to endeavour to procure specimens of the insect for experiment and identification.

No. 25. ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1864, No. 1,592.

Miscellaneous. Ordered to be recorded and laid on the Editor's table.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No. 5,343.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th August 1864.

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2. The Board request Mr. Puckle to endeavour to procure specimens of the insect for experiment and identification.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
" Honorable D. Arbuthnott, Collector of Salem.
" H. G. Smith, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah.
" M. J. Walhouse, Esq., Civil and Session Judge, Mangalore.
" R. K. Puckle, Esq., Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement.
Copy to A. Hunter, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.
" to Captain J. Mitchell, Curator Government Museum,
with copy of Board's Proceedings dated 21st July 1864, No. 4,605.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro. 2d. August 64. N° 18-19

Rev. 1864. Department.
Pro: of Govt for Sept.

No. 2238.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 19th August 1864.
Dep. 24 do
Rec. 25th Augt

[No. 5,343.

N° 24 & 25.

Submitting letter from Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, Trichinopoly, reporting on Prickly pear destroying insect, found in Perambalur village.

N° 1592. 3d Sept.

William Oakes

Recd Augt 26th & Sept

N° 1592.

Ordered to be recorded and laid on the Electors Table.

Fort St. George
3d Sept. 1864.