M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2002 Press ~~Mis.~~

383.384

Dated 27-10-1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 31st October 1864.

No. 383. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th October 1864, No. 6,860.

Read the following letter from the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th October 1864, No. 192:—

I have the honor to transmit copy of the Sub-Collector's letter, dated the 28th ultimo, No. 291, and to request that the several description of European Agricultural Implements applied for by him, if available, may be supplied direct to him at an early date.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Sub-Collector, to the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, dated Oossoor, 28th September 1864, No. 291.

1. Having occasion to mow my lawn, and my own scythes, ordered privately from England, not having then arrived, I sought from Colonel Thompson the loan of such scythes and mowers as could be spared from the Remount Depôt under his orders. He obligingly sent me three scythes with native mowers to teach my servants how to use them.

2. I took advantage of the occasion to invite the attendance of the townspeople of Oossoor. Though no previous notice had been given, as I was not aware myself till a few hours before, that I should have scythes and mowers to exhibit, the attendance was good. Much interest was shown, some objections raised and met, prices asked, and personal experiments made.

3. The result was that six natives then and there took advantage of the general offer I made, to procure from England on my own responsibility scythes for which they would have to make no payment till they were delivered.

4. During the ensuing week, others dropped in from time to time as I had thrown open my grounds, saw the mowing and asked for scythes, so that, in the course of one week, fourteen scythes in all have been applied for, and I expect that others too will yet come forward. I may mention that I have already procured two for one Zemindar when getting scythes for myself.

5. As I had a piece of land that I required to plough to prepare it for an experiment with Peruvian Cotton, and as this land had for that reason been selected by the side of a public road, and close to Oossoor, I thought it would be a convenient time and place to exhibit ploughing; and encouraged by the successful result of the mowing exhibition, I sought from Colonel T. Thompson, the Remount Agent, the loan of a dwarf English plough, which he kindly placed at my disposal.

6. The plough came yoked to a large Australian horse, but as that was more adapted to the depôt facilities than to the Indian Ryot's want, I substituted first a pair of ordinary plough bullocks, and then a pair of buffaloes, and set a common Ryot to guide it, and the success was complete.

7. Selecting a likely landholder, I gave him a pencil and paper and made him sit down in the field, and then and there go practically through the calculation of Profit and Loss attending the purchase of such a plough. He and his friends took a foot rule, and measured with their own hands the breadth and depth of the furrow made by the English plough, and compared it with that made at the same time and place, and by the same bullocks by the best native plough they could produce. The result was that they declared the English plough did the work of nine native ploughs; and arguing therefrom that the hire of eight ploughs per diem was saved, continuing this calculation for the month and year, and adding thereto the fact that three native ploughs at Rupee 1 each are worn out in a year, and deducting therefrom the cost (Rupees 40) of one English plough calculated to last twenty years or more, together with a margin for repairs, they found that in hire and purchase of plough every English plough would be a saving of about Rupees 1,000, besides this there was the increased crop which might be expected to result from improved tillage.

8. Though this calculation, which was their own, was perhaps somewhat rough, it sufficed to satisfy them that the profit must be great, and the consequence is that I have received eight applications for English ploughs, which I have undertaken to procure in the same way as the scythes. I know several more that are considering the question, and are likely, in the course of a few days, to follow this example. Besides individual wealthy purchasers several ordinary Ryots have clubbed together to buy one between them.

9. Previous to these accidental experiments, I had considered that as the Remount Depôt Agent was specially directed and supplied with implements for the purpose, had Europeans and a regular farm labourer, and an Engineer for his assistants, and more time at his disposal and was living within only four miles of me, it would be uncalled for in me to waste my time and energies on the same field. I therefore abstained till my own lawn and Peruvian Cotton field brought about these unexpected results.

10. As these same implements, scythes and ploughs, have been in frequent use with the Remount Depôt Agent for more than a year, and he has certainly not been wanting in endeavours to commend them to the Ryots, and yet has not had in that time the success that I have had in a single week, I cannot help arguing therefrom that some importance must be attached to local influence and local knowledge. I knew to whom to address myself; I did so in their own mother tongues; they knew that I knew their wants, and they had a certain confidence in me, especially as I argued with them direct, and not through an Interpreter, and continued to impress upon them that I would not have their purchase out of favor to me, unless they were quite convinced it would be pecuniarily advantageous to them.

11. The Remount Depôt Agent personally has, as I have said, been certainly active in his exertions; it is to his courtesy I owe the loan of the scythes and plough, and he himself was present and rejoiced at my success; nevertheless I argue that an officer in his position is not, for introducing agricultural improvements, so favorably situated as a Revenue Officer, and I beg to urge that I too may be supplied with English agricultural implements for the purpose.

12. Colonel T. Thompson tells me that those received in Madras are not the same as those mentioned in the Proceedings of Government No. 427, dated 11th March 1864. If I might be favored with a list of those actually received, I shall be able to make a selection; if not, I shall be glad to receive any you can obtain for me from the Board. I hope that scythes, dwarf ploughs, harrows, and winnows, may at least be among the number. The scythes should be fitted with cradles for mowing grain crops.

13. The cost to Government of the above experiments has been nill as I have borne it myself, but if I am allowed to make a small outlay for carriage and bullocks, I propose to take implements out with me on circuit, and exhibit them in distant Talooks. If without previous notice, and in the vicinity of Oossoor, I have had such success in one week, more may be expected from more lengthened exhibitions duly notified, in different places; some objections have been raised which still require to be met, but which I am confident of conquering when the proper time comes.

14. I shall be glad if you can obtain for me the most approved "Churka,' as I observed in the Board's Proceedings, dated , that the Board is able and willing to procure them. I want one for cotton of different kinds which I have grown myself, and which experiment has been successful, and will in due course be reported on in detail.

15. In conclusion I would venture to make the suggestion that if I may be permitted to at once hand over at cost price to some of my applicants a few of the English implements brought out by Government, the delay of sending home for them will be obviated, and two or three ploughs in daily practical use in the hands of Ryots will do more to break down ignorant prejudices than twice their number in the hands of a Collector. Still I do not know if the Government have a sufficient number on hand to be able to spare them thus.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT, *Collector.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31*st October* 1864.

The Board have perused Mr. Thomas's interesting report with much gratification, and will apply to Government for permission to place some of the implements at his disposal for exhibition in the District. But they are doubtful whether the Pony Plough which he tried is the best suited to the requirements of the country, and as Colonel Thompson has recently taken to the Oossoor farm three other varieties of ploughs specially selected by General F. Cotton for this country, they request Mr. Thomas to obtain Colonel Thompson's permission to exhibit these ploughs in action at Oossoor, and to report the result.

No. 384. ORDER THEREON, 31st October 1864, No. 2,002.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Board are at liberty to send Mr. Thomas a plough and Horse Hoe and some of the Scythes which will be available after making up the two sets of implements ordered in G. O. 4th instant.

2. The Government will sanction any reasonable expense incurred in exhibiting the implements to the Ryots during the settlement, and will procure a further supply of such as the people may wish to buy from England.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No. 2002.

The Bd. [illegible] at liberty
to send Mr. Thomas a
Blanket & Knife Fork and
Spoon of the Sort they [illegible] like &
will be available at this Ma-
-king up the 2 Sets of Knife
Fork & Spoon ordered on P.O. 4 inst.
The Bd will sanction any
reasonable Expence incurred
in exhibiting these articles
to the Ry Sts during the Settle-
ment and will procure
a further supply of such
as the people may wish to
buy from England.

W 31st Oct.

[illegible]

Revenue 1864. Department.

No. 2774-

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 18*th October* 1864.

No. 6,860.

Expressing gratification at perusing Mr. Thomas's report on the result of the exhibition of certain Agricultural Implements at Oossoor, and applying for permission of Government to place some of the English Implements at his disposal for exhibition.

M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

பொ. ப. புத் என். 24

[illegible] துறை.

குறிப்பிட்டவர் பொறுப்பிலிருக்கும் பதிவுக் கட்டினின்றும் எடுக்கப்பட்ட தாள்.

உசசு / பல்வகை / லாலாயம் என் [illegible], தேதி [illegible] 198 .

எடுத்த தேதி.	எதன் பொருட்டு: துறை.	நடப்பு என்.	ஆண்டு.	தாளை எடுக்கும் எழுத்தர் அல்லது சிற்றெழுத்தர் சுருக்கொப்பம்.	திருப்பிக் கொடுத்த தேதி.	சிற்றெழுத்தரின் சுருக்கொப்பம்.
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