

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	58	Press Mis.
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Dated	8 - 1 -	18 66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th January 1866.*

No. 112. Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras, dated Cuddalore, 8th December 1865, No. 88:—

1. I have the honor to submit, to be laid before Government, the accompanying copy of a Report from my Sub-Collector, Mr. Whiteside, on the result of his own experimental cultivation of a small quantity of Carolina Paddy seed, sent to him out of the few measures received by me at the beginning of the current year.

2. The report is of interest I think, and the details given of the mode of culture, soil, and other particulars might be of general use.

3. Although so large a return was obtained as in the case of like experiments by other persons, it is singular that the weight of the grain, whether in the husk or whether boiled or unboiled, should be less than that of the ordinary paddy of the country. Mr. Whiteside accounts for this by stating that the test was made with old grain, and not with the new; still it is a fact worthy of note, and as a comparison of weight has not been made with the new country paddy, the result is still to be ascertained. Meanwhile I have thought it worth while to submit the present report to Government, as it evidences the interest taken by the Sub-Collector in a matter of no little importance in a country essentially agricultural, and when, too, under judicious though no very extraordinary care the experiment has proved so very satisfactory, and to those who have taken any part in the introduction of Carolina Paddy into India it may possibly be of special interest to learn that the weight of the grain in or out of the husk is less than that of the Indian Paddy; and that when boiled there is likewise a preponderance of quantity in favor of the Indian over the North Carolina.

4. The recent fresh supply of Carolina seed, received through the Revenue Board, has been duly furnished by me to certain Ryots and others, on whom reliance could be placed for carrying out the desired experiments, and I am promised faithful reports from each as to the result, and which on receipt shall be duly communicated for the information of Government.

From the Sub-Collector of South Arcot, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Virdachellum, 4th December 1865, No. 922.

1. Since the introduction of Carolina Paddy into this country numerous reports have been submitted by parties who have made experiments in growing it, and these have been duly communicated to the Board of Revenue, and have since appeared in the papers; further reports on the subject may therefore, possibly, not be required for general information as to the advantages, &c., derivable from the cultivation of this cereal, but I think I may as well inform you of the surprisingly successful result of an experiment I have myself lately made, in order to obtain a supply of seed for distribution amongst the Ryots of this Sub-Division.

2. In the month of March last I received from your Office a small parcel of ears of Carolina Paddy, half of which I sent to the Chellumbaram Tahsildar for trial in the well irrigated lands of the Talook, and the remainder I kept to plant myself.

3. The seed I obtained from the ears amounted to less than half a Madras measure, and weighed 1 lb. 2 oz. I had a small patch of land in my garden ploughed, and manured. It was dry sandy soil, which had been waste for many years, and on which no wet crop had ever been raised, I

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did not therefore expect it to produce very much. The ground was 28 yards long and 9½ wide, and was roughly estimated to be three-fourths of one-sixteenth Cawny in extent.

4. The seed was steeped in water as is usual before planting, and did not germinate until the fifth day, it was then sown broad cast on the 31st May, and in a very short time began to shoot up vigorously, and with surprising rapidity; but the plants seemed so very scanty that at times I had doubts whether the experiment was worth the time and trouble I was bestowing on it. The ground was so very sandy that I had to water the young plants twice a day, and even then for several weeks the water was all absorbed within a couple of hours, so that I was the more surprised at the paddy growing so well.

5. On the 30th June the young plants were two feet high, and they were not measured again until the 12th August when they were found to be 4 feet 3 inches in height. About this time the paddy was attacked by green Caterpillars, which were however effectually checked by scattering the refuse of an indigo vat thinly over the ground. On the 12th September the plants were found to be 5 feet 3 inches high. On the 4th October I found that the crop averaged from 6 feet 4 inches to 6 feet 9 inches in height; and I have kept for inspection a few stalks of the straw, with the ears attached, which have attained this latter height, each grain of the seed had produced a thick bunch of straws (in this respect differing from the indigenous paddy, which only produces one straw from each grain), and so thickly had they come up that the crop was actually matted together in some places.

6. On the 10th October the crop was a good deal laid by high wind and heavy rain, and its ripening was somewhat delayed by the cloudy, damp weather we had just then. On the 21st October the paddy was reaped, and when threshed out I found the out-turn to be eighty Madras measures = 320 Madras Seers, which was considered to be a surprisingly large return on the seed originally planted. At this rate the produce on one Cawny of land planted with Carolina Paddy would be 1,707 Madras measures, and this at the present rate of paddy in the bazaar would give Rupees 106-11-0 as the value of the crop, selling it at sixteen measures the Rupee. I have lately had the crops on some regular Nunjah land of good quality measured, and found that the out-turn of common country paddy was only 1,096 measures per Cawny, which at the above-mentioned selling rate only represents Rupees 68-8-0, and this at once shews the extremely profitable return that the cultivation of Carolina Paddy affords.

7. The straw that was left after the grain had been removed was estimated to be about double what would be got off the same extent of land cultivated with common paddy, but I regret to say that it was carelessly left in the open air for some days, exposed to heavy rain, and the chief portion of it rotted, so that I cannot afford on this point as exact information as I could wish. As soon as the crop had been cut the roots began to shoot up a fresh, although I paid no further attention to them in the way of watering, &c., and at this moment the young crop is upwards of three feet high.

8. In order still further to estimate the difference between, and the value of, the Carolina Paddy when compared with the common sort, I weighed one Madras measure of the former grain, and found the result to be 2 lbs. 9 oz. while the same quantity of the common paddy weighed 2 lbs. 12 oz.; when I had the husk removed, however, the measure of Carolina paddy produced exactly 2 lbs. weight of rice, while the common paddy gave 2 lbs. 1 oz. The husk came off the Carolina paddy much more easily than off the common kind, and the rice was much whiter and of larger grain. One measure of Carolina rice when boiled produces 9 lbs. 10 oz. of cooked rice, and the same quantity of the common country rice gave 9 lbs. 12 oz.; but I was informed that this part of the experiment was hardly fair, inasmuch as I weighed the newly Carolina rice against old Kar rice, which is said to weigh heavier than Samba or new rice.

9. While the paddy was growing it attracted considerable attention, and number of Ryots came from the surrounding villages to inspect it, and they have expressed great anxiety to obtain some of the seed I have now ready for distribution. The Paroor and Tittagoody Poligars also came specially to see the paddy, and are desirous of making similar experiments to mine. Visvanada

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Reddy of Reddiyoor in the Chellumbrum Talook, a very intelligent Ryot, who holds a large tract of land on which he pays a kist of Rupees 5,000 per annum, is now planting a considerable extent of ground with the paddy seed I have just given him, and he assures me that, if he obtains a return any thing like what I have detailed above, he will give up altogether the cultivation of the ordinary paddy, and only grow Carolina Paddy in future.

10. I have enquired what became of the small quantity of seed that I sent to the Chellumbrum Talook for planting, and am informed that it was distributed to various Ryots; but that in no one instance was any satisfactory result obtained. I fancy that the quantity of seed actually received by each person was so extremely small that they did not care to take pains with its culture. The Pitchavarum Poligar planted the portion of seed he got, but the ears he sent me for inspection were very small and quite barren of grain, and no attention had evidently been given to it; and he admitted that while growing, the paddy had an insufficient supply of water. It is therefore not to be wondered that his experiment was unsuccessful. Now, however, that attention has been actually drawn to this grain, and the Ryots have themselves seen the extremely successful result of the experiment I have just made, I have little doubt that those individuals who receive the seed I have now available for distribution will really bestow some attention on it, and I trust hereafter to be able to report that this valuable grain is being largely cultivated in this Sub-Division. I am supplying those persons who receive the seed with a written account of the steps taken by me in raising it, and this may perhaps assist them in carrying out their own experiments.

No. 113.

ORDER THEREON, 8th January 1866, No. 58.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered to be forwarded to the Board of Revenue, for their information and communication to the Farm Committee and to all Collectors.

2. The Government are gratified to learn that Mr. Whiteside was so successful in raising the Carolina Paddy, and desire that their thanks be conveyed to him by the Board for his exertions and his interesting report of his experiment. The Board will cause the report to be published in the District Gazettes, and will supply Mr. Whiteside with some of the seed expected from Java, on its receipt.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Editor's Table.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

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South West, I have the honor to be
Col. Office
Cavalry
8 December
1865
Sir,
Your most obedient servant
Caleb Beale
Collector

200000/15

1725113.

21-9 August 1864 42-153
19 October " " 210
14 June 1865 " 42-43
Reported to Congress
23 May 1862 of 1867

1865-1866
The Collector of
South West
to the Secretary to
Government
at Fort Leake
dated 5-5
Received 12/23/65
No. 88
Cavalry
Subcommittee City
of a report from his
and collector on the
result of his own
examination of Col.
Livestock of Cavalry
Passes -
for 200000/15
with order

and Sub-Collector, New
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In a letter from
 the Collector of
 South and Antislavery
 No 88. Rev: 3538/65
 From
 the Collector of
 South and Antislavery
 No 88. Rev: 3538/65
 Submitting his
 report on the
 improvement made
 in forming the
 Caroline Passy.

88-58.
 Addressed to the Governor and
 the Board of Passy for their report
 on the Commission and Committee
 and all others.
 The Government are
 glad to learn that the
 Commission and Committee
 have been successful in
 their efforts and have
 made a great improvement
 in the District of
 Passy and Antislavery
 No 88. Rev: 3538/65
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