M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 174 — Press ~~Mis.~~

374-375

Dated 15-1-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 174

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1867.

No. 374. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary to the Government Farm Committee, Sydapett, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 30th June 1866:—

I am directed by the Committee appointed to manage the Government Farm at Sydapett to enclose a Statement of the past year's expenditure, and to give an epitome of their proceedings.

REPORT.

1. The land, which was handed over in the course of last year to the Committee for the purpose of starting an experimental farm, is situated in the village of Sydapett. It is bounded on the south and east by the Adyar river, on the north and west by the Mount Road and by the Marmalong bridge. Its greatest length is about two miles, its greatest breadth about three-fourths of a mile. It contains about 350 acres. The land in question consists of two estates, known respectively as the Rooshun Bagh and Home's Garden. They were formerly the property of the late Nawab of the Carnatic, but recently passed into the possession of Government.

2. Before being handed over to the Committee, the land had been for many years entirely neglected; and upon taking possession in April 1865, the Committee found almost the whole surface covered with a dense low scrub, consisting chiefly of prickly-pear and wild guava. Of roads there were absolutely none, the only mode of moving from one point to another was by following one or other of a few sandy tracks which wound in and out among the jungle. That the ground had, at some distant date, been covered in many places with buildings was proved not only by the numerous ruins and heaps of old bricks, but also by the old foundations which were encountered beneath the surface in all directions. The wells, of which a great number had been formerly dug, were, without an exception, in a ruinous state and choked with rubbish; most of them were completely dry.

3. Clearing Jungle.—The first labor of the Committee was to clear the surface of the ground. This has been done to a considerable extent, and in a very effectual manner. The prickly-pear has been almost entirely eradicated throughout the whole farm, the plants, when cut down, being buried in deep pits, which the Committee are led by experience to believe is the only feasible mode of really getting rid of them.

4. The other brushwood has been cleared over about one-third of the surface of the Farm. This has proved a very laborious operation, and although all possible care was taken to remove the roots, a good many still harass the ploughmen, and promise to give further work to the pick and mattock. During the current year the Committee hope to have the rest of the scrub entirely cleared away from the Farm.

5. Road.—A good road has been nearly finished about one and a half mile in length, traversing the Farm from north-east to south-west. This road crosses the stream which divides the Rooshun Bagh from Home's Gardens, and over the stream a small bridge with three fifteen-feet arches is now in process of construction. Several

shorter roads, some parallel and some at right angles to the above, have also been made, and most parts of the Farm are now readily accessible.

6. Buildings.—All the buildings upon the Farm were either complete ruins or in a very dilapidated state, scarcely one of them was in a condition to justify any outlay upon repairs; but as the funds at the command of the Committee were very limited, and as accommodation was urgently required, it was determined, as a temporary measure, to spend a small sum in repairing two of the least ruinous buildings. These were accordingly put into a habitable state; one of them now forms the Superintendent's quarters, and in the other the European Overseer lives.

7. Most of the wells have been thoroughly cleared out and repaired, channels have been dug to connect some with the river, and in several cases parapet walls have been built.

8. Immediately upon the first fall of rain, about forty acres of the land were broken up and thoroughly ploughed and cross-ploughed.

9. Irrigated cultivation.—About five acres immediately surrounding the Farm steading were laid out for irrigation; this has been divided into fields of convenient size with channels leading from the wind engine pump, and from a well at which a bullock-power chain pump has been erected.

10. Lucerne, Guinea-grass, English Clover, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkins, and Chinese sugar grass (Imphee) have been here grown with more or less success.

11. *Lucerne.*—The Lucerne, after yielding one or two cuttings, was completely destroyed by being first deluged by the cyclone of October, and shortly afterwards subjected to a drought of nearly three weeks' duration, owing to a continuance of very calm weather, in which the wind engine did not work.

12. The Committee are of opinion that lucerne grown on a large scale is hardly likely to be remunerative, as the cultivation is expensive, and the demand very limited, and confined entirely to a few European gentlemen.

13. *Guinea-grass.*—Guinea-grass has thriven remarkably well, is very hardy, easily cultivated and propagated, and yields frequent cuttings, which made into hay, is excellent feed for cattle.

14. The small plot of about two acres has been so great a success that the Committee propose to extend its cultivation considerably. The soil was, in the first instance, well ploughed with an iron dwarf plough, and stable manure was harrowed in. The Guinea-grass survived the above-mentioned long drought, but, as a general rule, has been watered at least twice or thrice a week. English clover has grown and flowered so well in a small bed in which it was tried as an experiment, that the Committee have sent to England for a further supply of seed, which they propose sowing with Italian rye grass on a larger scale as soon as more land is brought under irrigation.

15. *Sweet Potatoes.*—Sweet Potatoes of the best kind were procured in the form of cuttings from the Lal Bagh at Bangalore, and about three-fourths of an acre of ground was deeply trenched and planted with them. The crop is not yet quite ripe, but a few tubers which have been dug, shew that the Sweet Potatoes will be a valuable and remunerative root crop for land which can be regularly irrigated.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1867.

16. *Pumpkins* grow readily, proving useful as food for pigs, and a ready sale can be effected of any surplus.

17. The Chinese Sugar grass was a failure, but the Committee are inclined to attribute this to badness of the seed which was sown.

18. Dry Cultivation. *Gram.*—Twenty acres of the higher dry land was thoroughly ploughed and sown with gram, from which a good average crop was obtained, and which was consumed by the live stock on the Farm after threshing. The straw, as it may be called, was put through the chaff-cutter, and makes excellent food for cattle.

19. The gram was of superior quality, and gained honorable mention at the Agri-Horticultural Show at Madras, but the yield was considerably impaired by a portion of the land having been inundated at the time of the cyclone, the young plants being killed.

20. *Cholum.*—About fifteen acres were sown with cholum, which also suffered from flooding during the cyclone, but the deep ploughing and manuring had a marked effect on the size of the heads, which were pronounced unusually fine for Madras, where cholum is not generally grown. A prize of 50 Rupees was awarded at the Agri-Horticultural Show for the specimens exhibited.

21. A portion of one of the cholum fields was highly manured with a small supply of in different Phospho Guano, which was procured in the Madras market, but the seed was unfortunately sown too thickly, and though the luxuriance of the crop was great, it ran more to straw than to head. The Committee have been unable to carry out any very definite experiments hitherto with guano, bone-dust, poudrette, and other fertilizers, as none were procurable at the time the crops were put into the ground. A supply of Bird Island Guano was ordered from Australia, but has not yet arrived, nor has the Peruvian Guano, which was to have been sent out from England by the Secretary of State. A large supply of excellent manure has been stored at the cart-stand established on the Farm in July last, which, together with the accumulation at the steading from the cattle, sheep, and pigs, now amounts to a very large quantity.

22. The Committee estimate the whole at about 1,000 cart loads, representing a value of Rs. 750. This has been carefully stored and roofed in, and a cistern for liquid manure has been constructed.

23. Working Bullocks.—Six pairs were purchased when operations were commenced, and have done all the ploughing and other work of the Farm, they are all good serviceable bullocks, and three pairs of them have been taught to work in harness in the threshing machine. They have also been well trained to draw the English ploughs. A bull, which gained the first prize at the Nellore Cattle Show in 1865, was purchased by Government, and made over to the Farm to stand at the service of the public. Very few natives have sent their cows to him, although the fee levied (one Rupee) is merely nominal, but several Europeans, residents of Madras, have availed themselves of the opportunity.

24. The Farm also possesses an Australian and two Nellore heifers, the former presented by the President, Mr. Fane, and the other two purchased.

25. Sheep.—The flock of sheep consists of twelve ewes of the Coimbatore and twelve of the Salem breeds; these have been crossed with a half-bred Merino and

Coimbatore rams, they have all lambed, and their progeny look very promising; the remaining sheep which are a cross between the Merino and Coimbatore breeds were purchased from Mr. Pritchard, one of the members of the Committee. Mr. Sim, whilst in England, purchased and sent out two Southdown rams, one of which unfortunately died on the passage; the other arrived in April in good order, and with care, appears likely to stand the climate well.

This ram unfortunately died shortly after this report was drafted, but not before he had tupped several of the ewes.

26. It is the intention of the Committee to put Coimbatore and Salem ewes to this ram, and a good well shaped breed of sheep is anticipated.

27. Pigs.—Three English sows and one boar have been purchased as opportunity offered from the ships in the roads, and are thriving well. Their produce as sucking pigs command a ready sale at 5 Rupees each.

28. Machinery.—A list of the machinery and tools at the Farm is annexed. The Committee have not yet had opportunities to make trial of the whole of this machinery, but the experiments which they have been able to make have proved, on the whole, highly satisfactory, and lead the Committee to hope that the ryots of this Presidency will soon learn that the extensive use of English implements and machinery in the cultivation of the land is certain to be attended with great advantage.

29. *Wind Engine with throw Pumps.*—This has been erected at a large well which the Committee discovered near the river bank in a ruinous state and overgrown with jungle. The well was cleared out, repaired, and deepened. A masonry tunnel, which in old times communicated with the river, was restored, and a sluice-gate being built at its mouth, and with the assistance of Mr. Moncrieff, Superintendent of the Government Workshops, the wind engine and pumps were placed in position, and have last since worked satisfactorily.

30. *Chain and Bucket Pump.*—This has also been erected at an old ruined well, which was repaired and improved, and made to communicate with the river by means of a small open channel. This pump raises water now from a depth of twenty-two feet, but it could be worked at a greater depth. It is worked by two bullocks, which raise with great apparent ease a very considerable stream of water. This pump, the Committee believe to be, of all the modes of raising water for irrigation purposes, which they have yet examined, the most efficient and the best adapted to the means of the ryot. It is simply constructed, unlikely to get out of order, easily repaired and cheaply worked.

31. *Ploughs.*—Owing to the extreme hardness of the ground during the past year, and the unusual dryness of the season, the Committee have not been able to make such thorough and trustworthy trials of their ploughs as they would have wished. The ground had been so long overgrown with brushwood, and was so full of roots, &c., that after repeated accidents, the Committee were obliged to substitute in many places the pick and mattock for the English plough. Of those which have been used, Ransom and Sim's small iron plough and Howard's dwarf plough have proved the best. These can easily be worked by a pair of bullocks. A full sized Scotch plough, worked by two pair of bullocks, has also done good service.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1867.

32. *Reaping Machine.*—This, though not by any means on the most approved principles, was of great use in cutting down some large and heavy crops of cholum. There is none of the Farm machinery with which the numerous native spectators seemed to be so much taken as with the reaper. The Committee entertained no doubt that, with some slight modifications, to suit the prevailing crops, the best varieties of the reaping machine would prove very useful to the ryots of this Presidency and would become largely used.

33. *Chaff-cutters.*—These have been in constant use at the Farm in preparing food for the working cattle. A large number have been made up at the Madras Mint, and the demand for them continues very great.

34. *Californian Pump.*—This small portable pump has proved very useful. For easy transport the Committee have had it fixed upon a hand barrow, and it is now moved as may be required from well to well with rapidity and ease.

35. Agency and Labor.—The fixed establishment sanctioned by Government is as per margin. To this the Committee have added two East Indian Apprentices (on 15 and 10 Rupees a month from Farm funds), intelligent lads, who are becoming competent to assist the Superintendent generally, and who are learning to use the plough and other Farm implements, look after the live stock. Ten men and ten boys have been put upon monthly pay for general work, in preference to employing daily coolies with frequent changes.

1 Superintendent at	Rupees	75
1 Overseer at	,,	30
1 Writer at	,,	25
6 Ploughmen at	,,	7 each.

36. The greatest difficulty, with which the Committee have had to contend throughout the year, has been the want of a Superintendent to whom the general management and the accounts could be entrusted; for the first two months the post was held by a man who, though possessing good testimonials, was found, on trial, to be utterly unsuited to the work; and for the following three months the Committee were dependent temporarily on the services of a young Corporal of Sappers, who, though willing and intelligent, was almost entirely ignorant of farming.

37. In October the present Superintendent was taken on trial on the recommendation of His Excellency Sir William Denison. He had been gardener at Guindy for some time, and though doubtless a good gardener, he has but a very superficial knowledge of farming, and has been found to fail particularly in keeping anything like accurate notes of the various operations and their results; he is, moreover, so indifferent an Accountant, that the Honorary Secretary was at once obliged to take all payments and accounts of every description into his own hands; situated, as the Farm is, at a distance of five miles from the residence of most of the members of the Committee, a constant supervision of the Superintendent has been a serious tax upon their time and horses, while the Honorary Secretary has had an undue amount of labour imposed upon him in keeping minor accounts and making trivial payments, which should have properly devolved on the Superintendent.

38. For these reasons the Committee are again on the look-out for a competent Superintendent, but they fear that the only prospect of obtaining the description of man required is to procure one from England. The small salary sanctioned,

viz., 75 Rs. a month, will, it is feared, be quite insufficient to tempt a respectable man with a good knowledge of farming to come to this country.

39. The Overseer, who is a pensioned Gunner, is a remarkably steady trustworthy man, he is most useful in charge of the stock and about the Farm steading, but he has no knowledge of farming, nor can he read or write.

40. The ploughmen have progressed well in learning the use of the English plough. They all agree in preferring the dwarf iron plough to any other.

41. In conclusion, the Committee think that, considering the adverse seasons with which they have had to contend, and the state of the land handed over to them, fair progress has been made, during this their first year of tenure, towards rendering the Farm successful, and they have satisfaction in feeling that the property has been improved in value to a much larger amount than the sum which has been expended on it.

By order of the Committee,

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Major, Staff Corps,
Honorary Secretary.

Abstract of expenditure on the Government Farm during the year 1865-66.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Labour on Farm ...	428 11 0	782 1 7	166 9 0	.....	1,377 5 7
Pay of Establishment...	278 10 7	624 12 11	885 5 4	860 3 7	2,649 0 5
Farm buildings, Wind Engine, Pumps, and Wells	412 8 2	986 3 0	976 13 1	1,122 9 6	3,420 5 0
Repair of old buildings	411 0 0	.....	.....	.....	411 0 0
Purchase of live stock...	1,005 15 0	144 8 0	.....	7 4 0	1,157 11 0
Purchase of carts ...	161 15 9	48 0 0	.....	.....	209 15 9
Purchase of implements	9 0 0	16 9 0	188 6 4	119 4 1	333 3 5
Purchase of seeds ...	.....	71 1 1	121 2 7	2 9 9	194 13 5
Food for live stock ...	245 1 9	294 14 11	422 10 6	569 10 0	1,532 5 2
Manure	160 5 4	23 12 0	12 0 0	.....	196 1 4
Sundries, including Books and Stationery	453 7 0	124 10 5	38 1 0	116 10 9	732 13 2
Compensation for rented lands resumed and huts removed ...	.....	232 0 0	50 8 0	25 0 0	307 8 0
Total ...	3,566 10 7	3,270 12 2	2,861 7 10	2,823 3 8	
		3,566 10 7			
		6,837 6 9	6,837 6 9		
			9,698 14 7	9,698 14 7	
Grand Total ...	.....	.....	.....	12,522 2 3	12,522 2 3

MADRAS,
30*th June* 1866.

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Major,
Hon. Secy. to the Govt. Farm Committee.

List of Machinery and Tools at the Government Farm, Sydapett.

No.	Name.	No.	Name.
1	Steam Plough with Cultivator.	1	Wind Engine with three throw Pump.
1	Threshing Machine.	1	Californian Pump.
1	Thresher and Separater.	1	Chain and Bucket Pump for Bullock-power.
1	Patent Corn Dresser.		
1	Winnowing Machine.	1	Disc Pump.
1	Do. by Dray, Taylor & Co.	2	Cotton Gins.
1	Do. by Hornsby & Sons.	18	Scythes.
1	Corn Screen.	2	Heel Rakes.
1	Reaping Machine.	2	3-Fanged Forks.
1	Horse sowing Drill.	2	2 Do. do.
1	Barrow Corn Drill.	2	4 Do. do.
1	Sowing Machine.	24	Crowbars.
2	Ransom and Sim's Dwarf Iron Ploughs.	26	Mamutics.
1	Scotch Plough.	6	Mattocks.
3	Wooden Dwarf Ploughs.	26	Pickaxes.
2	Swing do.	6	Axes.
1	Howard's Dwarf Plough.	6	Bill-hooks.
1	Calcutta Plough.	12	Sickles.
2	Cultivators.	1	Cross-cut Saw.
4	Do. small.	3	Hand Saws.
2	Iron seed Harrows.	1	Pair of large Scales and Weights.
2	Chain do.	1	Pair of small do.
1	Horse Hoe.	6	Carts.
3	Chaff-cutters.	1	4-Wheeled truck.
1	Paddy hulling Mill.	2	Boilers.
1	Bone crusher for Steam power.	1	Portable Forge complete with tools.

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Major,
Honorary Secretary.

No. 375. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1867, No. 174.

Miscellaneous.

The Government are aware that the Committee have had considerable difficulties to contend against, in getting their land into cultivable condition in so adverse a season, and organizing the requisite establishment. Much progress was not to be expected under such circumstances in any but the preliminary operations. The present season is very promising, and they trust the next report of the Committee will be of an encouraging character.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Farm Committee.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

5

Sept. 1794

The first are aware that the Committee have had considerable difficulties to contend, in getting their land into cultivable order. Directions in to advertise a Lease & proceeding the requisite to establishment. Much Inconvenience has arisen from the Ewe selected under such circumstances in any but the most temporary tenure. The present season is very favourable and they trust the next report of the Committee will be of an encouraging character. I &c.

To Messrs Edwards Farmers Committee Lieut 6th Regt
14 Square Gt Russell St

16th Sept 1794