M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2024 Press ~~Mis.~~

407-08 Dated 23-7-1968.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 407. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary to the Government Farm, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 14th July 1868 :—

1. By desire of the Committee of the Government Farm, Sydapet, I have the honor to submit certain remarks on the latter part of paragraph 2, G. O., 12th June 1868, No. 1,653, in the hope that Government will re-consider their decision on the matter therein referred to.

2. In paragraph 45 of the report for 1867-68, the Committee stated, "that the present rate of salary, Rupees 200 monthly, is insufficient for the stamp of person required as Superintendent," and in paragraph 4 they stated "that inquiries regarding a properly qualified Superintendent are being made in England and Scotland by several gentlemen who take much interest in agricultural matters.

3. In order that Government may see that these gentlemen are well qualified to give an opinion on such a matter, I may mention the names of Mr. Mechi, Mr. Hall Dare, Secretary to the Royal Agricultural Society, Professor Constable, Principal of the Royal Agricultural College, Cireneester, Mr. Morton, Editor of the Farmer's Calendar and Gazette, a very great authority on agricultural matters, and Mr. Kinloch, son of Sir D. Kinloch of Gilmerton in East Lothian, a practical gentleman farmer, in the centre of the most scientifically farmed county in Scotland.

4. All these gentlemen unanimously concur in the opinion expressed by the Committee that the salary is insufficient, and that a person of the required stamp can obtain, on an average, a salary of £200 a-year in England. Of course, it cannot be expected that such men will come to India, unless they gain by so doing. One gentleman, a Mr. Robertson, who is very highly spoken of by Professor Constable and the gentlemen by whom he has been employed (Lord Dufferin and others), states his terms to be a three-year engagement, overland passage for two, a sum for expenses, dwelling house, medical attendance, £400 a-year for first year, and £500 yearly for second and third years ; at the end of third year, passage and expenses back to England if engagement is not renewed.

5. These terms will shew the Government what is expected by persons of Mr. Robertson's stamp. It is certainly possible that some one might be willing to come out on a lower salary, and a letter from a Mr. Ramsay has been sent out by Mr. Kinloch, stating his willingness to accept the appointment if the salary is raised, but not mentioning any specific terms.

6. The Committee beg to forward Mr. Robertson's letters and testimonials.*

7. Mr. Ramsay's letter,† with a testimonial, is also sent.

8. Also a copy of the Memorandum‡ sent to the gentlemen referred to in paragraph 3.

9. The Committee trust that, on consideration of the reasons above given, the Government will see fit to alter their decision in the matter of salary.

* Papers Nos. 1 and 2.

† No. 3.

‡ No. 4.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd July 1868.

10. If the Government think proper to do so, the Committee respectfully request that they may be authorized to write Home at once and engage a Superintendent on the following terms:—First class overland passage, £15 for expenses, salary Rs. 300 monthly for the first year, and Rupees 350 for the second and third years, a house, or house-rent 30 Rupees monthly, medical attendance, three years engagement, and return passage if engagement not renewed at end of three years.

11. Provision would, of course, be made, as in the case of the late Superintendent, for removal from office of any one who is inefficient or unfit.

No. 408. ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1868, No. 2,024.

Miscellaneous.

As it appears from the papers forwarded by the Honorary Secretary to the Farm Committee that the services of a thoroughly competent Superintendent cannot be obtained for the salary named in paragraph 2 of G. O., under date 12th June 1868, No. 1,653, the Committee are authorized to carry out the proposal made in paragraph 10 of their Honorary Secretary's letter recorded above.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Honorary Secretary to the Government Farm.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rec. 23 July 68. Pro. 23 July 68 No. 107.

Memorandum

The Government of Madras has established an Experimental & Model Farm on a small scale in the year 1865.

The objects of this Farm are to teach the Natives improved methods of cultivation, by the use of improved Implements, Machinery, Systems of Cultivation, use of Manures &c &c also to introduce the cultivation of any new sorts of grain suitable to the Climate.

For instance, Carolina rice has been found to be a more valuable grain in almost every way than the indigenous Rice of Southern India.

American Indian Corn is also much finer & produces much larger crops, than the similar grain of India called "Mukka Cholum" or "Jowaree"

The breed of Sheep can, it is supposed be also vastly improved, & in many other ways valuable discoveries in Agriculture & Stock Farming can be made, & imported to Indian Ryots and Cultivators.

The Farm has now been established for nearly 3 years, but has not been as yet so successful, or useful as was expected.

It is managed by a Committee of Gentlemen interested in its success, appointed by Govt

Goats who meet in Committee once a fortnight.

The management is in the hands of the Committee & Sec^y but chiefly the latter with a Superintendent in charge of the Farm whose business it is to see that the orders given by the President & Secretary are carried out in a practical & efficient manner.

The Supt has been the Farm difficulty. There have been already 5 Superintendents, all inefficient & useless in some most important points, at first the Office was insufficiently paid about £80 or £90 yearly with a house. The last Supt, however, who was sent out from England received £180 with prospect of a rise to £250. he has proved if any thing more useless than any of his predecessors, as he has all the faults of the worst style of farmer, being conceited, obstinate, obtuse, ignorant of the management of machinery, or stock & with a strong determination, to do every thing as he pleased & not as he was ordered. in short he was not at all the stamp of person required & has been given notice to quit.

As far as can be judged, the person required for the post of Supt should be a young Irish man, say about 30 years of age he should have received a good Education at one of the Agricultural Colleges & have afterwards learnt practical

farming on some large farm, where Steam Power has been used for ploughing & other farming operations such as threshing, winnowing and chaff cutting &c &c. He should have practical knowledge of the working of all improved farming Implements, Cattle & Sheep feeding & management & should be able to carry out & keep accounts of Experiments regarding Manures & different Systems of cultivation & growths of different sorts of grains, so that the results thereof may be reported on to Govern^t and tables drawn up for the information of the public.

At present the Sec^y does every thing connected with the Farm, which is 10 miles from his Office. He can only go there 3 or 4 times a week in the morning and stay for a couple of hours & of course is entirely dependent on the Supt for managing the Farm & seeing that ploughing Manuring Sowing &c &c are carried on by the labourers as directed. There is a very respectable steady, pensioned Soldier, who Superintends the preparation of food & feeding of Cattle pigs &c & obeys all orders strictly. There are also 3 Apprentices, one European, one East Indian & one Native, who overlook labourers at work & when the Steam Engine is up which it be shortly there will be another man to look after it & the rest of the

the machinery and Implements.

The Supt therefore has ample leasure for looking after experiments, keeping carefull & correct accounts of every thing going on & data from which reports & returns can be drawn up. The work to be done has been fully described that it may be known exactly what sort of person is required. If fit after a little time he might be made Secretary to the Committee & carry on the Correspondence Department. In that event probably increased Salary would be given by Government.

His passage would be paid 2nd Class Over land, & a certain sum allowed for Expenses with return passage after a certain number of years service. If the Salary is not high enough to tempt a person of the required Stamp, it is desired to know on what terms such a person can be procured. The Government want to have a Model Farm and as up to the present time it has cost about £1000 a year £50 or £100 a year higher Salary to the Superintendent would only be a trifling addition to the Expenditure incurred, and which there is no doubt the Government would willingly pay.

/signed/.

Hunter Blair

Hay Hay Gut Farm.

Rev: Dept. No 2398 of 1868.

I shall never have any faith in Agricultural Farm & Amateur Superintendents. We made just before the primitive Salem farmers have been defeated, that, when successful in their operations, our local Magistrates would never have thought of employing similar ones for their own use. But the working of them scheme, has been far from successful, the whole thing seems to have been an expensive attempt on a bad direction, but without any favorable results. Thought, no doubt, to be altogether abandoned, and the land sold or rented on a yearly lease, - or matters should be put on a better & more promising footing. As so

much public money has been
spent, the latter course may perhaps
be the preferable one, as holding
a small chance of economy some
of it. But I confess I do not feel
very sanguine, although the Country,
through Mr H. Blair, were hopeful
that the more extensive Experiments
they desire to make in England,
will enable them to do, what as
yet they have failed in doing. —
as however, the aid of a Scientific
& the superior class of locked on
the Country as a real means for
returning wealth, I have no objection,
based the Govt to determine, to mo-
dify the £.0 in respect of Salary to
Mr H Blair later Condition &
permit the Country to procure the
services of a skilled Scientific person
to take charge of the Farm HDR
16 July 68.

5

I would sanction the proposal
of the Committee.

W G.

Hunter Blair

Sec to Govt of Canada

Settled at Council that the remarks of the President (Dr. Tachè) be not to be attended to in the notes

2/7/68

2nd 2022.

List from Govt

As it appears from the papers forwarded by the Honble Secretary to the Farm Committee that the services of a thoroughly competent Superintendent cannot be obtained for the salary named in para 2 of G.O under date 12th June 1868 No 1653, the Committee are authorized to carry out the proposal made in para 10 of their Honble Secretary's letter recited above

6 Copies Sent to Honorary Secy to the Govt Transferred
1 — Do — Revd
6 — Secy Govt

23rd July/68

+2

2d+3 7. Mr. Ramsay's letter, with a testimonial, is also sent.

2d+4 8. Also a Copy of the Memorandum sent to the Gentlemen referred to in Para 3.

9. The Comtee trust that on consideration of the reasons above given, the Govt will see fit to alter their decision in the matter of Salary.

10. If the Govt think proper to do so, The Comtee respectfully request that they may be authorized to write home at once & engage a Supt on the following terms

Re 12 June/68 No 304 — S

22/4/68

14/12/81

30-1-55

From the Hony. Secy.
Government Farm
5/28 Nov/65 C.M.O. 3734

A 2407 & 408

Revenue 1868 Dept.
Pro. of Govt. for July
No. 2398

From

The Hony. Secty.
Govt. Farm.

Dated 14th July/68.
Received 15th "

C - 3 Encls

No 2024. 23 July/68

Submitting certain remarks on the latter part of para 2 of G.O. 12th June/68 No 1653 regarding a proper & qualified Asstt. for the Govt. Farm