M.R. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2675 Press / Mis.

Dated 24-9- 1968 378-79

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 378. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st September 1868, No. 6,251:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Parambay, 20th July 1868, No. 175.

1. In reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,766, of the 15th April last, I have now the honor to submit two letters from the present Sub-Collector, as indicated in the margin, from the first of which it will be seen that the seven iron ploughs received from the Gun Carriage Manufactory, and which had been so anxiously sought by the late Sub-Collector, Mr. Whiteside, were never brought into use during that Officer's tenure of office, and from the second letter, that only in the past cultivation season has any attempt to use the ploughs been made, and Mr. Hathaway reports altogether unfavorably of the result, for the reasons which he details, and his recommendation is that the common native plough be retained as the basis, and that a prize be offered for the best implements that could be invented compatible with its thorough adaptation to the wants of the country and the means of using it amongst all classes, and the Sub-Collector suggests that a good steel share on a native plough would be the most essential and practical improvement that could, in his opinion, be introduced.

Dated 29th August 1867, No. 302.
,, 2nd June 1868, ,, 215.

2. I cannot pass unnoticed paragraph 5 of Mr. Hathaway's letter, which must necessarily attract the Board's attention. The fact that the ploughs till recently had never been used, and the opinion of the Sub-Collector that a certain amount of pressure was put on the ryots in order to obtain their willingness to buy them, is certainly in contrast with the eagerness evinced by his predecessor Mr. Whiteside in having them made up and sent for distribution, and I can only express the hope that it may be possible to get rid of the ploughs in the way proposed, if only to reimburse their cost to their present owners.

From the Sub-Collector of South Arcot, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Virdachellum, 29th August 1867, No. 302.

1. In answer to your docket, No. 748, of the 26th instant, calling for a speedy reply about the agricultural implements supplied, I have the honor to state that the seven ploughs referred to in your letter, No. 721, of the 21st July 1866, were all sold to different ryots, who, however, have never tried them, and give, as a reason, that they are quite ignorant of how to use them. Some have not even taken away the plough they brought from the Cutcherry, where it still lies; and one is reported to be already injured and out of order.

2. I am endeavouring now to find out the reason of this unencouraging apathy, and whether the purchasers really want the ploughs, or whether they only bought them owing to pressure in any way being put upon them. If they really want them, I will go to the village and explain the manner of use.

3. I can find no other cases of agricultural implements being supplied.

4. I am afraid I shall not be able to give you a fuller reply for some days, since the best part of my office have all gone in to Cuddalore to be examined, and will not return till the 5th proximo; so that I am left without assistance for even getting through the old work on hand, and further reports from this office on any subject can hardly be expected before the 7th or 8th.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th September 1868.

From the Sub-Collector of South Arcot, to the Collector of South Arcot, dated Porto Novo, 2nd June 1868, No. 215.

1. In continuation of my letter, No. 302, of the 29th August 1867, I have the honor to state that there has been opportunity, during the last cultivation season, thoroughly to test the ploughs received from the Gun Carriage Factory, and that the unanimous voice of the people is against them.

2. The chief objection against all such ploughs made on the English pattern is the very great difficulty of guiding them, owing to the fact that the man who is ploughing has no command over his bullocks. There is a long pole from the yoke, and then at the end of that again the lengthy iron plough is attached, so that the ploughman is a long way off from his bullocks and cannot touch them. The native plough, on the contrary, is much more handy in this respect, for the ploughshare is attached as it were to the end of the pole itself and falls between the bullocks, instead of, as in the English pattern, being some nine feet behind them; so that whereas with a native plough the ploughman is close to his bullocks and can guide them himself; with an English plough it is necessary to have at least one extra man, and generally two, by the side of the bullocks merely to drive them, and even then there is very little command over them. It is not, therefore, merely that additional men are required for each plough, but also that a large quantity of land is cultivated every year which is not thoroughly cleared, but still has stumps of trees, masses of rock, and piles of stones, all over it. A ryot with a light native plough, having his hands both on it and the bullocks at the same time, can make his way between all these obstacles without difficulty, as the plough can be lifted in a moment or turned round in a small circle; but a long English plough with men driving the bullocks at one end of it, and the ploughman at the other, could not turn a single furrow. This of itself at once condemns the plough in the eyes of the natives, so far as introduction for general use goes.

3. Another disadvantage is that it decidedly is too great a strain for the ordinary bullocks. In one trial that I made, although the best procurable in the village were used, they fell down from sheer inability to drag it, though the soil was light and sandy, and moist with recent rain. It is true that it ploughs deeper, but the natives say that a native plough would produce just as deep a furrow if run a second time in exactly the same line, and that whenever deep ploughing is wanted, this is the easiest way to obtain the object with their bullocks, rather than attempting to do it at a single time. I do not attach so much weight, however, to this objection as to the previous one, since the present breed of bullocks could undoubtedly be very much improved (witness the Mysore breed), and with a more powerful class of bullocks heavier work could be done.

4. But I see no way of meeting the first difficulty, and after several trials I am forced to the opinion that the short shape used by the natives is decidedly more handy and better adapted for bullocks on rough half-cleared ground, or in small fields like paddy land. I am inclined to think that the best way of securing a good and efficient plough for general use in the country would be to retain the common native plough as the basis, and offer a prize for the best modification of it that could be invented. after all, it is the share that does the work, and the present form of English plough is not essential; so that if the use of a good steel share on a native plough were introduced, that is, I believe, the greatest amount of success that it would be possible to hope for. I would institute a prize at every local exhibition for the best design of this kind, one of the requisites being that the plough exhibited should have been actually made use of and a crop grown under its use. Wood should be adhered to as the material of all but the share and coulter, because it is lighter, more easily obtainable, and more easy to work in the general making and repairing.

5. None of the natives who were induced to buy these iron ploughs have any intention of using them. Indeed, until I took them out for testing them, they had not been once made use of, so that it might be as well to let the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory know that these seven ploughs are still available and to be disposed of. I am anxious to have them taken off the hands of the purchasers, as I have reasons for thinking that a certain amount of pressure was put upon them to make them express their willingness to purchase.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th September 1868.

1. The Board regret to learn that the experiment in the use of these ploughs has proved unsuccessful, and should it be found impossible to dispose of them at Cuddalore, they should be forwarded to Madras, and the money paid by the ryots refunded.

2. Mr. Kees of Cuddalore has found the English plough supplied to him answer well; but it is essential that the cattle employed should be properly trained and equal to the greater strain, and rough half-cleared rocky ground should obviously be avoided in selecting land for experiment.

3. The Board cannot suppose that Mr. Whiteside permitted any pressure to be exercised in order to induce the purchase of the implements.

No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 24th September 1868, No. 2,475.

Miscellaneous.

1. The foregoing Proceedings will be forwarded to Mr. Whiteside for any observations he may desire to offer.

2. In the meantime, the Board of Revenue will be requested to take into their consideration the proposals made by Mr. Hathaway, and to report their opinion of them.

(True Extract.)

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

To W. S. Whiteside, Esq.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev - 1868. Department.
Proc of Govt for Septr
No. 2876.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

From the Bd of Rev
Madras Ste Chr - 3851.

Dated 1st September 1868.

No. 6,251.

Informing Collector of South Arcot that Board regret to learn that the experiment in the use of the Iron Ploughs forwarded from the Gun Carriage Manufactory has proved unsuccessful, and directing him to forward them to Madras if they cannot be disposed of at Cuddalore and to refund the amount paid for them by certain ryots.

Recd 5 - 24 Septr

18 Septr Rec 378

The Govt wish the Collector to report if this kind of implement is adapted for the cultivation of the Province, & if it is advisable to attempt to effect improvements in the native plough rather than to attempt to introduce the Scotch plough among the ryots. The Board of Revenue will be glad to be supplied with a copy of the Board's Proceedings with the opinion of the Collector for any observations he may desire to offer.

I have any trust in Hathaway's
views as right, but it seems
to me premature & ambitious
to publish plans as the
work of a single Mind. I
would simply call on Howard
& Roome & consider &
report on the Hathaway's
suggestions.

Yrs &c.

H. Pugh.

No 2826. W. 2475.

The foregoing Proceedings will be forwarded to Mr. Hinteside for any observations he may desire to offer.

In the meantime the Board of Revenue will be requested to take into their consideration the proposals made by Mr Hathaway, and to report their opinion of them.

1 Copy Fitt. D. Whitesides Esqre Derby 25
14 Copies — Board of Revenue

Revenue 1868 Septr.
Pro of Govt for Septr

No 2475

Pro of the Madras Govt
dt 24th September/68

Pro Board of Revenue
dt 20 Octr/68 & No 3346.

No 378-379