M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	2869	Press ~~Mis.~~
275-26 Dated	14-11-	1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 275. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th October 1868, No. 7,146 :—

Read the following letter from G. BIDIE, Esq., M. D., Honorary Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th August 1868, No. 357.

I have the honor to inform you that the Committee of the Society had before them, at their last meeting, a letter recommending the experimental culture of New Zealand flax, (Phormium tenax) on some of our lower hill ranges. The plant has been tried in the Government Gardens at Ootacamund, and found to thrive well, and there is every reason to believe that it will do the same at places of lower elevation. The Committee think, therefore, it would be a great acquisition to coffee planters for cultivation in land in which the coffee has died out, and beg the Board will ask the Government to have plants distributed from the Ootacamund Gardens for trial at Manantoddy and on the Shervaroys and Pulneys. It seems also desirable that a moderate supply of seed should be got direct from New Zealand for distribution in various quarters, and the Committee trust the Board will kindly take steps for its being brought over at an early date. They are also anxious to get reliable information regarding a machine for cleaning the fibre of the plant, recently invented by the Revd. Mr. Purchas, of New Zealand. It is said to be most efficient, and to be equally suitable for cleaning the fibre of aloe, pine-apple, plantain, &c., and, if so, its introduction into India would be a great public benefit. The Committee, therefore, take the liberty of recommending that the Government may be asked to procure reliable information regarding the success, capabilities, and cost of the machine. The fibre of the Phormium is equal in general qualities and superior in strength to European flax, and the plant is remarkably hardy, and promises to be very easily cultivated. Trusting the Board will give due consideration to the above requests, I have, &c.

SUBMITTED to Government, with the Board's recommendation that the Superintendent of the Government Gardens at Ootacamund be instructed to place at the disposal of the Agri-Horticultural Society as many plants of the Phormium tenax (New Zealand flax) as he can spare, and to adopt measures for its further propagation.

2. It is also very desirable that application be made to the Government of New Zealand for supplies of seeds of this flax, and for a specimen of the fibre-cleaning machine referred to in the above letter, provided it has been found to answer, together with information of its capabilities, cost, &c.

No. 276. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1868, No. 2,869.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Superintendent of the Government Gardens at Ootacamund, with instructions to attend to the Board's request in paragraph 1 of their Proceedings.

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Govt. of {1868} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 14th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 14th November 1868, *No.* 2,869.

From the Colonial Sec^y New Zeland
by Book Post 69 Cº 1658.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 275-276.

New Zealand Flax.—Superintendent Government Gardens at Ootacamund to place as many plants as can be spared at the disposal of the Horticultural Society, and application to be made to the Government of New Zealand for supplies of seed.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th November 1868.

2. Ordered also that the necessary application be made to the Government of New Zealand, with reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
,, the Superintendent of the Government Gardens, Ootacamund.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 3200

Revenue Department

R. 2869.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 14 ~~October~~ June 1868.

Read the following Proc: of the Board of Revenue -

New Zealand flax.— Recommendation to Govt. to instruct Superintendent Govt. Gardens at Ootacamund to place a few plants of, at disposal of Agri-Horticultural Society. Application suggested to be made to new zealand Govt. for supplies of seed &c. —

(Here enter 7th Oct. 1868 No. 7,146.)

Ordered to be communicated to the Supdt. of the Govt. Gardens at Ootacamund, with instructions to attend to the Board's request in para 4 of their ~~proceeding~~ Proc. -

Ordered also that the necessary application be made to the Govt. of New Zealand with reference to para 2 of the Bd's Proc. —

To Bd of Revenue - Despatches
" Offg Conservator of Forests - "
1 Recd Supdt Govt Gardens Ootacamund

Revenue 1868 Departt

No. 2869

Proceedings of the
Madras Government

Dated 14th Novr 1868

G.O.
New Zealand No. 1

275 & 276