M.R.O. 1—38,060—16-10-58.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2

Dated 4-12-58

Press Mark

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th September 1869.

No. 94. Read the following letter from the Acting Honorary Secretary Government Farm, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Sydapet, 19th August 1869, No. 43 :—

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, No. 69, dated 13th August 1869, which were furnished for the information of the Superintendent of Government Farm, I beg herewith to submit a letter from Mr. Robertson, not with any particular reference to the patent under trial, but in connection with the subject of manures generally, upon which Mr. Robertson's practical remarks may be considered worthy of further notice.

From Mr. H. R. ROBERTSON, Superintendent Government Experimental Farm, to the Acting Honorary Secretary Government Farm, dated 16th August 1869.

I enclose the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, referring to the purchase of two tons of some "patent manure," by the Government of India. As we do not appear to be interested in the matter, there is perhaps no occasion for further observations ; however, as the subject is one in which I feel much interest, I cannot let the opportunity pass without offering a few remarks.

2. You are doubtless aware that during the past eight or ten years, a trade has sprung up at home for supplying agriculturists with manures of all sorts, adapted to various soils, and suited to all sorts of crops ; these manures vary as much in their composition as do the crops and soils to which they are applied, some are ammoniacal manures, others phosphatic, while others again are alkaline. Many of them are called "patent manures," that is, they are manufactured from a patented process ; however, each possesses some special feature, one is rich in nitrogenized matter, another rich in phosphatic matter, while another contains a large quantity of the alkalies, potash, soda, etc. You are also doubtless aware, that each tribe of plants takes up some particular constituent of the manure, one tribe requires an excess of ammonia to be at hand for its growth and *complete* development, another an excess of chloride of soda, a third an excess of potash, and so on. If the soil is deficient in their elements of plant nutrition, then the value of the manure applied will be great or small, according as it supplies these deficiencies. You will at once see that it will be a waste of time experimenting with this "patent manure," unless something *is known of its composition* : indeed, it will be worse than a waste of time, as any conclusions founded on such experiments will be misleading. It is certainly very desirable that Government should take some steps in this matter ; there are doubtless boundless stores of plant food lying latent in the different geological formations of India, which in the hands of the manure manufacturer would become a source of great wealth to the country, and render fertile many barren tracts of land.

No. 95. Order thereon, 4th September 1869, No. 2,511.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Government will at all times receive with satisfaction from Mr. Robertson, through the Farm Committee, any practical information which his experience in agriculture may suggest to him.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Acting Honorary Secretary, Government Farm.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department.

No. 2511.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Dated the 12th September 1869.

Read the following Letter from the Acting Honorary Secretary to Government, Forwarding

Acknowledging a letter from Mr. Robertson on the subject of nurseries generally.

1866. 17th August 1869. No. 13.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Government will be glad to receive with the Report of the Board of Revenue Mr. Robertson's proposals for the establishment of nurseries where they may appear to be necessary.

&c.

I would direct para 2. that the Farm Committee should be asked if they would recommend that they should assume the establishment of Nurseries in connection with their Farms.

Copied ext. Secretary

Mr. Robertson's Letter
Intelligence Department
Mr. Ravenshaw's Letters
Mr. Secretary Cornwallis
Mr. Secretary Ogilvie
Mr. Secretary Thomas
Mr. Secretary Stokes
Mr. Secretary Reed
Mr. Secretary Dalyell
Mr. Secretary Brett
Mr. Secretary Bayley
Mr. Secretary Bayley

Received in the Office of the Board of Revenue, Madras, on the 20th September 1869. No. 2511.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Received from Superintendent Stationery, Madras, 1000 Copies of this Proceeding, on the 20th September 1869.

Superintendent.

Boxed 9 Sept.