

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	264	Press ~~Mis~~
<u>S46-47</u>		
Dated	29 th January	1969.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
29th January 1869.

No. 546. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th December 1868, No. 8,581:—

Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 5th October 1868, No. 39.

1. The Board are aware that producers on these Hills, as elsewhere, have, during the last three or four years, passed through a difficult time in consequence of bad seasons and depressed markets, coupled, here, with a marked increase in the price of labor.

2. In 1863, 1864, and 1865, a brisk demand for land on these Hills for Agricultural purposes would seem to have set in when many expected to make rapid fortunes out of Coffee, Tea, and Chinchona. Their anticipations now are on a much more sober scale, for the result of their efforts has not, on the whole, been satisfactory; in many cases failure was no doubt owing to the cultivator's want of that special knowledge which was necessary to his undertaking, in others to his working with borrowed capital; but, whatever may be the reason, estates are now at a discount, producers are greatly disheartened, and the development of the capabilities of the district has received a decided check.

3. In order to give an impulse to production and to assure (as it were) the people that the Government are desirous of encouraging in any legitimate way all *bona-fide* efforts to turn to account the resources of the district, I can think of nothing so beneficial as an Exhibition of Agricultural products.

4. Native producers here have gone on from year to year giving the same seed, and a very low standard, both in quality and quantity, is the result. They have done this probably as much from ignorance, as from apathy; unless they can feel and see the profitable results of assorted seeds and of improved modes of cultivation, degeneration in the few marketable products they possess will go on steadily increasing.

5. The Simla Commissioner sent me three kinds of Barley seed the other day for trial; the grains look finer than any I have seen on these Hills. As the Barley crops were being harvested last month, I sent for several bundles of the three kinds grown here from different fields. Picking out the six finest heads in each bundle, and counting sound and unsound grains, the average number in each year was as follows:—

No. 1.....	64
„ 2.....	54
„ 3.....	48

6. I mention this to shew that there is plenty of room for improvement; and because I am not without hopes that, even with Native producers, averse as they are to anything that involves a little extra labor, something might be done through the medium of an Exhibition by drawing their attention to the possibility of growing superior products if they have a mind to set about it.

7. I have conferred with two or three gentlemen interested in Agriculture, and they have warmly entered into the matter, and think that an Agri-Horticultural Show here would be both attractive and useful.

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29th January 1869.*

8. Under any circumstances, the Exhibition could not take place till some time next year. I am not now prepared with any definite proposals either as to time or arrangements, the object of this letter being simply to ask the Board to be good enough to support my application for an Exhibition if the proposal meets with their approval.

9. While on the subject of Agricultural improvements, I may perhaps be permitted also to ask the Board to lend their support to my application to Government for a few young Bulls from the Hoonsoor herds, of which Captain B. Magrath has the superintendence in Mysore. The Budaga breed of cattle is of a miserable kind, small boned, stunted, not even hardy, and without a good point as far as I can learn. If the Hoonsoor animals could be sent, I would propose to locate a Bull or two in each Budaga village under the charge of the Monigar, on the condition that other Bulls are, as far as possible, dispensed with, and subject to any other restriction which Captain Magrath's cattle-breeding experience might enable him to suggest.

SUBMITTED for the Orders of Government.

2. The Board concur with the Commissioner that it is very desirable that Government should hold out every reasonable incentive to the improvement of Horticultural and Agricultural produce and of live stock on the Neilgherries. The climate is very favorable, and affords peculiar advantages for the acclimatization of the products of cold climates, and of the introduction into the plains. The Board, therefore, recommend the Commissioner's proposal to hold an Agri-Horticultural Exhibition on the Hills, and request permission to provide for it in next year's Budget.

3. The proposal to introduce Hoonsoor Bulls might, the Board think, be deferred until after the Exhibition; at which, of course, prizes should be offered for cattle, when the Committee will doubtless be afforded a good opportunity of seeing the cattle of the Hills and judging what measures can best be adapted for the improvement of the breed. The experience hitherto gained of introducing Bulls of the larger breeds has not been encouraging.

No. 517.

ORDER THEREON, 29th January 1869, No. 264.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council sanctions the proposal of the Commissioner of the Neilgherries to hold an Agri-Horticultural Show on the Hills, and will be glad to receive through the Board of Revenue, his further definite proposals as to time and arrangements.

2. His Excellency in Council is also of opinion that the experiment of introducing a superior class of Bull for the purpose of improving the breed of the Budaga cattle, should be undertaken. With advertence to the remark made in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings, however, Mr. Brecks will be furnished, through the

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Board of Revenue, with copies of the correspondence which has recently taken place on the subject of supplying Bulls to the Ceylon Government, and he will be requested to place himself in communication with Mr. Veterinary Surgeon Thacker, in view to determining what particular description of Bull is likely to be the best adapted for the purpose.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
J. Thacker, Esq.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No. 3918.

From Secy of the Bd of Revenue
Dated 7th December 1868.

FOR ORDERS.

The Commissioner proposes to fix the date of the Exhibition for "some time next year": it occurs to me that a more suitable period would be some time in 1870. There will be small chance of any thing well worth looking at being ready for next year, from among the staple crops from the native cultivation on the hills; and as to them, I presume, that special inducements should be offered. I doubt whether it can be intended to urge on the British planters to more energetic efforts than they are now making in their own interests. — I think the proposal to introduce a few of the smaller kind of Boonoon bulls, shown at once becomes unadvised. W. H. 16 Decr.

Genl. of 1869 Orders.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

To, Secy, Bd.

Dated January, 20th.

Recd.

Per.

G. O., 20th January 1869, No. 264.

JANUARY.

Nos. 546-547.

Agri-Horticultural Show on the Neillheries.—Commissioner's proposal to hold one sanctioned. Board of Revenue to submit further definite proposals as to time and arrangements.

For order

Rev^d Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 29th January 1869-
No 391st Read the following
Pro: of the Bd^o of Revenue.
(H.B. 7th Decr/68. No 8581)

The N^o Hon^{ble} the Mem^r in
Council sanctioning
the proposal of the Com^r
of the Neil Herries to
hold an Agri-cultivators
Show in the Hills, and
that they will be glad to receive
his further proposals as
to time and arrange-
ment, through the Bd^o
of Revenue and
that the Mem^r in
Council is also of
opinion that the expe

? horticultural
the Board of
Agri-cultivators

W.M.

A.A.
N.

[Signature]

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superior class of bull for
the purpose of improving
the breed of the Andalus
cattle should ~~also~~ be
undertaken. With advantage
to the remark made in
favor of the B. de P. V.
however Mr. Bicknell
be furnished through
the Bd. of Revenue with
copies of the correspondence
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supplying bulls to the
Ceylon fort, and he will
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himself in communication
with the B. de P. V.

in view to determining
what particular breed
description of bull will
be likely to be the best
adapted for the purpose.
W. H. B. de P. V.

14, Apas to the Bd. of P. V. Dec 29
1 copy - J. Thue for loge

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My dear Mr. [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
[unclear]

Mr. [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]