

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1606

Press
Mis.

216-17

Dated 21-10-1870 N

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No. 216. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th August 1870, No. 5,181:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallum, 13th April 1870, No. 126.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,678, of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to state that foreign tobacco will undoubtedly grow in this district. Mr. Whiteside has for some time been raising some from Ohio and Shiraz seed, and has supplied me with a memorandum (A.) on the experiment, which I enclose, together with two bundles (sent separately) of the cheroots from his first crop by banghy. They are sound, but after all are very like the ordinary Dindigul cheroots, with perhaps slightly more flavour. But it must be remembered that they are not a good sample, because the plants were allowed to grow up to their full height, and were exceedingly luxuriant in growth, some being 4 feet high with leaves $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, and in flower and seed, the result of which gives a much coarser tobacco than when the plants are kept small, and the leaves picked when smaller and younger.

2. I also enclose a memorandum from Dr. Ross (B.) who, by putting down the seed in the very hot weather, managed to get something considerably worse than the country variety, but then, as he says, it shows that the plant will grow under unfavourable circumstances.

3. On the whole, I have no doubt that Havannah tobacco will grow in this country just as it will in Germany; but it does not by any means follow that the result will be Havannah cigars any more than there. It may give a slight improvement on the country variety, but it is exceedingly doubtful whether this would find a market in England. This can only be proved by actual experiment, and the best plan, therefore, undoubtedly is, as mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of the Agri-Horticultural Society circulated, to try foreign seeds of this kind on a large scale, and under various circumstances with regard to time of sowing, mode of culture, soil and manure, amount of irrigation, etc., etc., at the gardens in Madras; and then, when a fair estimate can be made as to the actual market-value of the crop in England, and prices that merchants are actually willing to pay, the culture can be confidently recommended to the natives. But they have no taste for *experimenting*, and I think it may be a mistake to invite them to attempt it until the possibility of success has been fully demonstrated elsewhere, since a failure, through ignorance or mistake, might seriously endanger or retard the introduction of what might otherwise be successful. I should like, however, a small quantity of the Havannah and Manilla seed for distribution to a few who may be expected to give it a fair trial.

4. I may add, for the information of others who are making trials, that the cultivation requires a certain amount of care when the plants are young, as the soil must just be kept moist and nothing more. Mr. Whiteside tells me that covering over the young plants with palm leaves and cocoanut leaves, and watering them, so that the moisture may gradually drip through, is a very successful plan. The soil also should be decidedly rich and superior to the usual class of dry lands. Ants are also very fond of the seed, so that it ought to be sown in boxes or pots raised from the ground.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st October 1870.*

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

A.—Extract of Memorandum from W. S. Whiteside, Esq., C.S.

In the latter part of 1866 Mr. J. D. Sim gave me a few small packets of Ohio and Shiraz tobacco seed, of which I distributed some to ryots in South Arcot, (with what result I never heard,) and some I planted in my own garden at Cuddalore. It grew luxuriantly, and the crop was approaching maturity, when I was unexpectedly ordered to act as Collector in South Canara. I went and never returned to Cuddalore. My servants gathered the tobacco, and reported that it was very fine; but as I did not see any of them for some eight or nine months, the tobacco had all been smoked; at any rate, I never got any of it. I did not know I had any of the seed left till after I came here in September 1868, when, unpacking a box I came upon four packets, two of each kind. I fancied the seed must be quite spoilt by that time, but resolved to give it a trial. I gave two of the packets to Dr. Ross, the Zillah Surgeon here, and two I planted myself. To my surprise, every seed came up. I did not plant the seed till the beginning of January 1869, if I recollect right; at any rate I put it into the ground much too late. It grew magnificently, some of the plants being more than 4 feet high, with very large leaves; but I left Tanjore, when my Court closed in April for the Recess, before the tobacco was fit to cut. I left very strict orders about it this time, and my servants gathered it carefully and stored it in a dark dry place till I came back. I then sent into Trichinopoly for one of the most skilful cheroot-makers, and he came over and pronounced the tobacco to be first rate. The only misfortune was that the two kinds of tobacco leaves had been stupidly mixed by the gardeners when they were drying them. The cheroot-maker made up the tobacco for use, and, putting aside all the inferior leaves, I had enough to put together 1,000 cheroots. These were made up last October. Several persons who have tried them, declare them to be capital, not by any means strong in flavour, and only wanting keeping, to be first rate. I let a good many of the plants run to seed, and the people here who grow tobacco told me that the leaves gathered from such plants make an inferior description of cheroots; so very probably these of mine might have been much better, if more care had been observed in gathering the leaves, keeping the two kinds separate, and so forth. I gave a quantity of the seed to Mr. Brecks, to distribute amongst the Badagas on the Hills, and I have still a little left. I planted some of it in September last year, and reared a very decent little crop. This time I tried to carry out the system observed by the Telugoo tobacco-growers in the Rajahmundry and Godavery Districts, and for which purpose I got a paper of instructions prepared for me by a native up there; but I am inclined to think that the tobacco of this second crop has not been quite of such fine quality as on the former occasion, and the sun seemed to affect it. I noticed that those plants which were screened from the hot afternoon sun grew very luxuriantly and to a great height, while those that were exposed to the sun all day, were almost dwarfed. Whether this had anything to do with the seed used I do not know. I am now collecting the seed, and have gathered a tolerable quantity of each kind; and I have a good quantity of leaves, too, now drying. But this year I have purposely allowed the whole crop to go to seed, as I want to get enough to try an experiment on a more extensive scale next cold weather.

(Signed) W. S. WHITESIDE.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

B.—Extract of Memorandum from J. Ross, Esq., M.B.

EARLY last year Mr. Whiteside was good enough to give me two small packets of seed, one of Ohio, the other of Shiraz tobacco. In March, I think, I sowed these seeds in boxes filled with a moderately rich mould. Though the seed was sown rather thickly, I was not prepared for the very thick crop of seedlings which came up. Many of these, however, soon died down simply from over-crowding, and the survivors having more space, thrived luxuriantly. In due course they were transplanted into ordinary garden-soil, without any special preparation, in rows about 18 inches apart, and when I left this for the Hills in the end of April, every plant was doing well. Some weeks before my return, that is, about the beginning of July, the plants being pronounced ready by a man, who was supposed to understand this part of the process, were cut a few inches from the ground, and then followed the usual process of curing.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st October 1870.*

2. On my return, I found that the cut-stumps had sent forth vigorous shoots, which ultimately attained to the height of 18 inches or 2 feet. From a few plants which had not been cut, I obtained an abundant supply of seed, and this seed was sown about the beginning of last north-east monsoon. It germinated just as freely as the original seed had done, but owing to want of space and the rather unsatisfactory results of my first crop as regards cheroots, I planted out very few of the seedlings.

3. The past season in my garden at least has been very unfavourable in one respect. Every thing suffered severely from the ravages of various species of caterpillars and flies, and my tobacco was no exception. Over and over again every leaflet was stripped to the midrib; then young shoots came up to be eaten in their turn, and yet in spite of all this, so vigorous and full of life were the plants, that in the end they triumphed and shot up to the height of two feet and over; but the effect of this prolonged struggle for existence was to dwarf the leaves, particularly those at the base and to make them coarse, tough, and fibry.

4. The plants, however, flowered and seeded freely, and I have now a small supply of this seed. What with my absence the first year, and the ravages of insects this last season, I am unable to offer any comparison between the two kinds. Ohio and Shiraz both, so far as I can now judge, did equally well.

5. I have already alluded to the results of my first year's experiment as regards the cheroots made from the tobacco. I got a man, trained to the work, from Trichinopoly to manufacture them; but on examination he pooh-poohed the tobacco as worthless, and it required considerable persuasion to make him set to work.

6. For obvious reasons I persisted and watched him carefully while making up 1,000. He said they would smoke badly, show a black ash, and be deficient in flavour. So far as I have tried them, and that, you may suppose, has not been to a great extent, they have fulfilled his prediction in every point. But then he said the bad quality was due to the seed having been sown at a wrong season, to the plants not having been carefully tended, and to the leaves not having been properly cured. And in this matter, also, he is, so far as I know, perfectly right. You will see then from this what my experiment amounts to. It proves that these two kinds of seeds will grow and thrive vigorously under every disadvantage; for could anything be more trying than the hot season in one case, and swarms of insects in the other? And there is nothing in the experiment to show that, under proper conditions and with due care, the tobacco may not ultimately be found equal, if not superior, to any of the native kinds.

7. I shall feel obliged by a small supply of the seeds you mention, more particularly if you can give me any practical directions as to the mode of cultivation, etc.

(Signed) J. ROSS, M.B.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government together with a copy of the Proceedings of the Board, dated 11th March 1870, No. 1,678.

2. The Board considered it right to consult the Superintendent of the Government Farm on the subject of the cultivation of tobacco, as they learned that he had turned his attention to the matter in connection with proposals to introduce the cultivation of tobacco in Ireland. He has favoured them with a memorandum in which he expresses his opinion that "the questions to be investigated are as yet more physiological than agricultural. As agriculturalists we can with ordinary skill grow large crops of tobacco; but we cannot be so sure that the manufactured article will possess a value equal to the cost of its production. It has been ascertained by analysis that the best tobaccos contain very little albumen and nicotine, while the bad smelling and bad tasted tobaccos contain a large quantity of both; thus, Maryland and Havanna tobaccos contain scarcely two per cent. of nicotine, while French and German tobaccos contain as much as eight per cent. The question to be determined is how to grow good tobacco, rather than how to grow

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st October 1870.*

"tobacco? The investigations to be made are too minute for any but those who have been used to such investigations; it would be perfectly useless to turn them over to any other class of men. The experiments had better be conducted by the Committee of the Society themselves, under the advice of an Analytical Chemist, versed in organic chemistry; indeed, such a Chemist as Mr. Broughton, in whose special line the investigation appears to lie."

3. The Board have taken an opportunity of consulting Mr. Broughton on the subject demi-officially, and his opinion is strongly corroborative of Mr. Robertson's. He points out that the cultivation of tobacco is a scientific pursuit in France, under the management of a Chemical Director, and further kindly expresses his willingness to undertake the requisite analysis and experiments here, if the Government will authorize him to do so.

4. The Board attach much importance to the whole question, but consider it obvious that scientific analysis and carefully managed experiments must precede any further attempts to improve tobacco; and accordingly request Government to place Mr. Broughton in communication with the Farm Committee and Mr. Robertson with this view.

5. The Board would then procure a carefully prepared sample of the best indigenous tobacco for analysis by Mr. Broughton, and would request the Superintendent of the Farm to undertake experiments in the cultivation of indigenous and exotic kinds in communication with him, in order that he may have an opportunity of testing the produce raised under different conditions of cultivation, and cut at different stages of its growth, so as to secure a thorough examination of the whole subject.

No. 217. ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1870, No. 1,606.

Miscellaneous.

The proceedings of the Board are approved. The Board should forward samples of the best indigenous tobacco

which can be procured to Mr. Broughton for chemical analysis, and that gentleman will be requested to undertake the required experiment.

2. The experimental culture of tobacco at the Government Farm should be commenced as proposed, and the Government will receive with interest an account of the result attained.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Government Quinologist.

„ the Honorary Secretary, Government Farm.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman

Res 1870. *21/10/71*
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS. *21/7/71*

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH AUGUST 1870, No. 5,181.

21/10/71
Received — *16* — Encl.

AUGUST 4.

No. 5,181,

Foreign tobacco—Letter from Collector of Tanjore stating that foreign tobacco will grow in District and forwarding two Memoranda on its experimental cultivation by Mr Whiteside and Doctor Ros., submitted to Government, with request to place Government Quinologist in communication with Farm Committee and Superintendent of Farm with a view to scientific analysis of indigenous tobacco and experiments in its cultivation being undertaken.

State 1806-51 Oct-1870

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

21/10/71

Govt. of 1870, *MADRAS.*

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Ac., Ac., Ac.

Dated October, 21st.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 21st October 1870, No. 1,606.

21/10/71

OCTOBER.

Nos. 216-217.

Cultivation of foreign tobacco in Tanjore District.—Proceedings Board of Revenue in connection with it, approved. Board to forward samples of the best indigenous tobacco for analysis to Mr. Broughton and the experimental cultivation of tobacco at the Government Farm, ordered to be commenced.

Report to Govt 21/10/71

Revenue Department

#1606

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 21st Oct 1870

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Submitting letter from
Collector of Tanjore stating that
foreign tobacco will grow in
District, and forwarding two
Memoranda on its experimental
cultivation by Mr. Whiteside
and Mr. Ross.

(H. L. 5th Aug 1870 No. 5181.)

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The Proceedings of
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The Board ^{should} ~~are requested~~
to forward samples of
the best indigenous
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and

and that gentleman.
will be requested to
undertake the required
experiment.

2. The Culture of
tobacco at the Govern-
ment Farm should

be commenced as soon
as possible, the Govt.
will receive with
interest an account of
the results attained.

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1- " Port Quinologist V
6- " Port 4 Secy Govt Farm V