

No. 54. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madura, 14th June 1871, No. 813 :—

2. As far as I can understand the matter the following are the reasons on which the decree against the Government has been based by the District Moonsiff, by whom the case was tried :—

2nd.—That there is no document or evidence to prove that advances had been made to the contractors.

4th.—That as Mr. Colquhoun illegally and without proper authority detained the payments due to Nina Pillay, he should pay from his own pocket the interest on the amount at twelve per cent., and the whole expenses of the suit, amounting in all to Rs. 283-12-8.

4. Of the abstract law of the decision, however, there can be little doubt. For the accompanying extract from the transfer certificate of the late Mr. Roberts and of Mr. Colquhoun, when the former handed over to the latter the charge of No. 1 Range, Tinnevely, shows that in the accounts rendered for sums entered as "paid" for "materials brought to site," and certified accordingly, there was the following discrepancy, representing a deficit of—

	RS.
--	-----

Total... 4,270

5. Had a copy of this transfer certificate been supplied to this Office, as it ought to have been, the Officiating Superintending Engineer could never have

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th July 1871.*

recommended, as he did, that the Government should grant authority to defend the suit under reference, as the Range Officer had distinctly certified that the articles found missing by his successor had been *bona fide* received, and he had thus made himself personally responsible for any deficit that might be discovered on his handing over charge of the range.

6. The sum of Rs. 589-12-4 having already been debited to road No. 11, and the money then expended by Mr. Colquhoun on the Nullamalai Odai Bridge, a fresh appropriation will have to be made to meet this payment, and I am unable to indicate a source from which it can be done.

7. I understand that Mr. Colquhoun filed a suit against Nina Pillay to recover the further amount, viz., Rs. 696-7-8, which, in paragraph 7 of Captain Prendergast's letter, is stated to be due by the Pillay. No authority for the institution of this suit is conveyed in the G. O. of 6th November 1869, nor was any permission subsequently given by the Government or Superintending Engineer as far as I can learn.

8. This suit was dismissed by the District Moonsiff.

9. The costs in defending the suits filed by Nina Pillay, and charged to Government, amount to Rs. 45-14-0. The costs of the second suit, filed by Mr. Colquhoun, amount to Rs. 144-15-3. Thus, the amount already debited to Government for the expenses of the two suits is Rs. 190-13-3.

10. As payment in satisfaction of the Moonsiff's Decree will be called for at an early date, I request the favour of instructions, or an allotment for the amount of Rs. 589-12-4.

11. I may mention, in conclusion, that Suit No. 354, alluded to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Captain Prendergast's letter, embodied in the G. O. under notice, was decided in favour of Government.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department, the suits having been instituted for the settlement of claims in connection with roads. It will be observed that Mr. Colquhoun had no authority to file the suit against Nina Pillay.

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,

19th June 1871.

Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 55.

ORDER THEREON, 6th July 1871, No. 1,103.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the Collector of Tinnevely be requested to procure and submit copies of the decrees in the two

suits which went against the Government or its officers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department,
... the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th July 1871.*

No. 56. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, (Agriculture and Horticulture,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 23rd June 1871, No. 3.

I AM directed to forward herewith copy of a memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Boddam, relative to a forage plant called Sorgo, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, you will be good enough to state whether the plant has ever been grown in the Madras Presidency, and if so, with what success.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
6th July 1871.

No. 57.

No. 1,166.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Forests, No. 2.

SIR,—In reply to your No. 3 of
23rd June, instant, I have the honour
to inform you that the millet "Sorgo"

(*Sorghum saccharatum*) was introduced into this Presidency by Dr. Balfour, the
present Head of the Indian Medical Department, from a few seeds obtained from
China as far back as 1858. Since that, seed has been imported by the Madras
Agri-Horticultural Society, who last year sent a quantity of it to the Mysore
Government, from which quarter no doubt Colonel Boddam got what he has been
experimenting with.

2. An interesting report on its culture at the Sydapet Government Farm
near Madras is given (paragraphs 67—78) in the Superintendent's narrative for the
last official year, printed extract from which accompanies.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

A NEW FORAGE PLANT FOR DRY AND WET CULTIVATION—SORGO
(SORGHUM SACCHARATUM).

Northern Chinese Sugar-Cane.

This remarkable plant is a native of the north of China. Its giant growth, and its beautiful and graceful appearance and refreshing greenness in the driest season, and the expectation of finding in it a rival to sugar-beet, induced the French Consul at Shanghai to send some sorgo seed to his Government. In 1854 Mr. Browne, Agent of the United States Patent Office, took to America some French seed, which was distributed by the Government. The plant was cultivated by a few farmers, but it received little attention until an ex-Governor of South Carolina reported the results of his trials to a farmer's club, which brought sorgo into notice. Since 1855 its cultivation has steadily increased, and it is now one of the great crops of the country. It is grown in France and Algeria for alcohol chiefly, and in America for seed, forage, sugar, syrup, alcohol, vinegar, and beer. In the ten North-Western States, where it flourishes, there were, in 1864, 366,670 acres of sorgo, and sorgo sugar was selling at Chicago at 4½¢. per lb. But, for sugar, sorgo has turned out a failure. Its great merit as a forage plant is its principal recommendation, and on this point an official report of the United States Agricultural Department, has declared that the *value of sorgo for feeding stock, cannot be surpassed by any other crop, as a greater amount of nutritious fodder can be obtained by it in a shorter time within a given space, and more cheaply.* While grass yields a ton, or a ton and a half of hay, sorgo will yield from two tons to nine tons of dry fodder. Sorgo (*Lootsoh*) flourishes wherever Indian corn flourishes. The seed is sown in rows, and the young plants are watered with liquid manure as soon as they appear, and in three or four days watering is repeated night and morning if the weather is dry. They are pricked out, when six inches high, in rows three feet wide and six inches from plant to plant, and are again watered with liquid manure when a foot high. Weeds are kept down by hoeing until the cane matures, about November.

The crop begins to come to market, however, early in September, or as soon as the stalks are sufficiently sweet for chewing. A Chinese laborer earning 10¢. a day can cultivate about two acres during the six months that the crop needs his labor.

In America it is found that sorgo can be successfully grown on all lands where a fair crop of Indian corn can be grown. Deep, loose, warm soil, even of poor quality, produce the sweetest and most juicy stalks. Irrigation is recommended, but can seldom be attained in the United States. In deep black loam sorgo reaches a height of 16 feet or

American culture.

18 feet; what will it not do on our future sewage farms? The juice of the giant growth is not so sweet, nor is it easily crystallized. The seed should be soaked 24 hours in tepid water, in which one ounce of saltpetre is dissolved to every six gallons. It is then dusted with gypsum, and drilled two feet apart and 20 seeds per foot (for forage). In seven or eight days a horse sub-soil plough is put between the rows, up one side down the other. This cultivation is repeated as the crop advances, but the plants must not be earthed up. The upper roots spring from the stalk above the ground, and they must be left exposed. The first cutting may be made as soon as the crop is large enough for stock, and in ordinary seasons two others will follow. To dry the crop it should be set up in shocks, and the shock built with precautions for ventilation. One man with a sub-soil plough can cultivate ten acres.

"Directions for growing sorgo as forage."

Plough the land well and deeply; apply a liberal supply of stable manure, six to seven tons per acre; if available, plough this in crosswise to the lines of the first ploughing, harrow and level, then sow the seed in drills, 26 inches apart, 20 seed per foot. In seven or eight days put a bullock hoe or cultivator between

Proposed method for Mysore.

the rows, up one side and down the other, or hoe the rows by hand. Continue this cultivation as the crop advances, but in no case earth up the plant stems, as they send out roots above ground which must be left exposed. The first cutting will be made when the stalk is near three feet high. The plant will afterwards send out side shoots for a second and third cutting. To dry the crop it should be set up in shocks, and the shocks built with precautions for ventilation—as dry cultivation sow sorgo in the beginning of the monsoon, as wet cultivation in October. In an uncertain climate like Mysore the benefit of deep ploughing will be apparent in seasons of scanty rain-fall. The roots of the plants will be able to go down deep for moisture and nourishment, instead of withering near the surface. Though plenty of manure is recommended, sorgo will do fairly without much manure. The more manure the heavier the crop.

BANGALORE; } E. BODDAM, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
The 22nd May 1871. } *On special duty.*

Dated Simla, the 1st June 1871.

Endorsed by the Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

TRANSFERRED for disposal to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department for Agricultural Department.

To, 2903, dated Simla, the 13th June 1871.
Endorsed by the Home Department.

TRANSFERRED for disposal to the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

No. 3.

FROM

A. O. HUME, Esq., C. B.,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF *Madras.*

Dept. of Agriculture,
Revenue, and Commerce
(Agriculture and Horticulture.)

SIMLA, the 1st June 1871.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward herewith copy of a memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Boddam, relative to a forage plant called Sorgo, and to request that, with the permission of *His Excellency the Govt. in Council* you will be good enough to state whether the plant has ever been grown in *the Madras Presidency* and if so, with what success.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. O. Hume

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Revenue - 1000 kept

A. 2000.

Spent

the cost of the
plot of land in
Cynical land

Revenue
A. 2000.

C-1. 2000. 2000. 2000.

Revenue of

Revenue of

Revenue of

Revenue of

Revenue of

Revenue of

Extract from the Transfer Certificate
of Mr. Roberts and Mr. Colquhoun
on the 27 January 1869.

27 That Estimate of Bridge across
Kalla Mulla Sdai differs with
work done and is likely to be
exceeded by Rupees 13,500. Vide Com-
parative Statement.

That a deficit of material
to the extent of Rupees 4270 exists
as specified below, of which Rupees
1900 have been recovered.

350000 bricks	Rs. 2500
1180. 1000 stone	1770
	Rupees - 4270

That the accounts rendered
the above sums are entered as
"paid" for "material brought to site"
and certified accordingly.

/Signed/ A. Colquhoun
Sub Engineer

/Signed/ H. Roberts
Asst. Engineer D.P.W.
Palampur
27 January 1869
/Signed/ J. J. J. J.

True Extract

Signed / W. M. Muddall
Executive Engineer

True Copy of a copy

Richd. Roberts Lieut. Col. R.E.
Ag. Superintg. Engineer S.D.

Madras
14 June 1874

No. 813

Madison
16th June 1871

Dear Sir,

Recd. of Mr. R. A. Roberts Esq.
by Deputy Engineer 18th June
Recd. of Mr. R. A. Roberts Esq.
claiming to Government
P. S. N.

Sir,

Enclosure

When the time to report the
a claim for money has been given
against Government and the suit filed
against the Government & for the defence
of which permission was granted in
U. C. 3518 dated the 16th November 1869
as far as I can understand the
matter, the following are the reasons
on which the claim against the Gov-
ernment has been based by the District
Judge, by whom the case was tried
1st. That in the purchase executed
the Contractor & given to the late

Enclosed find letter
from the Deputy Engineer
to the District
Judge to Government
to call date 17th June
1871. No. 813.

Rev. Mr. 1966 of 1871

Rev. Mr. 2777/11

Contract of
Steamer West-
Africa

1866-1871 B. D. 1871
57

1. That the whole formerly in charge of La 1
Range & produced in court, nothing is
mentioned about advances, but that
on the contrary payments are to be
made by instalments as work is actually
executed.

2. That there is no document or
evidence to prove that advances had
been made to the contractors.

3. That the contractors' Bills & the
certificates attached to them clearly
show that the payments were made
for "materials at site" & for work
executed & measured by this Report
- made, & therefore that it was too
late after this to say that the
materials mentioned in these bills
& paid for, had not been delivered
& in consequence that the attempt to

recover money from the contractor on
account of these materials being sub-
sequently found to be deficient in
quantity was illegal.

4. That as Mr. Colquhoun illegally
& without proper authority detained
the payments due to Sirra Village, he
should pay from his own pocket the
interest on the amount, at four per
cent, & the whole expenses of the
suit, amounting in all to Rs. 282-12-8.

5. In connection with this suit it
appears to me to be necessary to bring
to the notice of Government that by
Government orders dated 7th February 1860
A.D. 126, all suits against Government
are to be tried by the Civil Court, &
therefore that the case under notice
ought to have been transferred from

the transcripts to the higher court.
b. Of the abstract law of the decision,
however, there can be little doubt. For
the accompanying extract from the
transfer certificate of the late Mr. Roberts
& of the Redguburn, when the former
handed over to the latter the charge of
the Range. Similarly, shows that in
the accounts rendered, for sums entered
as "paid" for "materials brought to site,"
& certified accordingly, there was the
following discrepancy; representing a deficit of

Rs. 25,000	Brickwork at Rs. 2.50	6250
1150	Cyards of stone	1770
		<hr/>
		Rs. 4270

Of this amount, a sum of Rs. 1910
was, however, recovered in addition to
Rs. 483 1/4 for 332 1/2 Cyards of stone
subsequently delivered, thus reducing the
putative deficit to Rs. 1886 1/4.

19
5. Had a copy of this transfer certificate
been supplied to this office, as it ought
to have been, the offg. Superintending Engineer
could more have recommended, as
he did, that the Government should
grant authority to defend the suit under
reference, as the Range Officer had distinctly
certified that the articles found
missing by his successor had been bona
fide received & he had thus made
himself personally responsible for any
deficit that might be discovered, on
his handing over charge of the Range.
6. The sum of Rs. 289 12 1/2 having
already been debited to Road Ac. 11,
the money then expended by Mr.
Redguburn on the Bullamalai Old
Bridge, a fresh appropriation will
have to be made to meet this pay-
ment & I am unable to indicate

(a source from which it can be done.

47. I understand that Mr. Colquhoun
has filed a suit against Tina Pillay to
recover the further amount vizt Rs
166 7-8, which in para 7 of Captain
Brundage's letter is stated to be
due by the Pillay. No authority for
the institution of this suit is conveyed
in the G. O. of 1st November 1869, nor
was any permission subsequently given
by the Government, or Superintending
Engineer, as far as I can learn.

8. This suit was dismissed by the District Court.

9. The costs in defending the suits
filed by Ninar Pillay & charged to
Government amount to Rs. 45. 11. 0.
The costs of the second suit filed by
Mr. Solgenkoun amount to Rs. 15. 15. 3.

1890

And the amount already paid to
Government for the expenses of the 3
suits is Rs 190 13 3.

10. As payment in satisfaction of
the Wrensight's Deer will be called for ^{later}
at an early date, I request the favor of
instructions, or an allotment for the
amount of \$ 589-12-14.

11. I may mention in conclusion that
suit No. 354 alluded to in Paras 243
of Captain Pendragast's letter embodied
in the U. C. under notice was decided ^{for}
in favor of Government. ^{to}
^{is}

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

Wm. H. R. R.
 Acting Superintendent Engineer
 8th Division

Revenue Dept.

No 1165

Pros of the Madras Govt
Under date the 6th July 1891.

Read the following
letter from the Dy. Secy. Engg.
8-2nd

Reporting the result of the
Suits authorized to be defended
at the public expense in G.O.
No 3568 dated 6th Novr 1869, &
requesting instructions on the
subject.

N. L. 14 June 1891, No 813

Ordered that the Collector
of Tinnevely be requested to
procure and submit copies
of the Decrees in the two
suits which went against
the Govt or its officers.

21 To the Dy. Secy. Engg.
14 - As of Rev. 1

Sd/-

By Mr. Secretary to Govt.

100/100

Transferred to

The Revenue Dept.

present, the suits

having been initiated

for the settlement of

claims in connection

with (Docks). It will be

observed that the Government

intended to give the suit

against the Government

192/100/100

21-10-1891

of No 2797/813

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

100/100/100

Man
at Dept 7

No 1166

To Secy. Govt of India

Agricultural Dept

Sir
In reply to No 3 of 23rd
June instant, I have the honor
to inform you that the millet
"Sorgo" (*Sorghum Sacchara* Linn)
was introduced into this Presy
by Mr Balfour, the present Secy
of the Indian Medical Dept, from
a few seeds obtained from China
~~as far back as 1858.~~
Since that, it has been improved
by the Madras Agri Horticultural
Society, who last year sent a
quantity of it to the Secy Govt
from whom of course Colonel
Boddams got what he has been
experimenting with.

2. An interesting report on its
culture at the Hyderabad Govt Farm
near Madras is given paras 67-70
in the Secy's narrative for the last
official year, printed extract
from it accompanies.

6th July 1877

Jy-30/77

No 54-55

2

To Foot of
Regarding plant
called Pongol

Foot of