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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
22nd September 1871.

No. 304. Read the following MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,
dated Ootacamund, 7th September 1871.

THE Government possess, in the Superintendent of the Experimental and Model Farms at Sydapet, an experienced and discriminating Agriculturist, whose services they are about to employ on a large scale in the improvement of husbandry throughout the country. The scheme for the institution of provincial farms, which the Government have sanctioned, has reference to cultivation in the plains, and with reason, for the plains have the first claim on our attention. The hill ranges of the Presidency do, however, also offer a legitimate subject of inquiry in this respect, and the Nilgiris, as the seat of the Government Sanitarium, of an increasing planting interest, of an independent English population, of large establishments for the support and education of English and East Indian youths, and of a Native population embodying a cultivating and a pastoral tribe, would justify a special investigation. With this view I would direct Mr. Robertson to proceed to Ootacamund, when he can best be spared from his employments at the Presidency, for the purpose of reporting to Government on the productive capacities of the district, and I would direct his attention to the following points in particular, but not limiting him to these:—

(1.) To the capabilities of the hills for the purposes of breeding horses, horned cattle, and sheep.

(2.) To the facilities which these hills may afford for the institution of small farms on the European system, worked in part, at least, by European labour.

(3.) To the improvement of the husbandry of the hill-people.

II. It may be doubted whether the Nilgiri Hills would ever be well adapted for breeding horses cheaply of a superior quality, such as are demanded for the Army. Horses would not be able to run out with safety in all parts of the plateau during the whole year; they would require protection at night, artificial fodder, and skilled superintendence. Good stock might, no doubt, be bred by private parties as a matter of taste, but it may be doubted whether Government would find such an undertaking profitable. Nevertheless, the question of horse-breeding on the hills is one which may deserve to be examined by a person more competent to decide it than I pretend to be.

III. The horned cattle of the hills are either a degenerate sort of Native cattle, or a cross between the European and the Native breeds. The latter does well; but I question whether the proper European races have been selected. The European blood has generally been imported from Australia, and I suspect that the English short-horn is usually the parent of the Australian stock. No one would, however, in Great Britain turn out the short-horn stock at a high elevation in a moist climate. It has always appeared to me that the West Highland breed might prove to be well adapted to these hills, either as a pure stock or crossed with the country cattle. They would ascend the highest steep, stand very stormy weather, consume a rough description of herbage when there is grass on the ground, and be satisfied with a coarse sort of hay, under the simplest cover during the great heats, and the heavy stress of the monsoon. Mr. Robertson would, however, on a careful inspection of the grasses of the country and of the existing sorts of cattle, Native or

crossed, and on due consideration of the temperature and rain-fall, be able to decide whether an improvement in the breed of cattle on these hills is to be sought in selection or importation. The depôt at Wellington and the markets of Coonoor and Ootacamund offer a steady demand for beef, which is at present supplied, in a great measure, from the plains, though the pastures of the plateau would appear to be capable of supporting more numerous herds than are driven over them at the present moment.

IV. A far greater boon to these hills than a good breed of cattle would be an appropriate breed of sheep; for, in addition to the meat-supply, there would be wool for which a ready sale would be obtained in the country. The Native sheep of the adjacent plains in the Coimbatore District would be too delicate to run out on these mountains all the year round, and the crosses which have been, up to the present time, effected with European breeds have not, in my opinion, been judicious. There is little use in attempting to raise a mountain-breed of sheep by crossing the Native stock with the Leicester, the Southdown, or the Merino races; far less by turning out these breeds in the pure state under an uncongenial sky and on pastures altogether repugnant to their habits. What is wanted here is a breed of sheep inured to high elevations, steep ground, rough weather, a heavy rain-fall, wet soil, and coarse grasses. The habits and qualities appropriate to the Nilgiris would be found in the Cheviot and black-faced breeds used on the borders of England and Scotland, which are hardy, and which yield good mutton and a heavy clip of useful wool. That sheep should be profitable here. It is indispensable that they should be able to run out the whole year in all weathers; that they should never require artificial shelter or artificial food, though it would be necessary to fold them at night for protection against the attacks of wild beasts. If any sheep would stand such hardships it would be the black-faced Scotch sheep. I do not affirm that they could do so, but it might possibly be worth trying, and no one would be more capable of giving an opinion on the expediency of making the experiment than Mr. Robertson, after local inspection and consultation with the Commissioner and with experienced residents on the hills.

V. Some discussion has occurred from time to time respecting the possibility of appropriating portions of the Nilgiri Hills for the purpose of establishing European agricultural settlers; for the purpose, in fact, of creating a self-supporting English rural population. On a first view of the plateau such an undertaking might seem promising to an inexperienced eye. The climate is fine for a large portion of the year; the temperature is congenial to the European constitution; the soil is rich; there are apparently large tracts of unappropriated ground; there is a market; these are conditions favourable to the production of cereal crops, garden-crops, fruits and valuable commodities for exportation, such as tea and coffee; there is a friendly and fostering authority. A close inspection and analysis, however, tend materially to qualify such favourable expectations. Much of the good land on the warm side of the hills is subject to the rights of native cultivators; the cost of building is excessive; the price of labour is high; clothing is dear; medical attendance and education would be costly and difficult of access; the sale of grain-crops, fruits, and vegetables would offer little money-remuneration compared to the wants even of a humble European family; the returns of tea and coffee-culture

are slow and liable to great fluctuations. A poor man would find it difficult to establish and maintain himself; a richer man would prefer to go elsewhere. My own impressions are decidedly unfavourable to the hills as a scene of agricultural settlement for Englishmen; but I think that it would tend to the correction of erroneous impressions and to the formation of sound opinions that this question should be illustrated by the report of a person of unquestionable judgment and practical knowledge in such matters. The formation even of a limited-working and self-supporting English community on these hills, if it could be effected under favourable conditions, would not be without importance either in a commercial or political point of view; and the basis for such a community might be found, in part, in the Male and Female Military Orphan Asylums, which are about to be permanently established on the Nilgiris. There is the land, and there are the people; the question is whether they could be made to suit each other.

VI. The cultivation now practised by the Badagas displays a considerable variety of small cereals adapted to the climate and the soil, an increasing application of manure, and more care and neatness in the weeding of the crop than is usual in the plains. It may be doubted whether a greater weight of grain or a greater amount of human sustenance would be raised by the substitution of European seeds or crops on a given area than that which is now obtained. The poverty of the cattle betrays, however, the want of root-crops, artificial grasses, and green crops. The same defect is apparent from the deficiency of hay in the market of Ootacamund. The system of grain-cultivation is associated with long fallows. The principle of rotation or substitution of crops is imperfectly practised. Without entertaining any very enthusiastic hopes of a rapid improvement of Native cultivation under European impulse on the hills, it can scarcely be doubted that, under the existing revenue agencies, useful innovations might be gradually promoted, and the suggestions of Mr. Robertson would not be without value to the Commissioner.

Should the Government see fit to adopt the step here proposed, and sanction an investigation of the agricultural condition and prospects of the Nilgiris by the Superintendent of Government Farms, we should then be able to judge whether a Government undertaking, either for breeding stock or for the improvement of cultivation by example would be justifiable. Any attempts in these directions, which we might make, would never be of broad utility to the general population of the country, who are placed in circumstances radically different; but we have a duty to our own countrymen who have been cast, by necessity or choice, on this portion of English territory, and we possess in the Lawrence Asylum, in its labour, power, and in the land attached to it, the elements and means of experimental culture.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 305.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd September 1871, No. 1,658.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government have recently resolved on the establishment of three experimental farms under Mr. Robertson's superintendence in the low country for the improvement of agriculture, and,

in furtherance of the same object, they deem it expedient that Mr. Robertson should proceed to the Nilgiris, when his duties elsewhere will best permit, and place himself in communication with the Commissioner, in view to instituting such extended inquiries as will enable him to report to Government fully on the agricultural condition, capabilities, and prospects of the hill-district, especially in regard to the breeding of horses, cattle, and sheep; to the facilities for establishing small farms on the European system, worked in part, at least, by European labour; and to the improvement of the husbandry of the hill-people.

2. His attention should also be directed to the planting operations already undertaken there by private individuals in connection with tea, coffee, and cinchona, and to the comparative profitableness of such enterprises in the special locality and circumstances of market, labour-supply, and capital employed, or available for employment, as contrasted with the prospects of farming on the system followed in Great Britain.

3. The Commissioner will afford Mr. Robertson all the assistance in his power in prosecuting his inquiries, and will put him in the way of obtaining all available information on former experiments in hill-farming.

4. The Government believe that Mr. Rohde went to considerable expense in rearing cattle on the hills, and that Colonel Morgan has done the same in regard to sheep, while Mr. Phillips at Kotagiri devoted much attention to the same subject. The Missionaries at Kaity have also, it is believed, tried agriculture in a systematic way, and on a comparatively extended scale. Mr. Robertson may doubtless derive valuable information from these quarters, and it is possible that the records of the Kartairy experiment may furnish something useful, as also those of the tea-experiment under Mr. Rae.

5. The Minute of His Excellency the President indicates, in considerable detail, the points on which the Government desire to receive Mr. Robertson's opinion and advice. They leave it to him to bring forward any other matters connected with the subject on which he may wish to submit his views. He will forward his report through the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R. E.,

Offg. Joint-Secy., P.W.D.,
for Secy. to Govt.

To Mr. W. R. Robertson, Superintendent Government Experimental Farm.
,, the Honorary Secretary to the Government Experimental Farm.
,, the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

The investigation of
his Lordship can be made
with at difficulty or in
by Mr. Robertson - but the
his enquiry & report should
be extended - and should
be all-important question
in point of profitability -
such as that of English
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can compare with tea &
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Small trade - potato. raising & producing.
their labor being their only capital.
4. The Book of - scattered about the hills
in their own villages. raising enough for
their own wants. & without sale of capital
or education.

Subsisting there free that we
do ~~not~~ in exhibiting are embraced
by them of agriculture & do not per-
ceive by whom the example is to be
followed - the European, if he has the
capital for free tea & coffee - the
native has not the capital and
makes a sufficiently comfortable living
in his own way.

I have ^{heard} the market for ~~much~~ ^{farmer}

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production is very limited, & the
expense of carrying ^{such} produce to a
market elsewhere is ruinous. During
a few months of the year the hill stations
are crowded with visitors from the
plain, & prices of such as rice - but
even now, very poor beef & mutton
are procurable in the market for
six pence in the pound - better beef
than the one procurable from a
small English farm for 1/4 lb. the best
beef alone at this price are to be found.
That raising such meat does not pay.

the present position - and for more fully
show the real interests of the people of
the country and a small English com-
munity are entrusted.

R.S. 8th Sept 71
His Majesty should be directed to
Sanction when he can obtain infor-
mation of what has been tried by different
farmers in the hills. Mr. Ashde expended
much money on cattle - and many on
sheep on the plain. His Majesty has
been tried agriculture - the history of
one point for experiment in culture - Ex: fr.
the hortatory point - which also be in-
struction.



Minutes by His Excellency
The President

The Government possess in
the Superintendent of the
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I agree in the
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9th Sept 71
A.A.
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first claim on our attention.
The Hill ranges of the
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II.

It may be doubted whether the Neilgherry Hills would ever be well adapted for breeding horses cheaply, of a superior quality, such as are demanded for the Army. Horses would not be able to run out with safety in all parts of the plateau during the whole year, they would require protection at night, artificial fodder, and skilled superintendence. Good stock might, no doubt, be bred by private parties as a matter of taste, but it may be doubted whether Government would find such an undertaking profitable. Nevertheless the question of horse breeding on the Hills is one which may deserve to be examined by a person more competent to decide of than I pretend to be.



III.

The horned cattle of the hills are either a degenerate sort of native cattle or a cross between the European and the native breeds. The latter does well, but I question whether the proper European races have been selected. The European blood has generally been imported from Australia, and I suspect that the English Short horn is usually the parent of the Australian Stock. No one would however, in Great Britain, turn out the Short horn Stock at a high elevation in a moist climate. It has always appeared to me that the West Highland breed might prove to be well adapted to these hills either as a pure stock or crossed with the country cattle. They would

ascend the highest steep,
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after local inspection and
consultation ^{with the Commission} with the experienced
residents on the hills.

V. Some discussion has occurred
from time to time respecting
the possibility of appropriating
portions of the Neilgherry hills
for the purpose of establishing

European Agricultural Settlers,
for the purpose in fact of
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English rural population. On
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such an undertaking might
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the sale of grain crops, fruits
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and to the formation of sound
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be illustrated by the report of
a person of unquestionable
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Community on these hills, if
it could be effected under
favorable conditions would
not be without importance
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political point of view and
the basis for such a Community
might be found in part in
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on the Neilgherries. There is
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The cultivation now practised
by the Badagas displays

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A considerable variety of
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grasses, and green crops. The
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the deficiency of hay in the
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The principle of rotation or
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European impulse on the hills,
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Should the Government see
fit to adopt the step here
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investigation of the Agricultural
Condition and Prospects of
the Neilgherries by the Superintendent
of Government Farms, we
should then be able to judge
whether a Government Undertaking
either for breeding Stock or
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make would never be of broad
utility to the general population
of the Country who are placed in
circumstances radically different
but we have a duty to our
Countrymen who have been
cast by necessity or choice
on this portion of English territory
and we propose in the Lawrence
Asylum, in its labour home
and in the land attached to
it, the elements and means
of experimental culture.

N. J. P.

Ottaviano. Sept. 9th
1871.

Resnue 1871 Dep't
No 3046

Minute by Mr. The
President. -

Agriculture on the
hill farms.

Dated 7th Sept 1871.
Recd. 21

S.O. 1658. 22 September 1871

No 1658-
22 Sept 71

Read the following.

Minute by Mr. The
President.

of the following.

of the following.

of the following.

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of the following.

of the following.

of the following.

of the following.

of the following.

of the following.

S. O. S.

N.

At

A/A

I report to you fully on
the agricultural condition
capabilities & prospects
of the Hill district. especially
in regard to the breeding of
Horses. Cattle & Sheep.
to facilities for establishing
small farms on the European
system worked in part at
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in connection with the
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of such enterprises in the
special locality & circumstances
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capital employed or available
for employment as

may not these diverse
valuable informations from
the quarters. and it is
possible that the records
of the Kentucky Government
may furnish something
useful. as also those of
the Maryland Government and
of the State of Ohio.
The Committee of the
President will take in
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Report in the first
document received. The
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1. The Court
 of the Virginia
 for the purpose
 of the Court
 of the Court
 of the Court

[Handwritten signature]

To Mr. W. O. P. Roberts

The Honorable Secy
U. S. Comptroller Genl
Washington D C

On 10 Oct

connected to the
purpose of forming
an system for
in fact the same.

He found Sir Alfred
R. Johnston at the
assistance in his former
in procuring his inquiries
and Sir put him in the
way of obtaining all
available information
on former experiments
in silk farming.

He also learned that
H. de la Roche had
expressed a desire
to go on the Nile and
at J. Morgan had met
the same in regard to
silk. Sir W. Phillips
at Kottigini wrote
much attention to the
same subject. The
Gleaners at Cairo
have also it is believed
been successful in a
systematic way for an
experimental purpose.
W. Johnston

Experimental Farm
in the Nile region

No 304-305

C. 20. 21st Sept. 1911.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd September 1871.*

No. 306. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th September 1871, No. 3,880 :—

Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 23rd August 1871, No. 101.

It has been brought to my notice to-day, while preparing my Settlement Report for 1870-71, that my letter No. 15 of 21st February 1871, regarding certain arrears of assessment due by certain planters, was, by an oversight, addressed to the Revenue Secretary to Government instead of to the Board.

2. I now forward you copy of the letter and a list of the arrears, and would be obliged for early orders as to whether I am to carry these arrears still longer on my books, or write them off, or collect them.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 21st February 1871, No. 15.

I HAVE the honour to call the attention of Government to paragraph 6 of their Order of 2nd October 1869, No. 2,704, on the subject of remission of arrears of assessment applied for by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. on behalf of the Carnatic Coffee Company. I send herewith a further letter from those gentlemen on this matter.

2. It is possible that the Board of Revenue have replied to Government Order No. 2,526 of 7th September 1869 by this time; if so, I shall be glad to receive the reply, and to be able to pass early orders on the whole question of relief to be afforded to the Nilgiri planters.

3. The enclosed statement of outstandings will show that the collection of large sums of money is held in abeyance, pending such orders.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Messrs. A. MACKENZIE AND J. S. ROBERTS, Liquidators, Carnatic Coffee Company, (Limited), to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, dated Madras, 17th February 1871.

We are in receipt of your letter dated 15th instant, applying for payment of arrears of assessment and survey and demarcation charges on Prospect land.

2. We beg to remind you that the matter is still under consideration of Government; at least, if settled, no notice has been sent us to that effect.

3. You will no doubt remember that on 16th January 1869 Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. applied to Government for sundry concessions, and further for an entire relief from assessment until the plantation should come into bearing.

4. Orders were passed in regard to the concessions asked for; but as to the prayer for relief, Government passed an order on 2nd October 1869, as follows :—

“Before deciding on the third request preferred by Messrs Arbuthnot & Co., the Government desire to receive the Board's reply to Government Order under date the 7th instant, No. 2,526.”

5. We do not know what further has occurred, but we have received no intimation that our application for relief has been refused.

6. Under these circumstances, may we ask you kindly to give the subject your attention, and, if necessary, have an order passed on our application.

7. We shall be glad to see the matter finally disposed of in our favour.

Govt. of 1871

REVENUE.

To Mr. W. R. ROBERTSON,

SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT

EXPERIMENTAL FARM,

Ac., &c., &c.

Dated September 22nd.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 22nd September 1871, No. 1,658.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 304-305.

*Experimental Farms on the Nilgiris.—
Resolution of Madras Government on the institu-
tion of small — on the European system.*

*In copy
To the
The remarks
to the Honorable Mr. Secy
The Honorable Mr. Secy
Arbuthnot are all right
not to be brought
in the hands of
No.*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd September 1871.*

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Statement of Outstanding of Revenue.

Names of defaulters.	Period for which in arrears.	Amount.	Remarks.
		RS. A. P.	
Captain Jennings	Fusly 1279	150 0 9	
Mr. Phillips	Fuslies 1274, 1275, and 1276	3,742 0 3	
Messrs. Money, Melvor, and Wan- chope	Fusly 1279	1,387 8 10	
Carnatic Coffee Company	Fuslies 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279	1,721 10 11	
Mr. Findlay	Fuslies 1274, 1275, and 1276	500 5 11	
Mr. A. L. Brown	Fuslies from part of 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276 to 1277 and 1279	958 15 2	

SUBMITTED for the *early* orders of Government, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board dated 6th September 1870, No. 5,611, in which proposals were submitted for the gradual liquidation of these arrears.

2. In the meantime the collection of arrears must remain in suspense under Government Order No. 2,533, dated 8th September 1869, with the exception of those outstanding against Captain Jennings which should apparently be collected ~~under Government Order No. 2,533, dated 8th September 1869~~

No. 307. ORDER THEREON, 22nd September 1871, No. 1,659.

Land Revenue.

THE cases will be disposed of under the G. O. dated 22nd September 1871, No. 1,656, allowing certain terms of "Cowle" retrospectively to planters on the Nilgiris and in the Wynaad.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLETON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed F. R. Bantleman.

Copy to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Arrears of land assessment—outstanding against certain planters on Neilgherries.—Letter from Commissioner requesting instructions regarding levy of, submitted for early orders of Government, with reference to proposals already made by Board on subject.—Collection of arrears, to be suspended for present, with exception of those outstanding against Captain Jennings.

1059. 22 September 1917

SEPTEMBER.
No. 3,880.

Received. 18

Encl.

PROCEEDINGS, 9TH SEPTEMBER 1871, No. 3,880.

Date: 15 Sept. 1971

Recd. 1871. Dept
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

№ 3015

J. B. Cunningham
Acting Secretary.

14. To the Secy of Govt. & C. 4/171
 & Law Secy on the hill giving in the Mysore H.K.
 allowing as fair terms of Cowle & 1/2 of the
 ground to the P.O. of Govt. & C. 4/171
 The case will be disposed of.
 No 1659
 Copy to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries.
 the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.