Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd March 1871.

No. 344. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th January 1871, No. 450:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. ASHBURNER, Deputy-Commissioner, Upper Godavery District, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, Nagpore, dated Sironcha, 13th December 1870, No. 2,211.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, the result of an experiment made in this district on the cultivation of Carolina paddy, with a view to its introduction by distribution to the ryots of the district.

2. In the early part of this year I made application to the Board of Revenue, Madras, to favour me with a small quantity for trial, and they kindly forwarded me 20 lbs.; this I had sown under careful superintendence, and the result I shall briefly lay before you.

3. Of these 20 lbs. on receipt, about 5 lbs. were found to be in the condition of rice and unfit for planting, 6 lbs. of the paddy, in preparation, failed to germinate, and 3 lbs., immediately after being planted, were completely washed away by a heavy fall of rain, so that but 6 lbs. were left to carry out the experiment.

4. *Preparation before sowing.*—The paddy was steeped in water for 16 hours, removed, and tied closely in a bundle covered with teak leaves; this was watered twice daily for six days, and then but once daily for three days; the package was examined on the seventh day, and germination was found to have proceeded sufficiently far to render it fit for planting.

5. *Selection of soil.*—A site was selected close to the bund of a tank, 3,334 square-yards in extent; the soil was rich and loamy, approaching "Cotton soil" in character, but containing a pretty large admixture of sand. A good supply of water was at all times attainable. Specimens of the soil have been forwarded as requested to the Board of Revenue, Madras, for analysis, and also a copy of this report.

6. *Preparation of soil.*—The ordinary preparations were made, the ground was well ploughed to the depth of 18 inches, and was well cleared of weeds. Five maunds of cow-dung were spread and mixed with soil; then the ground was watered and again ploughed.

7. *Seeds.*—Nothing was done before sowing further than to immerse the sprouts in a solution of Assafœtida to prevent its being injured by worms or insects.

8. *Transplanting*—Carried out in the usual manner; the roots at the time were found to be about a foot and-a-half in length.

9. *Watering.*—Water supplied from the tank as before mentioned. After transplanting, the water was allowed to reach to about one-third the height of the plant, but this was found not to suit, as the plants seemed unhealthy and of a yellowish colour; the water was then withdrawn and allowed in sufficient quantity merely to keep the ground thoroughly moist. The appearance of the crop improved directly the excessive water was withdrawn.

10. *Harvesting.*—The head plants arrived at maturity before the sub-plants, and were larger than they, but no seed was shed till beaten out after cutting.

11. *Yield.*—The yield of paddy amounts to 2,464 lbs., or a proportion of 24 lbs. to each ounce of seed planted.

12. Ten ears to each plant were about the average weight, about half a pound. The straw of rice is of no value in this district; it weighed 896 lbs.

6 lbs. out of 15 (or 40 per cent.) of the paddy, when kept moist before planting, failed to germinate.

13. *Cost of expense.*—The total amount expended was Rs. 44-11-0, exclusive of expenses of conveyance from Madras.

The cost appears high for so small a piece of land cultivated, but the proportionate cost would diminish with an increase of the area of cultivation.

8 *Seers per Rupee, 2nd quality.*—The yield at the present bazaar rate would realize Rs. 77.

14. The accompanying Return shows a comparison with paddy sown in the adjoining field with the same advantage of soil, water, etc. At a glance it will show the enormous advantage to be gained by the introduction of Carolina paddy; the only point remaining to be proved is, whether the Carolina paddy grown in this district will deteriorate year by year owing to climatic or other influences.

15. It is not proposed to distribute any of this year's yield out of the district, but to devote the whole of the seed in hand to the requirements of the Upper Godavery; and it is intended to distribute it freely to those cultivators who are willing to undertake its culture before next sowing season, on the understanding that one-half of the produce realized from the seed thus distributed shall be re-paid to the Local Funds Committee, when no difficulty will be raised to distribute this very remunerative description of paddy elsewhere.

16. The cultivators who have seen the progress of the crop and the success of the experiment are of course very ready to substitute the use of the Carolina seed for their own country-produce, and it is intended to frame written directions in the vernacular as to its cultivation for distribution throughout this district; and as the chief point of difference in the culture consists only in transplanting the young plants in place of sowing the seed broad-cast, which mode will likewise greatly benefit the country-produce, it is hoped that the present experiment will in every way be beneficial to the agricultural interests of the district, even if a wider field of improvement be denied to it.

17. Taking all the circumstances of the experiment into consideration, I consider a decided success has been attained; and that should similar success be achieved next year by the ryots with the paddy proposed to be issued to them, I think there can be no question as to the desirability of introducing Carolina paddy wherever it can be grown with equally satisfactory results.

18. The success in this instance is mainly owing to the very great care and interest taken by Syed Ally, Head Clerk in my Cutcherry, in carrying out, as far as possible, the suggestions made by the Superintendent of the Government Experimental Farm, Madras. I consider he deserves very great credit for such unremitting attention to a work so foreign to his regular duties, and in carrying out a vigilant superintendence, attended with considerable personal inconvenience. My thanks are also due to the Board of Revenue, Madras, for their promptness in supplying the Carolina paddy and full instructions for its culture.

P. S.—A Comparative Statement showing relative return of Carolina and country paddy is appended, which seems unmistakeably to prove the wonderful return in the present experiment.

Report of experiment made in the Upper Godavery District No. 1, Tummundal village.

Enclosure No. 2 in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd March 1871.

Taluq and Village.	Nature of soil or settlement Tarravi.	Extent in square-yards.	Quantity of manure used.	Seed sown in pounds and ounces.	Date of sowing.	Date of transplanting.	Yield. Grain threshed. In pounds.	Yield. Straw. Weight in pounds.	Yield. Straw. Length of straw.	Rain-fal in the district. *	Remarks.
Sironcha, Tummundal.	Brown soil mixed with $\frac{1}{8}$th of sand, 1st Class.	3,334	Cow-dung about 5 Maunds.	lbs. oz. 6 6	1st July 1870.	17th Augt. 1870.	2nd Nov. 1870. 2,464	896	3 feet....	30·31	Carolina paddy transplants.
Do.	Do. ...	5,277	6 Maunds.	308 0	20th July 1870.	...	15th do.... 2,460	906	4½ do....	20·24	Country paddy sown broad-cast in an adjacent field, water-supply, etc., just as Carolina paddy seeds.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNER, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Deputy-Commissioner, Upper Godavery District.

* From 1st July to harvest.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd March 1871.

THE thanks of the Board are due to Lieutenant-Colonel Ashburner for his report on the results of the experiment carried out under his orders.

2. The report will be communicated to the Superintendent Government Farm, to whom the specimens of soil, when received, will also be forwarded.

3. These Proceedings will be submitted to Government with a request that the report may be published as a Supplement to the Gazette.

No. 345. ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1871, No. 530.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

531
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Government, Revenue Department, March 1871.

No. 3

Read

orsement of the Chief Secretary to Govern-
t Saint George :—

s. DYMES AND Co., to the Chief Secretary
ge, dated Madras, 14th February 1871.

a letter to your address which should have
d Mr. Peter.—In consequence of the former
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No 3424-348.

For Lieutenant Colonel Ashburner

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd March 1871.

THE thanks of the Board are due to Lieutenant-Colonel Ashburner for his report c[illegible]

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Rev- 1871. Depart.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS. No. 437.

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH JANUARY 1871, No. 450.

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Encl.

Received

Exd. G. A. Turton.

JANUARY.

No. 450.

Carolina Paddy,—Report of Deputy Commissioner, Upper Godavery District, on experimental cultivation of, in that District, communicated to Superintendent, Sydapet Government Farm.—Government requested to publish report as a supplement to the Gazette.

No. 530.