

Revenue Department.

W-686.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 17th April 1871

Read the following letter from the

Commissioner, Kelyherrie.

Soliciting Government
aid on behalf of Kelyherrie
Agri-Horticultural Society

(H.C. 21st March 1871 No. 26)

The Government
sanction an annual grant
of Rs. 1,00. to the Kelyherrie
Agri-Horticultural Society
to be devoted to improving
the agricultural products
of the Hills.

2. The Acting Secy.
-accountant General
will report from
what source the
grant

N.

A.S.

L. D. S.

grant can be provided.

A.R.

Com. of the Navy, Washington, D.C. Dec 21/98

Att. Gen. &

As of Dec 21/98

26/40-170

48
Neilgherry Agri Horticultural Society

To
Bout of 118. 3 Mins.
Dated
Recd. } 18, No.

NOS.

Recd
(By order)

Council
for annual
a fund for

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th April 1871.

No. 170: Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 21st March 1871, No. 26 :—

I HAVE the honour to recommend the enclosed application to the favourable consideration of Government. The Neilgherry Agri-Horticultural Society has, I think, already to some extent stimulated agriculture on these hills, but its operations are greatly crippled for want of funds.

2. I need not refer to the example of Bangalore to show what may be done by a Society of this kind if well supported, but as pointed out by the Secretary Dr. Pearl, the peculiar circumstances of this district render Government assistance almost indispensable to any such undertakings. There is no large number of permanent European residents, and income from casual visitors is necessarily so fluctuating and uncertain as to bar anything like systematic and persistent action on the part of the Committee.

3. Unless the Government are prepared to establish a Model Farm here, I know of no better prospect of improving the Native agriculture than is offered by this Society. The Government are no doubt aware of the large and constantly increasing cultivation here of the potato, which is becoming a very general article of food among the lower classes, and its culture has lately been begun by the Badagas as well as the Tamil settlers. Late experiments in England seem to show that this vegetable deteriorates remarkably from want of changes in the seed to which, indeed, the ravages of potato-disease seem in part attributable. The Society could do good by frequent importations of fresh seed, but this to be effectual should be undertaken on a larger scale than the present means of the Society will allow.

4. In America and elsewhere Government aid is liberally given, I understand, to all such Societies, and similar Associations in India have an exceptional claim upon the State as chief landlord of the country.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Surgeon W. PEARL, Honorary Secretary, Neilgherry Agri-Horticultural Society, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, dated Ootacamund, 19th March 1871.

As you are aware the Neilgherry Agri-Horticultural Society was established in December 1868 with the object of improving the food-products and generally developing agriculture and horticulture on and around the plateau of the Neilgherry Hills. The district, from its soil and various climates, possesses great natural advantages, and is capable of producing the grains, fruit, and economic vegetable products of most countries. To develop these capabilities is the object for which the Society was founded.

2. Since the formation of the Society periodical Shows have been held and prizes given. Annual supplies of seeds have been procured from England and distributed to the public, and on the first Tuesday of the month two of the Managing Committee attend the market and allot marks for any fruits, vegetables, or other agricultural produce of special excellence or rarity. A certain number of marks so gained entitling the holder to the Society's silver or bronze medal. His Excellency the Governor was good enough last year to present two of the Society's medals to two Native Market Gardeners who had obtained the highest number of marks.

3. By these means the Managing Committee believe that their efforts have already been attended with considerable success.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th April 1871.*

4. From the fluctuating nature of the residence of those who frequent the hills, the Government will easily understand that the resources of the Society are very variable. The permanent residents are few in number, the visitors for longer or shorter periods very numerous, but these last, with few exceptions, seldom join the Society as members.

5. The list of subscribers at this particular season numbers only thirty-five, and the annual income of the Society is under 400 Rs.; the Society finds, therefore, that it is unable to be productive of that benefit which might accrue were it supported by Government.

6. On these grounds I am desired by the Managing Committee to appeal to Government for some State aid in the shape of an annual grant of 400 Rs. to enable the Society to make their periodical Shows of greater interest to the general public.

7. It may be mentioned that the hills are capable of producing unrivalled oats, beans, turnips, potatoes, etc., which, when the railway is extended to the hills, will be largely consumed in the low country, and this further development of the agricultural resources of the hills will in its turn result in improved breeds of cattle and sheep, thus, in an indirect manner, largely benefiting the State.

No. 171.

ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1871, No. 686.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government sanction an annual grant of Rs. 400 to the Neilgherry Agricultural Society to be devoted to

improving the agricultural products of the hills.

2. The Acting Accountant-General will report from what source the grant can be provided.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of the Neilgherries.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

FOR ORDERS.

No. 995

From Commissioner Kelgherries

Dated 21st March

1891

FOR ORDERS.

I think we might well
give the for 2 the 400 - 600
Spent in improving the
agricultural products of
the hills. We are to receive
from the Government
Grant 1 1/2 yrs. 1891