No. 165. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th October 1872, No. 1,986:—

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., Superintendent of Government Farms, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 24th September 1872, No. 729:—

HAVING inspected the site selected for an Experimental Farm in the Bellary District, I have the honour to submit my report.

2. The land is situated near the village of Sirigoopa in the northern part of the Bellary Taluq about thirty-five miles to the north of the town of Bellary.

3. The soil is chiefly black cotton soil, though there is a fair proportion, about one-third, of mixed soil. The black soil is thin in places especially on the higher elevations; but near the water channel where the surface is lower there is a considerable area of good deep cotton soil. The mixed soils where they begin to change from the black are of a fair average quality; but on the higher ground away to the north-east of the site they are poor and thin, the rock cropping out in many places.

4. The site is well selected as regards a full supply of water, a matter of no slight importance in a country whose annual rain-fall is below 20 inches. About 12 per cent. of the land is now under water under a channel from the Toombudra [illegible] perennial [illegible] and at a [illegible] light expense the area [illegible] the whole, the [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] in paragraph 8 of Government Order, No. 1,657, dated the 22nd September 1871; there is a fair proportion of cotton soil, about two-thirds, the other soil is mixed, suited for cereal and leguminous crops, and though of not such a good quality as might be desired, it is, perhaps, as good as can be obtained on any site possessing the other advantages this site possesses; while this portion of the land will afford a healthier site for the Farm buildings than the retentive cotton soil, and there is unquestionably a reliable water-supply for irrigation purposes.

6. The site does not meet the requirements set forth in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the order just quoted; the distance from a market or a Railway Station is great; but as the marketable produce will chiefly be cotton (the bulk of the produce of the mixed soils being needed for the stock) which can be pressed and baled on the Farm, and as a new road from Bellary through the neighbourhood in which the land is situated is now in the course of construction and will be completed long before the Farm can be started, this then need not, I think, be considered a serious objection to the site. It is more to be regretted that lime is so dear in the neighbourhood as its action is peculiarly beneficial on soils such as those that form greater part of the land selected; but I think it probable that lime may ultimately be obtained at a cheaper rate than the price now prevalent in the district; there seems to be an abundant supply of nodular limestone within an easy distance; but the fuel to fit it for the use of the husbandman seems to be wanting.

7. There is a scanty population in the neighbourhood of the land, though within a radius of ten miles there are thirty-four villages with a population

amounting to upwards of 30,000; but we cannot look to these as the purchasers of our produce.

8. The land can be obtained on very favourable terms. I am informed by Mr. Master, who very kindly gave me every assistance I needed, that the rent of the land selected is about 120 Rupees per annum, and that the probable cost of the right of occupation will be about 500 Rupees, besides which some land must be given in exchange to a few ryots who do not wish for money compensation.

9. I may add, that I have seen the young man B. Oblasoo referred to in the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,308, dated 13th July 1872, who has been examined by a Medical gentleman and has been declared physically fit for employment; I would therefore suggest that he should be directed to take up his residence here from the 1st of December, on *probation* for three months. I would avail myself of this opportunity for suggesting that in the case of *all* the new apprentices it would be better that they should each be employed for three months on probation before being appointed.

Mr. Robertson's letter will be submitted to Government.

2. The site selected seems on the whole to be favourable and to meet many of the chief requirements as laid down by Government. It is difficult in Bellary to find land with an unfailing supply of water for irrigation which this posse[illegible] The great objection [illegible] will be seen but cannot possibly affect the agriculture of the province: a site near Ghooty or Anantapore would have been preferable.

3. Mr. Robertson's suggestion that the apprentices should be engaged on probation will be adopted; but the Board think that the probation should extend to six months.

No. 166.

Order thereon, 19th October 1872, No. 1,450.

Miscellaneous.

The Government concur with the Board in deeming the remoteness of the site condemnatory of it. The Collector should make further search. The site should be within ten miles of the head-quarters of the Collector, Sub-Collector, or Head Assistant.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bant'eman.

Govt. of {1872} Mad.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated October 19th.

Encl.

Read.

G. O., 19th October 1872, No. 1,450.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 165-166.

Experimental Farm in Bellary Distr
—The site selected for it disapproved. Collec
informed that the site should be within ten mil
of the head-quarters of the Collector, Sub-Co
lector, or Head Assistant.

3. Mr. Roberts's suggestion that the apprentices should [illegible] probation will be adopted; but the Board think that the probation should extend to six months.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Collector of Bellary.
" the Superintendent of Government Farms.
Exd. T. Cartledge.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 8TH OCTOBER 1872, No. 1,986.

Received 14 October 1872

OCTOBER.
No. 1,986.

Farm—Experimental—to be established in Bellary District.—Report of Superintendent, Government Farms, on site selected for —, submitted to Government. His suggestion that apprentices for Sydapet Farm should be engaged on probation, approved. Probation should extend to six months.

Encl.