

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th April 1872.*

No. 68. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March 1872, No. 480:—

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., Superintendent of Government Farms, on Special Duty, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 20th February 1872, No. 875:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 5,074, dated the 19th of December 1871, requesting me to state whether the Madras Farms can afford facilities for conducting the experimental cultivation of tobacco, as suggested by Mr. Broughton, I have the honour to observe that, the tobaccos grown on the best soils of these farms, were recently analyzed by Mr. Broughton, and, the results, I regret to say, prove most conclusively that, tobacco of good quality, cannot be produced on either farm. The following demi-official letter addressed to me, by Mr. Broughton, refers to these tobaccos:—

MY DEAR MR. ROBERTSON,

I HAVE tested the samples of tobacco "Manilla cured by drying process" and "Dindigul country cured."

The ash of former contains but 0.6, and the latter 0.67 per cent. of potassic carbonate. This is quite fatal to the quality of the tobacco, and, I am quite of opinion that, the soil of the neighbourhood of Madras can scarcely be made to produce tobacco of good quality. The former specimen is well grown, and seems carefully cured. The nicotine has not been estimated, as the data above given are conclusive. I should be glad to learn the mode of cultivation and subsequent treatment of the tobacco when convenient.

The tobacco resembles a good deal that which I received from the Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras, but is much better cured. The same care in another district, would most probably produce a tobacco of good quality.

The above results are quite supported by the smoking of the tobacco.

OOTACAMUND,
15th February 1872.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) JOHN BROUGHTON,

I have no doubt, that the tobacco sent, would be gladly smoked by Natives, who generally care more for strength than flavour.

2. It will be seen that the ashes of neither of the samples examined, contained 1 per cent. of Carbonate of Potash, a result quite fatal to the quality of the tobacco. The ashes of the best American tobaccos, contain as much as 25 per cent. of Carbonate of Potash, and some as much as 35 per cent. But these tobaccos are produced on land containing from 6 to 8 per cent. of Potash, while the best soils of either farm do not contain $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of this mineral; and, it is practically impossible to render them as rich in Potash by manuring, as the cost of the Potash needed, would far exceed the value of the land. But, it is not only in Potash that these soils are so deficient, for they are very poor in Lime, Phosphoric Acid, Soda, and all the more important ingredients of a fertile soil. An exhausting system of cultivation, continued for years, has on these soils, as on most of the light soils of Southern India, produced almost perfect exhaustion, at any rate, in the more valuable elements of plant-food, rendering many of the soils unable—excepting when heavily manured and thoroughly tilled—to produce anything better than the low type of crops generally cultivated.

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3. Under these circumstances, I cannot recommend the Board to go to further expense in attempting to cultivate high-class tobaccos on the Madras Farms. The crops grown were in appearance all that could be desired; they were manured very highly with manure rich in Potash salts and other fertilizing matters; but, analysis proves most conclusively that the tobacco is of *no use for the European Market*, and, it is produced at *too great a cost* for the Native market. We can, however, in the ordinary rough way, with plenty of organic manure, produce at a profit, an abundance of such tobacco as is generally sold in the bazaars.

4. The new farms will, I hope, afford facilities for the experimental cultivation of tobacco; and I would, therefore, suggest that further experiments should be postponed until they are established.

5. In my recent tours over these Hills, the Nilgiris, I have seen many tracts of land on which tobacco might be expected to thrive; the soils are rich in Potash, and the climate seems much more favourable for curing operation, than that of the low country.

SUBMITTED to Government together with a copy of Proceedings, No. 5,074, dated 19th December 1871.

2. The Board entirely concur with Mr. Robertson in thinking that the experimental cultivation of Native tobacco had better be deferred till soil naturally suited to it is available; and accordingly request him to bear the subject in mind when the new Model Farms are opened.

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, 8th April 1872, No. 573.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue-

No. 5,074.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th December 1871.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 6th December 1871, No. 2,062, Revenue Department:—

Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th November 1871, No. 4,769.

ABSTRACT.—*Tobacco* grown in Dindigul and Pulni Taluqs in Madura District.—Letter from Government Quinologist, reporting on analysis of certain samples of, stating localities to which experimental tobacco cultivation should for present be limited, and objecting to further analysis of carelessly prepared native tobacco, communicated to Government, with expression of Board's concurrence in views of Government Quinologist.

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1871, No. 2,062.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government desire that the Board of Revenue will cause the experimental cultivation of superior qualities of tobacco in selected soils

to be carried out as suggested by Mr. Broughton.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintendent of Government Farms who is requested to state if he will be able to carry out the wishes of Government by means of experiments on the Government Farm at Sydapett, and if so to make the experiments as suggested, and report the result. The Government desire that the Board of Revenue should be found to contribute the chemical qualities required to make the plant suitable for smoking purposes.

2. The Board do not think that much good is likely to result from experiments made by private individuals, or Government officials, even in lands which are better adapted to the growth of tobacco, but they would be glad to receive from Messrs. Roberts and Co., Messrs. Campbell and Co., or others specimens of tobacco to which special attention both in cultivation and curing may be given.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
for Sub-Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MAYNE,
First Assistant.

To the Superintendent, Government Farm.
,, all Collectors, for communication to the Firms mentioned, and others to whom Collectors may think it desirable to refer.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

1871.
Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH DECEMBER 1871, No. 5,074

Encl.

Received

DECEMBER.
No. 5,074.

Tobacco.—Proceedings of Government desiring that suggestion of Government Quinologist for experimental cultivation of superior qualities of, may be carried out, communicated to Superintendent of Government Farms, with request to state if he will be able to conduct experiments, and if so, to make them, and report result.—Board would be glad to receive from Messrs. Roberts and Co., Messrs. Campbell and Co., or others, specimens of tobacco to which special attention may be given.

21093/2

Sub-Secretary.

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, R. D.
with copy of Board's Proceedings, No. 5,074 of 1871.
Copy to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

14. Board of Rev. Decd. 10 April 72

1872.
Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST MARCH 1872, No. 480.

Encl. 1

Received

MARCH.
No. 480.

Tobacco.—Letter from Superintendent of Government Farms, stating that Tobacco of good quality cannot be produced on Madras Farms, and suggesting that further experiments should be deferred till new model farms are established, submitted to Government. Superintendent requested to bear the subject in mind when the new farms are opened.

*Recd: 1872. 5 April
No 1093.*

*1872-5 April
No 1093.*

*10-4-72
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