Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th May 1872.

No. 44. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd April 1872, No. 646 :—

Read the following letter from J. BROUGHTON, Esq., Government Quinologist, to the Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 9th April 1872 :—

I HAVE the honour to communicate some results obtained with specimens of tobacco sent me by Mr. Longley, Collector of Salem. These were grown by Mr. B. Atkinson at Tripatore, from foreign seed, in the office compound. The soil was composed of a compost of old manure, red earth and wood ashes.

2. The tobaccos on their arrival were submitted to analysis, the determinations being of the same constituents and for the same reasons as those described in Proceedings Board of Revenue, No. 2,778 of 7th July 1871. The results were as follows :—

Specimens of Tobacco.	Percentage of Ash.	Percentage of Potassic Carbonate in Ash.	Percentage of Nicotine.
From Manilla Seed	16·64	1·57	undetermined
,, Havannah ,, ...	16·92	17·44	0·64
,, Maryland ,, ...	18·45	4·16	1·42
,, Virginia ,, ...	17·91	9·02	0·85

3. The Manilla tobacco possessed the usual Indian defect of containing but little organic salts of potash. For this reason the quality is very inferior. The other kinds are free from this serious defect but the amount of nicotine is very small when compared with that of the foreign tobaccos. Hence the tobaccos when smoked are exceedingly mild, and though the flavour is good, what there is of it, the tobaccos cannot be compared to the real foreign kinds. The result with Maryland is for this reason the most successful, but is very mild smoking compared with the true American tobaccos.

4. The tobaccos appear well cured, and I should be inclined to account for the small amount of nicotine which they contain to the cause alluded to in the letter of Mr. B. Atkinson, viz., "the time of this growth was wrong according to the native seasons." If this be the case, a second experiment with the same kinds would doubtless be more successful.

5. I have also examined samples of foreign tobacco grown at the Sydapet Government Farm. These (as I have had occasion to state when reporting on tobaccos grown by the Agri-Horticultural Society would probably occur through the Madras District) were of essentially bad quality containing in those specimens examined, but 0·67 per cent. of carbonate potash in their ash. A mere qualitative examination sufficed to exclude these specimens from the category of good tobaccos.

6. I had the honour of stating in Board's Proceedings, No. 4,769 of 18th November 1871, my opinion that "what is wanted for the introduction of good tobacco cultivation in this country is for the finer kinds to be grown in any of the localities where the amount of potash in the ash of the present native tobaccos, is

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found to be in the necessary proportion." Any experiments which are made in other localities than where these conditions occur, will certainly be made with greatly diminished chances of success. I cannot therefore see any advantage that can accrue from thus experimenting. If the suitable districts however be chosen, and judgment be exercised in the cultivation and curing, there seems little doubt that tobacco of the foreign kinds, and of good quality, will be grown. I would cite from former reports the following localities as suitable, though it is of course certain that many more occur :—

Vizagapatam Taluq; Trichinopoly Taluq; Talamputty pulvor in same district; Harpanully in Bellary; Ravathavallur and Manaloor patay, in South Arcot, Nundial(local soil) and Cumbum in Kurnool; Moocasipoodoor, Coorchy, Aval and Sattimungalum in Coimbatore; the Godavery Lunkas; Cunnyvaddy in Dindigul, and other parts of that district.

7. Until the qualities indicated in my first report (Board's Proceedings No. 2,778, 7th July 1871) as necessary to good tobacco, are found to occur in the tobaccos obtained from good foreign seed, it appears to me to be useless to make more elaborate examinations than the foregoing.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of Proceedings No. 480, dated 21st March 1872.

2. The Board have already suggested that further experiments should be dispensed with until the new model farms afford suitable soil, and efficient supervision.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1872, No. 729.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

4-1-86)

Govt. of {1872} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May 6th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 6th May 1872, No. 729.

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MAY.
Nos. 44-45.

Tobacco cultivated in Salem District—Proceedings Board of Revenue submitting the Quinologist's report on the results of analysis of certain specimens, recorded.

Revenue 1872 Departt
No 1494

1872.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD APRIL 1872, No. 646.

Dept 26 April 72

Encl.

Received 27 April 72

APRIL.

No. 646.

Tobacco.—Letter from Government Quinologist, communicating results of analysis of certain specimens of — received from Collector of Salem, and passing some general remarks on tobacco cultivation, submitted to Government.

No 729

6 May 1872

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to the Collector of Salem.
" to the Government Quinologist.

Sub-Secretary.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No 44-45

C. 1st May 72 R. 3d May

H. Brady Rev Dept 1/72

6 July 72 No 352-2
8 April 72 - 68-69
6 December 71 — 60-61