Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st May 1872.

Read the following letters:—

No. 300. From the Honorary Secretary, Government Exeprimental Farm, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Ootacamund, dated Madras, 7th July 1870, No. 51.

I AM desired by the Committee of the Government Farm [illegible] requisitions to Government, which the Committee trust Government will, if possible, comply with.

2. There are at the farm several machines which are entirely useless to it as a farm.

3. *The Steam Plough.*—A full report on this machine was made in my letter of 6th February 1869, recommending finally, in paragraph 5, that the plough and the apparatus connected with it should be sent to the Public Works Stores.

Vide Proceedings of Madras Government of 1st June 1869.

4. The Government, in their Order of June 1st, 1869, decided to refer the matter to Major-General F. Cotton before taking further action. The plough and apparatus are still at the farm, occupy a large space in the machine-shed, are daily deteriorating in value, and the Committee trust the Government will excuse their again requesting that it may be removed.

5. The engine of the plough was placed in a shed, containing in the other rooms a Rice-huller and Bone-crusher, which were to be worked by the engine in addition to a large pump erected in a well close at hand.

See paragraph 6, Farm Report for 1867-68, and paragraph 3, Farm Report for 1868-69.

6. During the past year a number of experiments have been made by the Farm Superintendent, who is thoroughly acquainted with the management of a steam-engine and the correct system of calculating results produced by machinery.

7. The Committee regret to state that the expense of working the bucket-pump in the well by the steam-engine amounts to the enormous sum of Rs. 5-10-6 for each watering of one acre of land to the depth of two inches. They have, therefore, unanimously decided to give up the system of raising water by steam for the present.

8. In the engine-shed are also the Rice-huller and Bone-crusher. The shafting, as originally erected, was found, on trial, to work unsatisfactorily, and is unsafe. Some additional expenditure would be necessary to put it in working order, as it would have to be taken down from its present position inside the shed and raised outside on pillars.

9. The Committee do not, however, consider themselves justified in incurring any great expense, simply for the purpose of working the Bone-crusher and Rice-huller occasionally.

10. As regards the Bone-crusher, crushing bones is not legitimate farming business. All the bones required for the farm for years could be crushed in a very few days, and the machine would then remain unused until a fresh supply was required. The smell of the crushed bones would also be almost unbearable, so

near the farm buildings, and under these circumstances the Committee strongly recommend to Government that the Bone-crusher should be advertised for sale. Some enterprising owner of a steam-engine would very probably buy it to crush bones for coffee-estates, bone dust being largely used for manuring coffee-trees.

As regards the Rice-huller, that machine is even more useless to the farm than the Bone-crusher. All the rice grown on the farm will most probably, in future, be sold or distributed for *seed*. It is also no use keeping the machine for occasional exhibition, as no private individual would buy one like it, except as a speculation and to make a regular business of rice-hulling, a steam-engine being required to work it.

12. The Committee, therefore, earnestly beg they may be allowed to try and sell or return into the Public Works Stores these two machines, the Bone-crusher and Rice-huller.

13. At the same time they propose to return into the Public Works Stores the shafting made at the Mint for these machines, as, in its present state, it is quite useless.

14. The Committee wish to retain the engine, as, at some future period, it may be required for work, which can only be done by steam, and it can be carefully looked after and kept in proper order at the farm.

The Superintendent also wishes to instruct the Farm Apprentices in its use and management, which should undoubtedly form part of the education of embryo farmers.

No. 301. From the Honorary Secretary, Government Experimental Farm, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 15th November 1870, No. 88.

On the 7th July 1870 I addressed you on the subject of obtaining the permission of Government for the sale or return into the Public Works Stores of certain machines, implements, etc., now at the Government Farm.

2. Since writing that letter the Farm Committee have sold the large steam bucket-pump to the Municipality, who intend to utilise it for pumping sewage into the sea from the main drain. The Committee considered it advisable to part with it, as it was rapidly deteriorating in value from rust and exposure.

3. In October a large number of valuable implements were sent from the Remount Depôt at Oossoor to the farm by the orders of Government. These implements, though intrinsically valuable and purchased at a great expense, are entirely useless to the farm; they occupy a considerable space in the implement shed, in which, moreover, there is not room for all, and some are kept in the open air under the trees, exposed to rain, sun, and wind, and consequent deterioration.

4. I am, therefore, desired by the Committee again to urge upon the Government the desirability of allowing the implements, which are not now and never will be of any use, being either sold, if possible, or returned into the Public Works Stores.

5. It is possible that Messrs. Thomson & Co., who deal in implements at Calcutta, might take some of the expensive and useless implements in exchange

for ploughs and other articles, for which there is a small demand from Collectors, Jail Superintendents, and some Hindoo Rajahs and Zemindars.

No. 302. Order thereon, 31st May 1872, No. 851.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

5a

Revenue Department.

No. 851.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 31st May 1872.

Read the following letters from the Honorary Secretary, Govt Experimental Farm.

Requesting orders regarding the disposal of the Machines specified, which are entirely useless to the Farm.	(H.L. 7th July 1870 No. 51)
Requesting permission for the sale, or return into the P.W. Stores of certain Machines Implements &c now at the Govt Farm.	(H.L. 15th Nov. 1870 No. 88)

Ordered that the foregoing letters be recorded.

L.D.

14 Board of Revs Des 1st June/72

No. 386-301

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GD

Respecting disposal of certain Brackens in the Sydney Park frame