No. 64. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th April 1873, No. 547:—

Read the following letter from W. ROBERTSON, Esq., Superintendent of Government Farms, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 27th December 1872, No. 918:—

I HAVE the honour to forward the Government Farms' Reports for the year ending 31st March 1872. I regret that I was not able to submit them on an earlier date. They are, I believe, more bulky than those of any former year, but I have found it difficult to condense them more than I have done; they embrace so many subjects which can only be treated in *detail*.

2. During the past official year our attention has been chiefly directed to *live stock*; in the previous year we gave most attention to *crops*; and in the present year we are giving greatest attention to *machines* and *implements*.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Report on Government Experimental and Model Farms for the year ending 31st March 1872.

MR. ROBERTSON'S report on the Government Farms, experimental and model, at Sydapet will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The report is throughout entirely practical and instructive, and will be read with much interest and profit by all engaged or interested in agriculture in this country.

3. It were impossible to follow Mr. Robertson through the varied interesting discussions and useful experiments with which the report is enriched. Suffice it to remark that Mr. Robertson's observations on the effect of an irregular though abundant monsoon show the importance of recording with care and of publishing regularly the daily and weekly distribution of the rain during the cultivating season.

4. The continued experiments on cattle-foods show where thrift may be exercised in the farm and dairy without endangering the condition of the cattle. But the most important experiments of the year were the dairy experiments detailed in paragraphs 14 to 17. Though conducted on a small scale, the experiments were most exact and trustworthy, and the results are such as lead the Board to urge Mr. Robertson to give the matter a wider scope during the next year, and to provide himself with a sufficient head of cattle to enable him to test the milking qualities of the various breeds, and the most efficient modes of dairy management for the country.

5. The Board think that Mr. Robertson's remarks on the want of a good market as a place of meeting for buyer and seller of farm-produce, etc., should be again urged on the Municipality of Madras. There is scarcely an up-country town in the Presidency without its weekly and periodical fairs, and hundreds of villages are the scenes of active weekly markets. The Board think it extraordinary that Madras should still be without a market for live stock.

6. The information contained in the report on rearing, fattening, and housing sheep and pigs will be read with interest. The Sydapet cross of sheep promises to become a permanent breed.

7. The experiment conducted at the Wodder village on the estate shows how easily and certainly an improved breed of poultry may be introduced amongst the country-people.

8. The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Robertson on the subject of "Carolina paddy experiments, is that the cultivation belongs to a higher condition of agricultural practice than has yet been reached in this country." The successful introduction of this improved grain must follow better agricultural operations throughout the country.

9. Experiments were continued with fodder-plants which show that it is quite within the power of the cultivators of this country to have a succession of green fodder-crops almost throughout the year. The remark on guinea-grass as a permanent pasture for farm-stock are valuable, and will remove some adverse prejudices which have prevailed more or less generally.

10. The experiments on the growth of cotton continue to give useful results Mr. Robertson should endeavour to extend the cultivation of Markham Yea Valley cotton; but there is reason to fear lest it prove a plant of too fine a nature to succeed without higher cultivation than is met with in the Cotton Districts, or under exceptional or natural advantages.

11. The Board would leave to Mr. Robertson's discretion the discontinuance of experiments in tobacco-growing, on which subject he expresses a very decided opinion in paragraph 78.

12. Experiments on manure were continued with varied success. The weather proved untoward in several instances. The use of lime as a cheap (where kunkar and scrub co-exist) manure should be earnestly pressed on the attention of cultivators in this country. It is specially suited as a manure for leguminous plants, indigo, cotton and the like.

13. Mr. Robertson draws attention to the exorbitant charges made by the Madras Railway Company for carriage of manure. It exceeds the charge in England, and proves a serious drawback to the use of chief manures brought from a distance.

14. The Implement factory was continuously and usefully employed during the year; and a considerable number of implements of various kinds were made and distributed to meet the demand for improved tools. The combined plough has been improved, a serviceable barrow-drill constructed, and the improvement of other implements attended to. Mr. Robertson's remarks on the use of the winnowing-machine by the ryots are very practical.

15. The report on the Model Farm is satisfactory, and the experiment promises to be successful.

16. The Board are glad to see that Mr. Robertson is well satisfied with the conduct and efficiency of his Overseers. They much appreciate the continued ability manifested by Mr. Robertson in the successful and thrifty management of these State properties, and the clear and instructive way in which he places the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13*th May* 1873.

results of his exertions and experiments before the Government. The Board suggest that the report be made public as soon as possible.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 13th May 1873, No. 470.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council has perused with much satisfaction Mr. Robertson's highly interesting report upon the Government Farm at Sydapet.

2. His remarks as to the effect of the seasons upon agricultural operations in this country are very instructive, as are also his accounts of the numerous experiments which have been undertaken in the rearing of stock, the raising of produce, and the effects of the different manures upon the various soils which have been dealt with.

3. The substitution of oil-cake for gram as cattle-food and the use of country-paddy as fodder seem to show that agricultural stock can be reared much more cheaply than has hitherto been supposed. These portions of the report should be made specially known to the stock-breeders of Nellore and other districts.

4. It would be well also that the Board of Revenue should take into their special consideration Mr. Robertson's remark, in paragraph 60 of his report, on the subject of raising a paddy-fodder crop when the water-supply of a tank is found to be insufficient to bring the rice-crop to maturity, and again, in paragraph 84, regarding the benefits likely to be derived by the ryot from adopting the loose-box system with his working cattle.

5. Mr. Robertson's suggestions contained in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report will be referred for the consideration of the President of the Municipal Commission of the Town of Madras; and his remarks on the apparent absence of phosphatic rocks or coprolites in this Presidency will be communicated to the Geological Department, with a request that they will report whether their researches have succeeded in eliciting any information on the subject.

6. With reference to his observations upon the serious want of an Indian Journal specially devoted to agricultural subjects, his attention will be drawn to the *Agricultural Gazette of India*, published at Bombay, at the Indian Economist Office. A copy of this publication should be supplied to Mr. Robertson by the Board of Revenue.

7. The Model Farm has been satisfactorily managed during the year, and still more successful results may be expected as the experiment proceeds. The same may be said of the implement workshops, which have proved of the greatest convenience to the farm, and have been very nearly self-supporting.

8. The Government trust that the report for the year just expired may be submitted at an early date, as there can be no good reason for a delay of nine months as has been permitted to occur on the present occasion. The report should also contain an abstract of the total receipts and expenditure on account of the farm and a valuation list of live and dead stock, as required by His Grace the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th May 1873.

Secretary of State in paragraph 4 of his despatch dated 14th October 1868. The Board of Revenue will be requested to obtain and submit these particulars for years 1870-71 and 1871-72 with as little delay as possible.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the President of the Municipal Commission for the Town of Mad.
,, the Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India.
,, the Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society.

Revenue Department.

No. 470.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 13th May 1873.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submitting report of the Superintendent of Farms at Ootacamund for the year ending 31st March 1872.

Read paper 8th April 1873 No. 547

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has perused with much satisfaction Mr. Robertson's highly interesting report upon the Government Farm at Ootacamund.

2. His remarks as to the effect of the seasons upon agricultural

agricultural operations in this country are very instructive as are also his accounts of the numerous experiments which have been undertaken in the rearing of stock, the raising of produce and the effects of the different manures upon the various soils which have been dealt with.

3. The substitution of oil cake for grain, as cattle food and the use of country paddy as fodder seem to show that agricultural stock can be reared much more cheaply than has hitherto been supposed. These portions of the report should be made specially known to the Stock Breeders of Nellore and other districts.

4. It would be well also that the Board of Revenue should take into their special consideration Mr. Robertson's remarks in para: 60 of his report on the subject of raising a paddy fodder crop where the water supply of a tank is found to be insufficient to bring the rice crop to maturity, and again in para 84 regarding the benefits likely to be derived by the ryot from adopting the Lowe system with his working cattle.

5. Mr. Robertson's suggestions contained in paras 10 & 11 of the report will be referred for

for the consideration of the President of the Municipal Commission of the town of Madras and his remarks on the apparent absence of phosphatic rocks or coprolites in this Presidency will be communicated to the Geological Department with a request that they will report whether their researches have succeeded in eliciting any information on the subject

6 With reference to his observations upon the serious want of an Indian Journal especially devoted to agricultural subjects, his attention will be drawn to the Agricultural Gazette of India, published at Bombay at the Indian Economist Office. A copy of this publication should be supplied to Mr Robertson by the Board of Revenue.

7 The model farm has been satisfactorily managed during the year and still more successful results may be expected as the experiment proceeds - the same may be said of the implement workshops which have proved of the greatest convenience to the farm and have been very nearly self-supporting

8 The Government trust that the report for the year just expired may be published at as early a date as possible, as there can be no good reason for a delay of more months, as has been permitted to occur on the present occasion. The report

report should also contain an abstract of the total receipts and expenditure on account of the Famine & a valuation list of live and dead stock as required by His Grace the Secretary of State in para 4 of his despatch dated 14 Oct 1868

The Board of Revenue will be requested to obtain and submit these particulars for years 1870-71 & 1871-72 with as little delay as possible

Despt in M.S.
to Board of Revenue
13 May '73.

M. S. Copy to B of Rev des. 13 May/73
14 S.C. - - - - - - - - 20 May
6 - President of the Municipal Comm^rs for the town of Madras des 20 May/73
1 Superg the Geological Survey of India "
1 Secy to the agri Horticultural Society -

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Govt. of {1873} Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 13th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 13th May 1873, No. 470.

MAY.

Nos. 64-65.

Government Farms at Sydapet.—Proceedings Board of Revenue submitting the report of the Superintendent for the year ending 31st March 1872, reviewed.