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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th July 1873.*

No. 45. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th June 1873, No. 987 :—

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., Superintendent of the Government Farms, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 8th May 1873, No. 328 :—

In a letter No. 674, dated 6th December 1871, I made certain general proposals regarding the distribution by Government of agricultural seeds. These proposals received the general approval of the Board (*vide* Proceedings No. 14, dated January 4, 1872), and I was directed to prepare and submit a draft Notification of the terms of competition, the rewards to be given, etc. This I was not able to do at the time, and, there not being any suitable seeds available for general distribution until the recent arrival of the twenty barrels of Carolina paddy, referred to in my letter No. 225, dated 25th March 1873, the matter has been allowed to stand over until now. But, in connection with the scheme for annual Agricultural Shows recently submitted to the Board, I made certain proposals having for their object the encouragement of the cultivation of new and improved varieties of agricultural crops, which, though far from being sufficiently comprehensive to meet the special requirements of Carolina paddy, will yet do something towards bringing this variety of paddy into more general cultivation. Still I think that, in addition to the rewards suggested in these proposals, some *special* prizes should be offered, to be coupled with such conditions as to make it probable that they will go to the *actual* cultivators.

2. Probably the most convenient arrangement would be to limit competition for these special prizes to certain tracts of country, and to select a fresh tract annually. The groups of districts adopted by the Board seem well suited to form the areas of competition. The group denominated East Centre, which includes Madras, Chingleput, North Arcot, and South Arcot, should, I think, be the first selected. The Madras District contains but a small area of agricultural land; still, as much of its wet land is generally well situated as regards position and manure for Carolina paddy cultivation, it seems desirable that the same inducements should be offered in it as in the other districts.

3. The prizes to be offered for competition in this group might be as follows :—

						RS.	A.	P.
4	1st-class Prizes, 50 Rupees each	...	...	...	...	200	0	0
8	2nd-class " 25 "	"	"	...	...	200	0	0
16	3rd-class " 12½ "	"	"	...	...	200	0	0
32	4th-class " 6½ "	"	"	...	...	200	0	0
4	Tahsildar's " 50 "	"	"	...	...	200	0	0
Total...						1,000	0	0

4. Each district in the group will thus have allotted to it: 1 Tahsildar's prize, 1 first-class prize, 2 second-class prizes, 4 third-class prizes, 8 fourth-class prizes. The Tahsildar's prize should be awarded to the Tahsildar in whose taluq the largest area of Carolina paddy is grown during the year. The other prizes should be awarded to the growers for quality of produce.

5. A better way would be to give the prizes for the *best crops*, but this could not be done: the Collectorates are far too extensive, and the means of transit

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too imperfect, to allow of isolated plots of Carolina paddy in distant parts of the districts being inspected; but, as matters improve, smaller areas of country, even taluqs, may be selected, and prizes offered for the *best crops* within these areas. We should, I think, first deal with groups of districts, next with districts, and finally with taluqs. I should certainly prefer to reverse this order of arrangement, but the demands for immediate action in *all* parts of the Presidency are too pressing to wait the action of the *slower*, though certainly more certain way of producing the desired result.

6. My proposal is, therefore, that, during the period ending on the last day of April 1874, competition in the cultivation of Carolina paddy should be invited in the section of country known as the East Centre, and that the inducements to be offered should be the prizes detailed in paragraph 3 of this letter, to be awarded under the following conditions:—

(1.) That each entry consist of, at the least, 200 lbs. of the unthreshed crop in the sheaf, and 100 lbs. of the clean grain.

(2.) That the whole of the produce exhibited under each entry shall have been cultivated and produced by the exhibitor.

(3.) That the crop of which the entry is a part shall have been grown on, at the least, 1,000 square yards of land.

(4.) That each entry be accompanied by a statement showing details of cultivation and general results (to be entered in a form to be provided) with simple observations made during the growth of the crop, the accuracy and value of which will receive due weight in awarding the prizes.

7. Every facility should be offered for obtaining seed, which should be supplied to applicants free of all cost; and suggestions for cultivation should be freely distributed, though it should be thoroughly understood that it will be more satisfactory in every way if each competitor will do exactly as he thinks best in cultivating the crop.

8. If these proposals are allowed to form a part of the general scheme for agricultural shows, the other details might be disposed of in Committee.

9. I would add that it would be well, I think, if for a year or two, or until a demand is created, Government could purchase for export all the Carolina paddy of good quality produced in this part of the Presidency. I believe that the growers would be satisfied with a price slightly over the price obtained for ordinary country paddy; and, with the means at disposal here, the arrangement could, I think, be worked at very little expense to Government. At present there is no local demand for this paddy, and the samples are so irregular and of such a small bulk that no merchant considers it worth collecting for export.

10. Carolina paddy will certainly never entirely displace the ordinary Native varieties of paddy, though, in some situations and under some circumstances, it may make its way amongst cultivators, if only a market for it existed.

11. I offer these suggestions, as something in this direction might be done in connection with other means to be tried to introduce this variety of paddy into general cultivation. If Carolina paddy is ever to become a staple production of this country, it must be introduced by other means than simply broad-casting good

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seed over the country. There is too much of doubt and uncertainty connected with experimental crops for incomes so precarious as those enjoyed by our ryots.

Mr. ROBERTSON suggests in the letter before the Board a modification of the system now found so successful by the Royal Agricultural Society and others, which seek the improvement of agriculture by offering prizes and holding competitive exhibitions, viz., that of confining their attention periodically to a limited and well defined and similar area at a time, and changing those areas in such a manner that the whole country comes consecutively under the operation and attention of the Society.

2. Mr. Robertson proposes to take up the east centre district, and confine attention to Carolina paddy. The Board consider the proposals sound and worthy of adoption, the prizes are well classified and conditioned, and they would accept them for a year's trial.

3. But Mr. Robertson has hit the real difficulty in extending the cultivation of this improved grain. There is no local taste or demand for this new specie of rice, and it is not grown in sufficient quantity to find a place in the market. Notwithstanding this serious discouragement, the Board would advocate a trial, and submit Mr. Robertson's proposal for the favourable consideration of Government.

No. 46.

ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1873, No. 694.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council approves generally of Mr. Robertson's suggestions, but while he deems it desirable to invite attention to new crops, and to induce their careful cultivation, he is also desirous that this should be undertaken voluntarily, and that the products should be left to stand or fall on their own merits.

2. He cannot, therefore, accord his sanction either to the gratuitous distribution of Carolina paddy seed, or to the purchase, on behalf of Government, of the crops grown from it, nor is he disposed to allow the proposed prizes to Tahsildars.

3. With these exceptions, the Board are authorized to give Mr. Robertson's proposals a trial for one year, reporting the results.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 1796

(3)

From

Board of Rev: Dated 12 June 1873. No 987 187.

FOR ORDERS.

I would try this - omitting
 however the 'I did do'
 prizes in para 3 - as likely
 to detract from the when-
 tary character of the cul-
 tivation - selling the seed
 in para 7/ and keeping from
J. D. S.

FOR ORDERS.

1796
c 24 June / 73 R 27 June

No. 694

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 5th July 1873.

Read the following Proceedings of the

Board of Revenue.

Submitting for favorable
consideration suggestions made by
the Suptt. Col. Sams, for
encouraging the cultivation of
Carolina Paddy

(5)
H.R. 12th June 1873 N. 987

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MS

Let from Area

MS

14 To the Board of Rev Dec 11 July 73-

SP

Cultivated
Carolina parakeet

Des Moines

No. 45-46