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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1772.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	8-12-1875	196 .

8/

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1772

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th December 1875.*

No. 107. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st November 1875, No. 3,016:—

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent of Government Farms, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 14th October 1875, No. 533:—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Board, two analyses made by my Assistant, Mr. Schiffmayer, of a soil rendered barren from an excess of salt. Analysis (A) shows the composition of the soluble salts contained in the soil; analysis (B) shows the composition of the soluble part of the efflorescence that was collected off the surface of the soil during the hot season:—

(A.)

	Per cent.
Soluble salts in the soil	3.226
Composition of the above—	
Sulphuric acid..... (SO ₄)	34.16
Silicic „ (Si O ₂)	4.37
Chlorine..... (Cl)	20.74
Potassium..... { K }	30.99
Sodium { Na }	
Calcium..... (Ca)	2.65
Magnesium..... (Mg)	2.80
Ferric Oxide..... (Fe ₂ O ₃)	1.50
Aluminum..... (Al)	Trace
	97.21

(B.)

	Per cent.
Composition of the efflorescence soluble in water—	
Sulphuric acid (SO ₄)	39.60
Silicic „ (Si O ₂)	0.54
Chlorine..... (Cl)	20.30
Potassium (K)	13.09
Sodium (Na)	17.48
Calcium..... (Ca)	2.59
Magnesium..... (Mg)	5.20
Ferric Oxide..... (Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.54
Aluminum..... (Al)	Trace
	99.34

2. The soil examined was taken from one of the plots of salt land noticed in paragraph 36 of my last annual report. The land forms a part of the bed of the river Adyar, but its surface is dry during fully eleven months in the year: it has apparently been formed by an accumulation of alluvial silt and the decomposed remains of many successive generations of aquatic plants. It will be noticed that the soil contains more than three per cent. of salts soluble in water: this at once explains why the soil is barren, it being a well-ascertained fact that no soil which contains more than half per cent. of salts capable of being washed out by water can be fertile.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th December 1875.*

3. Subsoil draining is the only means by which this soil can be rendered productive. A heavy dressing of fold-yard manure with deep tillage would ameliorate its present condition, but the improvement thus secured would be lost unless these means are frequently put in operation.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 108.

ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1875, No. 1,772.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

1772
3

No. 3,016.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st November 1875.

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Ferric Oxide..... (Fe ₂ O ₃)	1.55
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Govt. of 1875

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated December, 8th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 8th December 1875, No. 1,772.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 107-108.

Soil near Adyar rendered barren from an excess of salt.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on letter from the Superintendent of Government Farms forwarding two analyses of— and suggesting means by which it can be made productive.

3. Subsoil draining is the only means by which this soil can be rendered productive. A heavy dressing of fold-yard manure with deep tillage would ameliorate its present condition, but the improvement thus secured would be lost unless these means are frequently put in operation.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Calcutta
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

4th 1772

Recorded

8th Dec^r 1875

*The following report for 1874/75 - to which
attention is made in the letter from the
Sd. Secy has not yet come before Govt.*

14. To the Board of Revenue 10 Dec

*Soil near Adyar rendered barren from an
excess of salt. - Submitting to Government letter
from Superintendent of Government Farms for-
warding two analyses of - and suggesting
certain means by which it can be made produc-
tive.*

No. 3,016.

NOVEMBER.

Received

9. Nov 1875

PROCEEDINGS, 1ST NOVEMBER 1875, No. 3,016.

Copy 25 Nov 1875
Encl.

Recd 1875. By file
BOARD of REVENUE,
MADRAS.

No 4365

Wm. D. Miller

20/11/75. Secy. Madras 1875