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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	553	☒ Press
B.P. No.		☐ Mis.
Dated	20-3-1875 196 .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Minute of 3^d Member of the
Board of Revenue alluded to in
para 9 of the Board's Proceedings
dated 25th November 1873 No 2410 regarding
establishment of an Agricultural
College at the Presidency Town.

I cannot subscribe to these
Proceedings for, although acknowledge
the truth and force of much that
they contain, I do not think there is
any sufficient reason shown for
postponing the commencement of a
system of regular education in
Agriculture.

No doubt Mr Robertson is
in error in supposing that education
is

is depriving agriculture of the services of its best men - but it is I think on the other hand scarcely correct to suppose that none of the Agricultural classes are seeking to benefit by the higher education offered to all in the Government Schools.

I fully admit the extreme difficulty of teaching the body of the people who till the ground by any means and I am well convinced that knowledge can only be disseminated amongst them by slow degrees.

I am also alive to the fact that the existing systems of agriculture in the country are very

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imperfectly, if at all understood by the ruling classes still it is not denied that there is in every part of the country room for improvement and that a knowledge of the true principles of agricultural science must result in better farming and increased production - I think therefore that no time ought to be lost in organizing some system by which the knowledge that is available may be imparted to others and by which those to whom it will be of real benefit may be eventually reached.

To wait until we have a fuller knowledge of the present system

system, until we are prepared to start a school with a full complement of competent teachers and lecturers or until we are assured that a large number of students are ready at once to attend a school will be to postpone the experiment for years.

The establishment of a school of agriculture must in the first instance be purely experimental. Much up-hill work has to be done and I look to many failures and disappointments as the certain and necessary forerunners of eventual success.

There are however I think
available

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available sufficient means to make a beginning with a fair prospect of doing good and those means will increase yearly. The Experiment^{al} and Model Farms are thoroughly established, but until they can be made the means of illustrating a system of education their value is very much thrown away. In Mr. Robertson we have a man well competent to deliver lectures on agriculture and agricultural Chemistry and to impart practical instruction in the Field to any number of students.

It has been ascertained that competent lecturers are available in Botany, Animal Pathology and Chemistry.

A
J.D.

A Building, very suitable
for all present purposes, can be
had close to the Forum at a fair
rent and it cannot be impossible
to procure the services of a suitable
staff of teachers for guiding
the professional studies and
imparting to the pupils at the
same time a fair general
education.

I will give below a rough
outline of the form I think the
school should take at first.
I only wish to show here that
the means for beginning, in a
small way, are already available.
I should be sorry to see Mr.
Robertson burdened with
too

too large a share in the ma-
-nagement of this school. Be-
-yond delivering a couple of courses
of lectures and imparting in-
-structions in the field to the
students on fixed days during
the term, his time should not
be occupied with teaching.
The seasons for lectures and
instruction should be so ar-
-ranged that Mr. Robertson
should have leisure to devote
3 or 4 months in each year to
leisurely tours of inspection in
the Districts; I quite concur
in the views expressed in the
Proceedings that the greatest
benefit

benefit would follow from
these tours. I am also greatly
in favour of establishing Model
Farms in the Districts as soon
as competent Supervisors can
be procured. Without proper
supervision such Farms will
be worse than useless. It is
I think a matter of great doubt
how soon men can be trained
for this purpose at Lydiate, that
the proposed institution will
eventually turn out young men
fit for the post. I have every
hope but it will take time.
In the meantime I should be
very glad, if possible, to see
one or two District Farms
established

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established under the
superintendence of men from
England or Germany -

I will not follow Mr. Robertson
through all his proposals for the
establishment in the first
instance of a Preliminary Class
to be shortly developed into
a regular College beyond that
that I think his outline on the
whole suitable. I think the Pre-
liminary Class proposed very
good but I should not be disposed
to look on it as the temporary
expedient which Mr. Robertson
seems to regard it as -

It will be very long I think
before the schools of the country
will

will send up a sufficient
of young men prepared at
once to enter on a course of lectures.

Every encouragement however
should be given to teachers
from the different schools in
the country to qualify as instructors
of Elementary Agriculture.

Mr. Robertson proposes to
commence a series of lectures
at once for the benefit not
only of students at the school
but for all who may wish
to attend. This plan I think
very good. it would afford
practice to the Lecturers and
would at once place some

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agricultural knowledge within
the reach of those who desire it.
The establishment of a school
would of course lead to the
abolition of the present classes
of Apprentices, for there would
be substituted a class of scholar-
ships. Mr. Robertson prop.

20 in number with salaries at
15, 20 and 25. This would be
quite necessary to begin with
at all events.

My notion of what the
proposed school should be
is as follows:

A school for about 40 young
men or boys. 20 of whom should
be

be Government scholars and
be independent.

The establishment and
cost should be as follows:

House Rent monthly	Rs. 100
Head Master — . —	250
2 nd — — — — —	100
3 rd — — — — —	75
Servants ²⁰ ~~per~~ — — — — —	Annual $545 \times 12 = 6540$
³⁰ Furniture Books ~~per~~ — — — — —	1,000
Lecturers fees	
6 Courses at 700 — — — — —	4,200
For two terms — — — — —	8,400
	<u>15,940</u>

The course of instruction should
consist of English literature
Arithmetic and Mathematics

Farm Book-keeping
Land surveying and
Mechanics.

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Besides the above all
should attend Field Classes
at the Farm and such Lectures
as they could understand.
The Masters should attend
with the pupils both Field Classes
and Lectures. It would not
be possible at present to procure
Masters possessing professional
knowledge, but by attending
the Lectures they would be
able to guide their pupils in
the preparation for them or to
assist them in understanding
them. Where almost all are
ignorant it will be necessary
to

to train Masters as well as
boys. The above only professes

to be the roughest of outlines.

Should the Government de-
termine upon organizing a
school the details can be
readily prepared. In the

Board's last Proceedings

it was proposed to keep the

school for the present district

from the Educational Department

I deprecate this course.

In the first place, if it is to

succeed, the school must be

fed by pupils from other schools

and preparatory classes must

be established in the different
district.

Letter from Secretary
to Secretary to Government
20th June 1873.

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district schools. In the next place
in entering upon a scheme so
novel and experimental and
so full of difficulties I think
it would be most unwise not
to seek the aid of those most
able to give it. The experience
of the learned Director and
of his coadjutors ~~is~~ ^{will}
be most valuable in this
matter.

In connection with
the proposed school I think
a Preparatory class might
be opened in the A. V. School
at Lydaset being close to the
Farm boys might have the
benefit

benefit of field instruction

(Signed) G. Thornhill

3rd Member

| True copy |

J. G. G. G.
Secretary

Rev. 1002/74

20/3/78 - No 553

G. D. G. G.
Secretary

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,
Madras,

Dated 26th March 1874.

No. 405.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

As requested in Memo-
-randum, dated 23rd March
1874 No. 55, the undersigned
has the honor to forward to
the Acting Under Secretary
to Government, Revenue Depart-
-ment, copy of minute of 3rd
Member alluded to in para 9
of Board's Proceedings dated
25th November 1873 No. 2410, re-
-lative to the Establishment
of an Agricultural College
at the Presidency Town.

/ By Order /

J. G. G. G.
Secretary

To The Acting Under Secretary to
Government Revenue
Department
with Copy of Minute

G. D. G. G.

Copied by the Secretary

268291

Revenue 1874 Sept
No 1002

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

From

The Sub-Secretary to the
Board of Revenue,

To

The Collector of
the District of
Revenue Deptt.

Dated 26th Sept 1874
Received 27th Sept 1874

No. 405.

Forwarding copy of
Minute of 26th Sept 1874
= for Revenue from 26th
Pro. 25th Nov. 1873 re-
= fusing establishment
by and Agricultural
College and University
Board.

C 26/11/15 1005/15
C 28/11/15 1003/15
28 March 1915. R. S. S. S. S.

20: March 1875