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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	826	Press / Mis.
Dated	27. 6.	1961875

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th May 1875.

No. 312. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1875, No. 1,259 :—

Read the following letter from A WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 5th April 1875, No. 87 :—

I AM in receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th March 1875, directing arrangements to be made about the purchase of land for a model farm at Coimbatore.

2. I hope the Board will allow me to make the following suggestions to Government, as a preliminary step to commencing public expenditure, with the view of demonstrating to the Indian cultivator the superiority of English method.

3. Coimbatore has been the site of experimental cotton farms superintended by American planters. It is now thirty years ago, but I recollect passing through the district when such farms were instituted, and I have further impressed on my memory a statement of one of the American planters, that after all his experiments, he had found the local plant and cultivation best suited to the climate.

4. I am very anxious that a model farm set up in this district should not, as former experiments have proved, be a source of expense and wonder to the ryot, and of no corresponding or commensurate advantage; and with this view, would earnestly recommend that before beginning to teach the ryot, the model farmer should commence by a study of the native methods of cultivation. A favorable opinion has been expressed of the wheat and raggy crops grown under wells, which are the mainstay of agriculture in this district; excellent crops of maize, tobacco, sugar-cane, chillies, &c., are also cultivated, while some of the rice here is celebrated.

5. The experience of native low-country cultivation by the Superintendent of Government Farms is, I believe, chiefly limited to the neighbourhood of Sydapet, where sour, undrained and unmanured soil produces a poor description of rice crop: thence has emanated a general opinion that the soil everywhere, which for thousands of years has been cultivated, is now exhausted without considering the limited sphere of such observation and the special poverty of the cultivators of the lands so described.

6. A residence of twelve years in Cuddapah has made me acquainted with a species of garden cultivation that would scarcely be surpassed. I have seen in Tinnevelly rice-lands invaluable, on which tons of manure are bestowed; in other districts, I have seen the greatest care of manure as an application to the soil.

7. Surely, under such conditions a tour over districts to learn the native methods would be only a wise and prudent course, before rushing into expense under the impression that our example will be followed.

8. One of our chief ryots here, of whom I inquired about transferring his land for a model farm, and who had furnished the same for former cotton experiment, had no objection whatever to let the land; but when I broached the subject of his following our example, he protested that he would never do so, and as he grows valuable crops, his statement is not without some value.

9. I would have made this suggestion about tours to acquire information regarding native agriculture in richer districts than Chingleput at an earlier date, but was under the impression that the model farm was, for the present, postponed.

10. Since I see it suddenly revived, I think it right to record my views that an extensive investigation of native agriculture over districts should precede the establishment of a model farm. To expatriate a young man, however versed in European agriculture, among ryots whose language he may be imperfectly acquainted with, and whose agriculture he may not have had an opportunity to study, seems to me to savour of haste, as was the original scheme to construct expensive blocks of farm steadings, not required, on *waste* land, with exceptional advantages (with means of irrigation, *near* a *Railway*, and a *town*, *&c.*) which could never, in the nature of things, have existed.

11. I would, therefore, recommend to Government, as a preventive against future failure, that the preliminary task of the Superintendent of Government Farms and his Assistants should be in district tours, and in the compilation of agricultural statistics and methods, with especial relation to the climates and soils which vary so much. The delay in the establishment of the model farm will thus be compensated by a larger acquaintance with the subject, and by a better hope of a beneficial result.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., 17th March 1875, No. 437.

2. The Board fully concur with the Collector in considering the study of the best modes of native agriculture by the Superintendent and his Assistants of the highest importance, and Mr. Schiffmayer should take advantage of the opportunity now afforded him for examining carefully the system prevailing in the neighbourhood of Coimbatore, and report the result. The establishment of the farm having been ordered by Government, no time should be lost in giving effect to their instructions.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 313. ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1875, No. 826.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government agree with the Board and the Collector, and approve the instructions issued by the Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 27th.

Read

G.O. 27th May 1875, No. 826.

MAY
Nos. 312-313.

Model Farm at Coimbatore.—Concurring with the Board of Revenue and the Collector that the Superintendent and his Assistants should study the best modes of native agriculture as a preliminary step to the establishment of a —, and approving the instructions issued by the Board regarding the early establishment of the farm.

No. 1,259.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th May 1875.

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4. I am very anxious that a model farm set up in this district should not, as former experiments have proved, be a source of expense and wonder to the ryot, and of no corresponding or commensurate advantage; and with this view, would earnestly recommend that before beginning to teach the ryot, the model farmer should commence by a study of the native methods of cultivation. A favorable opinion has been expressed of the wheat and raggy crops grown under wells, which are the mainstay of agriculture in this district; excellent crops of maize, tobacco, sugar-cane, chillies, &c., are also cultivated, while some of the rice here is celebrated.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Coimbatore.
Copy to the Superintendent, Government Farms.
Exd. W. H. French.

G.O. Mar. 17th 1875 No. 437

C 22. Rep. (S. 12) Sept. 1875

1 Folio Boards Reading Issue
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Rec. 19th May 1875 No. 1259

1875.

Board of Revenue, MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH MAY 1875, No. 1,259.

MAY.
No. 1,259.

Received 21 May

Model Farm—at Coimbatore.—Opinion of Collector that the Superintendent of Government Farms and his Assistants should study the best modes of native agriculture as a preliminary step to the establishment of—, concurred in and submitted to Government. No time should be lost in giving effect to the instructions of Government regarding the establishment of the farm.

The Govt. agree with the Board & the Collector, & enclose the instructions issued by the Board. WH 27 May 75.