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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 899 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 9.6.1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th June 1875.

No. 85. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th May 1875, No. 1,344 —

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., MRAC, Superintendent of the Government Farms, to H. E STOKES, Esq, Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 21st April 1875, No. 205.

As directed in the Proceedings of the Board, No 3,383, dated the 24th of November 1874, I have the honor to submit a Revised Prize List with Regulations, &c., for an Agricultural Exhibition to be held in Madras in 1876.

2. I have read with care the records forwarded to me with the Proceedings just noticed and have revised the prize list as desired. These records I now return.

3. The "District Prize" and the scheme under which exhibits can be forwarded from the districts to the Exhibition provide means for ensuring compliance with the instructions conveyed in the latter part of paragraph 4 of G. O., No. 1,191, dated the 18th September 1874.

4. I have submitted a "Supplemental Prize List" for horses, which, I trust, may be allowed to form a part of the prize list. The prizes are small, but they will, I hope, suffice to bring together a good show of horses, a result that will add greatly to the usefulness of the Exhibition, and at the same time add to its attractions. I believe that the expenditure of the sum it is proposed to give in prizes for horses will, at the least, be met by a corresponding increase in the amount of money that will be collected for admissions to the Exhibition, so that, from a mere commercial point of view, the addition to the prize list of prizes for horses is desirable; but I hope that a little encouragement given in this way to horse-breeding will yield much more important results. I believe that very much more can be done in horse-breeding in Southern India than is generally supposed, an opinion which was, I find, held by the Board as far back as 1856 when, of course, they were without the knowledge we now possess of the fodder-producing capabilities of many indigenous crops. From paragraph 38 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,136, dated the 10th of July 1856, I take the following extract:—"There is nothing to prevent the propagation of a serviceable breed of horses in Southern India, and if due encouragement is held out to breeders, the number and character of the animals will improve with the advancing prosperity of the community."

5. I may, in the prize list, have omitted some items which should receive attention; indeed, with so much to deal with, it has been exceedingly difficult in many cases to make a selection. In reports of the local Shows held in the time of Lord Harris, I find frequent complaints of the unnecessarily large number of objects that were then eligible for competition.

6. With this I submit plans and elevations of shedding required for the Exhibition; and an estimate showing the probable net expenditure that will be incurred on behalf of the Exhibition. The shedding will be very similar to that erected on the last occasion. The probable cost of the Exhibition, as shown in the estimates, is slightly below the sum sanctioned.

7. I have not attempted to deal with the difficulty that is experienced by persons living at a distance from Madras in sending live-stock to the Exhibition,

The terms offered by the Railway Company for conveying stock to the last Exhibition were apparently sufficiently liberal, but the *regulations of the Company* rendered these concessions almost worthless; it is of little use to offer to convey a bull or cow back from the Exhibition free of charge to the exhibitor, if to get that bull or cow to the Exhibition he *is called upon to pay a charge for a truck-load of cattle.* Perhaps the best way of meeting this difficulty would be for the local Juries, which I have suggested should be formed in the districts, to collect together at the chief Railway station all live-stock intended to be sent to the Exhibition, and afterwards to send them to Madras when there is a sufficient number to fill a truck. It would be well also to consider whether something could not be done to relieve exhibitors of some of the expense that even under this arrangement they must still incur in sending live-stock to the Exhibition, for, independent of this expense, the exhibitor must always be put to much personal trouble; he must, for a time, be without the services of the animal, and the animal he exhibits is exposed to danger from accident or disease. On the other hand, a prize may be secured or a sale may be effected at better prices than could have been obtained for the animals at home; however, only a few of the exhibits can obtain prizes, and well-reared animals of a good variety are not yet sufficiently appreciated by natives to admit of really good prices being obtained. It must be remembered that in the present state of our agriculture, the object of an Agricultural Exhibition is educational. Our cultivators, and we also need information regarding the capabilities of the different indigenous breeds of horses, cattle and sheep, and the prizes offered for live-stock must be looked upon as the means to be employed for bringing together these different races and breeds. Before we attempt to do anything towards the improvement of the agricultural live-stock of Southern India, we should ascertain, beyond a doubt, what are our resources in stock of the kind.

8. It will, I think, be unnecessary to nominate an Exhibition Committee at present. An Executive Committee to be appointed in January next, and Stewards and Judges to be appointed at the same time, will suffice for the requirements of the Exhibition. I can, if the Board approve, carry on as Secretary to the Exhibition, under the orders of the Board, all preliminary work; the expenditure to be controlled by the regulations under which I expend money on account of Government Farms.

9. I would suggest that the prize list should be printed, and the plans lithographed. After the Board have made what corrections they consider necessary in the prize list or regulations, I shall feel obliged if they will allow me to correct the printer's proof of the portion I have written.

10. It is desirable that the prize list should be put into circulation with as little delay as possible, to allow persons living in districts watered by the south-west rains to prepare produce for Exhibition.

Enclosure No. 1 —Prize List, Plans, &c.

Enclosure No. 2.—Supplemental Prize List.

Enclosure No 3 —Estimate.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th June 1875.

Submitted to Government with reference to G. O., dated 18th September 1874, No. 1,191.

2. Mr Robertson submits a revised list of prizes to be awarded at the Agricultural Exhibition to be held in February next with a plan of the buildings and estimate of cost. The Board approve Mr. Robertson's proposals in the main, but consider that the prize list requires pruning and revision so as to secure that, whilst the largest possible number of prizes shall be offered for indigenous products of all kinds, no unnecessary outlay on exotics that will not benefit the country is incurred. The Board cannot concur in the proposal to allow nearly Rupees 1,000 for prizes to imported and other horses; the prizes suggested would not lead to the importation of a single horse, and no beneficial result would follow from awarding prizes to the livery stable-keepers and private competitors who might exhibit their horses. What is required is an improvement in the breed of country horses and ponies, and the prize list should be confined to animals of that class. The same remark applies to other imported stock. No gain to the country is likely to result from the rearing of Dorking and other fowls of foreign breeds by a few private persons and the award of prizes to them.

The inclusion of pigs in the list seems unnecessary; the imported varieties would carry off all the prizes.

3. The offer of small prizes for tea and coffee is not likely to have much effect in stimulating the industry; and with reference to the remark at paragraph 3, G. O., 13th June 1873, No. 605, it is not advisable to trench on ground already occupied by the Agri-Horticultural Society.

4. In submitting to Government the prize list with the above remarks, the Board would suggest for consideration the advisability of postponing the Exhibition for a year at least, with the view of enabling Mr. Robertson to visit some of the most advanced districts, such as Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly, in order that he may have an opportunity of studying the methods of Agriculture practised by the natives. Mr. Robertson has not hitherto been able to make any extended tours, and if the Exhibition is to be held in February next, his time will be so taken up with the preliminary arrangements in addition to his other duties, that he will not have leisure for the purpose. The Board consider it very desirable, however, that Mr. Robertson should acquire a more accurate knowledge of the agricultural practice in some of the richest and best cultivated districts, and are of opinion that his time would be more profitably occupied in making a tour of two or three months with this object than in superintending an Exhibition at Madras.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 86. Order thereon, 9th June 1875, No. 899.

Miscellaneous

The Government approve of the Board's proposal to postpone the Exhibition for another year.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th June 1875.

2. The revision of the Prize List can be undertaken after Mr. Robertson has completed his tour.

3. Regarding the latter orders are issued in separate Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

17-1-26

Vol 8626/79

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated June, 9th

Recd

Date

G O, 9th June 1875, No 899

JUNE

Nos. 85-86.

Agricultural Exhibition to be held at Madura in February 1876—Approving Board's proposal to postpone the — for another year, and observing that the revision of the Prize List can be taken after Mr Robertson has completed his tour regarding which orders will be issued separately

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2660

From Bd of Rev.

Dated 18 May 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

I would certainly postpone the exhibition in order that Mr Robertson may make his tour

5 June 75. RM

Regr R Robertson

I agree with the Bd. & to the erection of the Registration Offices for the Assessments & Lists for 1877. & with such Districts & Sub-Districts as you may think requisite for the County generally

Secretary Inland Revenue

Office of Works

himself called upon
her father and Sup-
plied it to me —
He has the School
to require & may
to do till he —
leaves decent
usual time — But
the School is the first
thing to attended
to & 8/6 ann

FOR ORDERS.

No. 1,344.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th May 1875.

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(A true Copy and Extract)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with three enclosures, to be returned.

Copy to the Superintendent of Government Farms.

Exd. W. H. French.

Go 26 July/56 Nos 20. 21
13th June 193. - 94. 95
28 Sept/74 - 173. 174
14 Dec/74 - 121 Rev.

Rev. 1875: 2411
& 2060
No 265

1875.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 18TH MAY 1875, No 1,344

Dept 26 May/75
Encl. 3
Odd
Write Order

Received 31st May

MAY.

No. 1,344

Agricultural Exhibition—to be held at Madras in February 1876.—Letter from the Superintendent of Government Farms, forwarding a revised list of prizes to be awarded at —, with a plan of the building and estimate of cost, submitted to Government with remarks Advisability of postponing the Exhibition for a year at least, in view to enable the Superintendent to study the methods of Agriculture practised by natives of certain districts, suggested

No 899 - 9 June 1875
Write order

Dept 9 June/75

List

No 899

The Govt approve of the Board's proposal to postpone the Exhibition for another year.

The revision of the Prize list can be undertaken after Mr Robertson has completed his tour.

Respecting the Collection can you find an opportunity

148 to the Board of Rev
Dept 9 June/75