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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd August 1876.*

No. 14. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th July 1876, No. 1,899 :—

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent of Government Farms, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd July 1876.

With reference to Board's Official Memorandum, No. 1,000.

I have the honor to state that I exceedingly regret the delay there has been in compiling the general report on Carolina paddy experiments in this Presidency. I undertook the work, believing that all it would be necessary for me to do would be to reduce the results to a common standard and to summarise the opinions expressed by the various reporters. But I soon found that it would be necessary for me to do a great deal more than this, if any thing worth the trouble was to be gained from my labors.

2. There is but an exceedingly small proportion of the detailed information given concerning the experiments that I can make use of; again and again the only remark in the column for observations is "failed." In but few instances has it been thought necessary to explain the cause of failure; information which I need scarcely add would have been most valuable. Again, it is frequent in the same statement to meet with, side by side, returns showing most satisfactory results, and returns showing complete failures, from sowings apparently treat alike as regards watering, manuring, &c.

3. In but few of the returns are the minor details taken note of concerning the crop during its growth, which together constitute the history of the experiment, and upon which only it is possible to form a conclusive opinion.

4. I have tried in various ways to reduce the results of the experiments to a shape that would admit of the information being turned to a practical use, but I am not very sanguine as to the results of these endeavours, though I trust that the information I have collected from other sources regarding Carolina paddy cultivation will render my report useful.

5. I have been in correspondence with various persons residing abroad regarding the culture of Carolina paddy. From Dr. Forbes Watson, of the India Museum, I have received much valuable information, and that gentleman was good enough to enter upon a correspondence on my behalf with some growers of Carolina paddy, resident in the Southern States of America. I am also indebted to the Commissioner of Agriculture of the United States for copies of his reports for the last seven years, from which I have gained useful information on the culture of paddy on the American continent. I have also written for information to Madagascar, from which island rice was introduced to America. I have also consulted many American agricultural works for information on paddy culture. But the most practical and valuable information I have so far collected was obtained from some odd numbers of Agricultural Journals published in the Southern States, and, in hope of gaining further information of the sort, I included in my indent on the Secretary of State for India, submitted to the Board with my letter, No. 201, dated 22nd of April last, the back volumes of 2 or 3 of these Agricultural Journals. I trust, therefore, that the submission of the report called for may be delayed until I have had an opportunity to consult these volumes. In conclusion, I would remark that the last of the district reports reached me only

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd August 1876.*

about a fortnight ago, and the meteorological information required in the preparation of the report has not yet been furnished—see Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 5,177, of the 22nd of June.

No. 15. The Board acting under instructions from the Government to submit a full report showing the results of the cultivation of Carolina rice in this Presidency. Accordingly, in their Proceedings, dated 20th November 1871, No. 4,788, the Board submitted a report exhibiting the results of experiments made from 1866 up to that time; and requested Mr. Robertson to state when the report which he had promised might be expected.

* Letters from Superintendent of Government Farms, dated 28th November 1871, No. 643, and 6th December 1871, No. 676.

The Superintendent, in reply, asked for a file of the several reports, which from time to time had been submitted to the Board by Collectors, promising to commence a general report on the subject as soon as he should receive them. The file was sent to him on the 11th December 1871. The report was delayed, and on the 20th November 1872 a reminder† was sent to Mr. Robertson, to which he replied‡ expressing his exceedingly great regret that a succession of Mofussil tours had prevented his working at the report during the past year, and predicting that similar occupation, together with pressure of routine work, would fully occupy his time until the following March. At the same time he admitted that the preparation of such reports form the more important part of his duties. Seven months later, another reminder§ was sent, in reply to which Mr. Robertson wrote|| stating that the preparation of the report was an impossibility, unless he could be relieved of current work, and suggesting if this could not be done, that the matter should be allowed to lie over until the arrival of his Assistant, whose employment had been lately sanctioned. The Board's Proceedings, submitting this letter to Government, were recorded in G.O., dated 11th August 1873, No. 80. The Board waited for another year when they again asked¶ that the report might be expedited; but the old plea of want of time was repeated, and Mr. Robertson applied** for further information from Collectors to supplement that which by his procrastination had become obsolete. At the end of the year his attention was again roused by †† Dated 9th December 1874, No. 3,565. Board's Proceedings,†† reviewing the Collectors' annual reports, but this time no answer was elicited. Finally yet another reminder was sent on the 22nd June†† last, to which Mr. Robertson's letter read above is the reply.

2. In this letter, after complaining of the insufficiency of the information supplied by the Collectors, and stating that he has tried in vain to collate their reports, and draw from the meagre array of facts which they contain some scientific conclusions, Mr. Robertson proceeds to ask for more time to enable him to procure further information from America. The Board cannot consent to any further delay. It is now more than

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd August 1876.*

four years and a half since the results obtained from numerous experiments were placed in the Superintendent's hands, and other reports have from time to time been forwarded to him since; but Mr. Robertson now deems them all worthless and proposes to obtain from America, where the rice is fully acclimatized, if not indigenous, information upon which to prepare a report regarding its cultivation in India where it is exotic. It is

the district reports were worthless. Had he pointed out their defects, might have been done during the past four and a half years to improve them and ensure better statistical results. The Board cannot excuse the protracted delay which has already occurred, much less consent to its continuance. The Superintendent's letter will be submitted to Government for such orders as they may see fit to pass.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 15.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1876, No. 1,038.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. ROBERTSON will be informed that the Government desire that he will submit an immediate report on the results of the cultivation of Carolina paddy in this Presidency, compiled, as far as possible, from the materials in his possession. The delay that has already occurred has been protracted and inexcusable.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. Grubert.

13/1038

No. 2,119.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th August 1874.

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent, Government Farms, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 15th July 1874, No. 405:—

WITH reference to the Board's Official Memorandum, dated the 3rd of July 1874, I have the honor to state, that I have not yet had at my disposal the time needed for the preparation of the Carolina Paddy Report. On my return to duty I trust that the only urgent office work, remaining for disposal, will be the Farm Report for the last year and, after this is written, I hope to be able to take the Carolina Paddy Report in hand.

2. In order that the report may be brought up to date, and be made as complete as possible, I shall feel greatly obliged if, in the meantime, a Circular may be addressed to all Collectors asking them to be good enough to furnish me at their convenience with details of all Carolina Paddy experiments made in their districts since the beginning of 1868. I find the Statements that have been from time to time communicated to me, represent but a very small number of the experiments that have been made.

COMMUNICATED to all Collectors, who are requested to furnish the Superintendent Government Farms with details of all Carolina Paddy experiments made in their districts since the beginning of 1868.

3. The information called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 27th July 1874, No. 1570, should be submitted direct to the Board, a copy of the communication being sent to the Superintendent Government Farms.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MAYNE,
First Assistant.

To all Collectors.

„ the Superintendent, Government Farms.

Exd. G. A. Taiton.

REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dated August, 3rd
No. 1415.
AUGUST
G.O. 3rd August 1874, No. 1098.
Carolina Paddy Collection to the Mr. Robertson to inform that the Government desire the submission of an immediate report on the results of the experiments, as far as possible, from the paddy in possession, and observing that the data has already secured has been protected and available.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 24 July 1876; No. 1899.

From No. 361. Read the following.

W. R. Robertson Esqre. M. R. S. S.
Supt. Government Farms.
To L. S. Galtoun Esquire
By Secretary, Board of Revenue

Sir,

With reference to Board's official
Memorandum No. 1006, dated 22nd Instant,
I have the honor to state that I ex-
ceedingly regret the delay there has
been in compiling the General Report
on Carolina paddy experiments in this
Presidency. I undertook the work
believing that all it would be necessary
for

1874.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 6TH AUGUST 1874, NO. 2,119.

403 August 17/76 H. 1438
H. 2057/98

Received

SECRET.
No. 2,119.

Carolina paddy experiments.—Letter from
Superintendent, Government Farms, stating that
he will be able to prepare general report on—
after his return to duty from privilege leave,
communicated to all Collectors with request to
furnish Superintendent with details of all Caro-
lina paddy experiments in their districts since
beginning of 1868.

for me to do, would be to reduce the results to a common standard, and to summarise the opinions expressed by the various reporters. But I soon found that it would be necessary for me to do a great deal more than this, if anything worth the trouble was to be gained from my labours.

There is but an exceedingly small proportion of the detailed information given, concerning the experiments, that I can make use of, again and again the only remark in the columns for observations is "failed". In but few instances, has it been thought necessary to explain the cause of failure, information which I need scarcely

add, would have been most valuable. Again it is frequent in the same statements to meet with side by side, returns showing most satisfactory results, and returns showing complete failures from sowings apparently treated alike as regards watering ^{6/4037} manuring &c.

In but few of the returns are the minor details taken note of, concerning the crop during its growth, which together constitute the history of the experiment, and upon which only it is possible to form a conclusive opinion.

I have tried in various ways to reduce the results of the experiments to a shape that, would admit of the information being brought to a practical use

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results of these endeavours, though, I trust
that the information I have collected
from other sources, regarding Carolina
paddy cultivation, will render my report
useful.

I have been in correspondence
with various persons residing abroad, re-
garding the culture of Carolina paddy.
From Dr. Forbes Watson of the Indian
Museum I have received much valuable
information, and that gentleman was good
enough to enter upon a correspondence
on my behalf with some growers of
Carolina paddy resident in the Southern
States of America. I am also indebted
to the Commissioner of Agriculture
of

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of the United States, for copies of his reports
for the last seven years, from which
I have gained useful information on
the culture of paddy in the American Con-
tinent. I have also written for information
to Madagascar, from which island
rice was introduced to America. I
have also consulted many American
Agricultural works for information
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practical and valuable information
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from some odd numbers of Agri-
cultural Journals, published in the
Southern States, and in hope of gaining
further information of the sort, I
included in my Report on the Secretary
of States for India, submitted to the
Board,

I Board with my letter, No 201, dated 22nd of
 April last, the back volumes of 2 or 3 of
 these Agricultural Journals. I trust
 therefore that the submission of the report
 called for, may be delayed until I have
 had an opportunity to consult these
 volumes. In conclusion, I would remark,
 that the last of the district reports
 reached me only about a fortnight
 ago, and the meteorological information
 required in the preparation of the
 report, has not yet been furnished,
 see Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings
 No 577 of the 22nd of June.

Government Farms I have &
 office - Syonpet } 1870, W. P. Robertson
 26 June 1876

In

In Government Order dated 21st
 August 1871, No 1417, Government acting
 under instructions from the Government
 of India, directed the Board to submit
 a full report showing the results of
 the cultivation of Carolina rice in this
 Presidency. Accordingly in their Pro-
 ceedings dated 20 November 1871, No 4788,
 the Board submitted a report exhibit-
 ing the results of experiments made from
 1866 up to that time; and requested
 Mr Robertson to state ^{when} the report
 which he had promised might be

* Letter from Super. expected. The Superintendent in reply
 informed by Govern-
 ment Farms dated 28th November 1871
 No 642 and 6th Decem-
 ber 1871, No 676. which from time to time had been
 submitted to the Board by collectors
 promising

promising to commence a general report
on the subject as soon as he should receive
them. The file was sent to him on the 11th
December 1871. The report was delayed

and on the 20th November 1872 a reminder ^{Official Memo}
was sent to Mr. Robertson to which ^{No. 1458, dated}
^{20th November 1872}

he replied expressing his exceedingly great ^{* Letter from the}
regret that a succession of ^{Sup^{ts} dated 6 Dec}
sickness had prevented his working at ^{- Dec 1872, No. 867}
the report during the past year and
predicting that similar occupation
together with pressure of routine work
would fully occupy his time until
the following March. At the
same time he admitted that the pre-
paration of such reports forms the

more

* O. M. No. 933
dated 1st July 1873

more important part of his duties.
Seven months later another reminder
was sent - in reply to which Mr. Robertson
wrote stating that the preparation of
the report was an impossibility unless
he could be relieved of current work and
suggesting that, if this could not be
done, the matter should be allowed to
lie over until the arrival of his
Assistant, whose employment had been
lately sanctioned. The Board's Proceedings
submitting this letter to Government
were recorded in Government Order, dated
August 1873, No. 80. The Board waited

* This is in the Madras
Office -

for another year, when they again
asked that the report might be
expedited

expedited - but the old plea of want of
time was repeated and Mr Robertson
applied for further information from ^{*Letter from Sup^r}
^{to supplement the 2^d of July 1874}
by his procrastination had become
obsolete. At the end of the year
his attention was again roused by Board
Proceedings reviewing the Collectors' ^{Dated 9 December}
^{1874, N. 3565.}
annual reports, but this time no answer
was elicited. Finally yet another reminder ^{*Om. N. 100}
was sent on the 22nd June last to which
Mr Robertson's letter read above is
the reply.

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array of facts which they contain some
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him to procure further information
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consent to any further delay. It is
now more than four years and a
half since the results obtained from
numerous experiments were placed in
the Superintendent's hands and other
reports have from time to time been
forwarded to him since - but Mr
Robertson now deems them all
worthless and proposes to obtain from
America when the rice is fully
acclimatized if not indigenous,
information

information upon which to prepare
a report regarding its cultivation in
India where it is exotic. It is much
to be regretted that Mr. Pabon has
not have discovered before
this that the District Reports were
worthless - had he pointed out these
defects in time something might have
been done during the past four and a
half years to improve them and ensure
better statistical results. The Board
cannot excuse the protracted delay
which has already occurred much
less consent to its continuance. The Super-
intendent's letter will be submitted to
Government for such orders as they may
see fit to pass.

(Three Copies Extract)

J. A. Sullivan.

Sept 11 The Secretary to Government
Revenue Dept with copy of Board's Proceedings
dated 12th August 1871

Mr. Robertson will be informed that
 desire that he will submit
 the Gov. ^{immediately} an ^{account of}
 report ^{results of the cultivation} on the ^{subject} of Carolina
 Cotton Cultivation in this Presidency, compiled
 as far as possible, from the materials in
 his possession. ^{Particulars regarding its cultivation}
 in America ^{not required for a report on what}
^{has been done}. The delay that has already

10 21 August 71 N^o 184 - 50
 11 Dec - 118 - 120
 16 Jan 72 - 193 - 94
 11 Feb 73 - 80
 27 January 75 - 291 - 93

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 desire that he will submit
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 his possession. ^{Particulars regarding its cultivation}
 in America ^{not required for a report on what}
^{has been done}. The delay that has already

24 Aug 1876
 no readings of the
 Board of Revenue
 24 July 1876

Submitting for order
 of Government letter
 from Dept of Ind Affairs
 regarding delay in con-
 sidering general report on
 condition Cotton Production
 in Indian Presidency
 24 Aug 1876
 with order

And copy to the Order of the Board of Revenue
 14th December 1876