

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 30.5.1973

(3) Initials of the Referencer 1.7

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1922

Press
Mis

Dated

8.6.1877

Not to be folded or roughly handled

8/3

1922
1
No. 1,817.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th April 1877.

Read the following letter from J. SHAW, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th March 1877, No. 194 :—

In reply to the inquiry contained in the Board's Proceedings, dated 26th February 1877, No. 878, whether any further information is obtainable from the records of the Society on the subject of the experimental cultivation of the Manilla hemp (*Musa textiles*), I have the honor to inform you that four specimens of the plant appear to have been received from Colonel Balfour in February 1858, and were in July 1859 twenty feet high, and thriving in every respect as vigorously as the common plantain.

2. On the 16th October 1861 Mr. Brown, the then Superintendent of the Gardens, was instructed to carry out the views of the Board expressed in their Proceedings of the 5th August 1861, No. 4,219, and to send, as soon as possible out of the sixteen plants then in the Gardens, two plants to the Collector of Malabar, one to the Collector of Tanjore, one to the Collector of Madras, one to the Collector of Vizagapatam, and one to the Collector of Coimbatore.

3. The Collector of Madras appears to have received a plant upwards of two months before the meeting at which these instructions were given, and one was sent to him on the 29th October. A memorandum on the cultivation of the plant was sent to him on the 11th November. Two plants were sent to the Collector of Salem on the 31st October to be forwarded to the Collector of Coimbatore, and two more were sent in December to the same gentleman to be forwarded to the Collector of Tanjore. One was sent to the Collector of Tanjore on the 7th January 1862 with a letter from the Collector of Madras on the cultivation of the plant. One was also sent to the Collector of Vizagapatam to Charles Minchin, Esq., Bimlipatam. One was also sent to the Government Garden, Travancore, on the 31st March 1862.

4. At a meeting of the Committee on the 10th January 1862, Dr. Hunter laid on the table samples of the cleaned fibres of the Manilla plantain (*Musa textiles*) introduced by Lord Harris and Colonel Balfour, and of the *Sansevieria cylindrica* and *Sansevieria zeylanica*. These were all very clean and fit for taking dyes, and possessed considerable strength and durability, but it was stated by Dr. Hunter that the Manilla plantain did not yield the silky-looking fibre produced by the garden plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*) of India.

5. On the 6th October 1862 a letter was read from Mr. Ebenezer Spencer, Spital Square, London, to Messrs. Oakes & Co. of Madras, regarding the growth and culture of the Manilla plantain, and Messrs. Oakes & Co. were informed with reference thereto that the Manilla plantain had been successfully introduced at Madras.

6. A letter from Charles Minchin, Esq., Bimlipatam, stating that the plants sent to him were flourishing and fast coming to maturity, and asking for information about the right age at which to cut, and how to proceed in preparing the fibre, and Dr. Hunter's reply describing the process of cleaning were read at, and are printed in, the Proceedings of the same meeting.

7. A letter from the Collector of Madras to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th September 1863, stating that the plant forwarded to him on the 5th August 1861 had come into flower, and that two more shoots had sprung up by the side of the parent stem, and that instructions had been issued regarding the preparing of fibres from the stem, was read at the meeting on the 7th October 1863.

8. On the 2nd December 1863 a letter was read from G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, dated 15th November, on the subject of the Manilla hemp grown at Sydapet, and the Secretary intimated that the plantain trees might be cut at any time, that the quality of the fibre varies with the age of the plant, and that a copy of the illustrated pamphlet on the cleaning of fibre had been sent to Mr. Banbury with good clean specimens of Manilla and garden plantain for the information of the Tahsildar of Sydapet.

9. This is the first mention of the plant I have been able to find in the Society's records except that in the Proceedings of the meeting held on the 7th November 1866; it is stated to be used in Java for the purpose of affording shade to coffee, for which it is well suited.

10. It grows freely in Madras with no more care and attention than is required for the common plantain, and is like the latter propagated by suckers which should be removed from the parent stem when they are about four feet high. The natives, however, do not care to cultivate it as the fruit is of no use, being full of seeds.

Submitted to Government with reference to G.O., dated 19th March 1877, No. 1,139.

2. It appears that the records of the Society throw no further light on the results of the experimental cultivation of the Manilla hemp plants distributed to Collectors and private individuals.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.

" " Superintendent, Government Farms.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Order to be forwarded to the Board of Revenue in continuation of the papers referred to in G.O. No. 37 dated 10th Nov. 1877.

2. The Board will be good enough to ascertain from collectors whether the Manilla hemp is anywhere grown in their respective districts.

Manilla Hemp.—Submitting to Government letter from Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras, giving further information available from records of Society regarding experimental cultivation of —

APRIL.
No. 1,877.

PROCEEDINGS, 24th Nov. 1877, No. 1,877.

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

Encl.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

8th June 1877, No. 1,922.

Read the following paper:—

No. 124. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th April 1877, No. 1,877.

Read the following letter from J. SHAW, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th March 1877, No. 194:—

In reply to the inquiry contained in the Board's Proceedings, dated 26th February 1877, No. 878, whether any further information is obtainable from the records of this Society on the subject of the experimental cultivation of the Manilla hemp (*Musa textiles*), I have the honor to inform you that four specimens of the plant appear to have been received from Colonel Balfour in February 1862 and were in July 1859 twenty feet high and thriving in every respect as instructed to carry out the views of the Board expressed in their Proceedings of the 5th August 1861, No. 4,219, and to send, as soon as possible out of the sixteen plants then in the Gardens, two plants to the Collector of Malabar, one to the Collector of Tanjore, one to the Collector of Madras, one to the Collector of Vizagapatam, and one to the Collector of Coimbatore.

3. The Collector of Madras appears to have received a plant upwards of two months before the meeting at which these instructions were given, and one was sent to him on the 29th October. A memorandum on the cultivation of the plant was sent to him on the 11th November. Two plants were sent to the Collector of Salem on the 31st October to be forwarded to the Collector of Coimbatore, and two more were sent in December to the same gentleman to be forwarded to the Collector of Malabar, one was sent to the Collector of Tanjore on the 7th January 1862 with a memorandum on the cultivation, and two were sent on the 17th January at the request of the Collector of Vizagapatam to Charles Minchin, Esq., Bimlipatam. One was also sent to the Government Garden, Travancore, on the 31st March 1862.

4. At a meeting of the Committee on the 15th January 1862, Dr. Hunter laid on the table samples of the cleaned fibres of the Manilla plantain (*Musa textiles*) introduced by Harris and Colonel Balfour, and of the *Sansevieria cylindrica* and *Sansevieria zeylanica*. These were all very clean and fit for taking dyes, and possessed considerable strength and gloss, but it was stated by Dr. Hunter that the Manilla plantain did not yield the silky-looking fibre produced by the garden plantain (*Musa paradisiaca*) of India.

5. On the 6th October 1862 a letter was read from Mr. Ebenezer Spencer, Spital Square, London, to Messrs. Oakes & Co. of Madras, regarding the growth and culture of the Manilla plantain, and Messrs. Oakes & Co. were informed with reference thereto that the Manilla plantain had been successfully introduced at Madras.

6. A letter from Charles Minchin, Esq., Bimlipatam, stating that the plants sent to him were flourishing and fast coming to maturity, and asking for information about the right age at which to cut, and how to proceed in preparing the fibre, and Dr. Hunter's reply describing the process of cleaning were read at, and are printed in, the Proceedings of the same meeting.

7. A letter from the Collector of Madras to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th September 1863, stating that the plant forwarded to him on the 5th August 1861 had come into flower, and that two more shoots had sprung up by the side of the parent stem, and that instructions had been regarding the preparing of fibres from the stem, was read at the meeting on the 7th October 1863.

Revenue Department, 8th June 1877, No. 1,922.

8. On the 2nd December 1868 a letter was read from G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Secretary of Madras, dated 16th November, on the subject of the Manila hemp grown at Sydapet. The Secretary intimated that the plantain trees might be cut at any time, but that the quality varies with the age of the plant, and that a copy of the illustrated pamphlet on the fibre had been sent to Mr. Banbury with good clean specimens of Manila and garden fibre for the information of the Tahsildar of Sydapet.

9. This is the last mention of the plant I have been able to find in the Society except that in the Proceedings of the meeting held on the 7th November 1868; it is used in Java for the purpose of affording shade to coffee, for which it is well suited.

10. It grows freely in Madras with no more care and attention than is required for the common plantain, and is like the latter propagated by suckers which should be removed from the parent stem when they are about four feet high. The natives, however, do not care to do so as the fruit is of no use, being full of seeds.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 19th March 1877, No. 1.

2. It appears that the records of the Society throw no further light on the experimental cultivation of the Manila hemp plants distributed to Collectors and individuals.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

C. A. GALLAGHER
Sub-Collector

No. 125.

ORDER THEREON, 8th June 1877, No. 1,922.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be forwarded to the Government of India.

2. The Board will be good enough to ascertain from the papers referred to whether Manilla hemp is anywhere grown in their respective districts.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

C. C. MASTER
Officiating Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue.

Edw. F. R. Bantleman.

1922
3

Book of 1877

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June 8th.

Recd.

G.O. 8th June 1877, No. 1,932.

JUNE.

No. 124,125.

Minute Book.—Ordering to forward to the Government of India Proceedings, Board of Revenue, submitting letter from Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society, giving further information regarding experiments, cultivation of —, and requesting Collectors to report if any — is grown in their respective districts.