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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

| G.O. No. / B.P. No: 3268 | Press. / Mis. |
|---|---|
| Dated 19.11.1877. | 197 . |

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Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

9th November 1877, No. 3,268.

Read the following paper :—

No. 186. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1877, No. 4,633.

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 Sydapet, 21st September 1877, No. 820.

WHEN preparing my report on the Carolina paddy experiments of this Presidency, I had occasion to search through many American publications for information regarding the early history of that paddy, and while so engaged I frequently met with statements to the effect that the Carolina paddy is the descendant of paddy imported into America from Madagascar.

2. It being a matter of some importance in connection with the improvement of the rice of this country to determine whether Madagascar now possesses any varieties of paddy of a class so high as that from which the Carolina paddy must have originated, I obtained, through the kindness of the Rev. Mr. Organe, of Madras, the address of the Rev. Mr. Toy, a Missionary residing in Madagascar, and I asked that gentleman to be good enough to procure and forward to Madras samples of the different varieties of paddy grown in Madagascar.

3. The samples of paddy have just reached me; they represent five varieties, but only one appears to merit special attention; it is that of the paddy known in Madagascar as Rojofotsy. I enclose a sample of this paddy and a sample of its rice. It will be noted that the grain is very large. For comparison I also enclose samples of Carolina paddy and rice.

4. On comparing the two varieties of paddy, it will be observed that the grain of the Madagascar variety is considerably the largest. I find that while 846 grains of the former weigh one ounce, it requires 990 grains of the latter to make up the same weight. The Carolina paddy is a very good sample and quite as large in the grain as when first imported into this country. Had the Rojofotsy paddy been as well cultivated as the Carolina paddy, the grain would have looked much better; only a portion of it appears to have been properly matured. Both varieties of paddy contain an admixture of paddy that yields a red rice. It can scarcely be said that this proves their common origin, for it frequently happens that red rice is mixed with white rice. The red rice which is found in America amongst Carolina rice may have been as readily introduced into that country in Indian seed as in Madagascar seed.

5. On comparing the rice of the two varieties of paddy it will be observed that the Carolina rice is smaller, though whiter, plumper, and more starchy than that of the Rojofotsy paddy. From a small experiment I made, I found that while the Carolina paddy yielded 79·79 per cent. of rice, the Rojofotsy yielded only 76·46 per cent. by weight. The lesser yield of rice from the Madagascar paddy was due, I think, to many of the grains being imperfect, for, as I have already noticed, the perfectly formed grain is heavier than the grain of Carolina paddy of equal quality. The two samples are not, of course, of equal commercial value for export purposes, but for local consumption I would consider the Madagascar rice is quite equal to the Carolina rice.

6. I possess no information regarding the habit of the plant that produces the Rojofotsy paddy. It is, of course, quite possible that the crop may be unsuited for introduction into this country from being long in reaching maturity, or for other reasons. It seems, however, desirable that further inquiries should be instituted.

7. It seems not improbable but that the Rojofotsy paddy may be the variety from which the Carolina paddy has descended. The color of its husk is certainly not that rich golden color which now is so characteristic of the Carolina paddy seed, but the color of the husk may have become gradually darker in America. However,

after growing a crop of the Rojofotsy I will be better able to form an opinion on this matter.

8. If Madagascar cannot supply a variety of paddy suited for introduction into this country in view to its cultivation, that Island may perhaps be able to afford a supply of paddy which, at the present crisis, might prove highly acceptable as food in this country.

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SUBMITTED to Government, with the suggestion that steps be taken to procure a report on the nature of the Rojofotsy paddy plant and its mode of culture.

2. The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce is requested to be so good as to inform the Board whether he knows how a supply of the seed could be obtained for the purpose of experiment at the Sydapet Farm.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

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No. 187. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th October 1877, No. 4,856.

Read the following letter from J. JONES, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 17th October 1877.

I REGRET to have to inform you, with advertence to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, of the 4th instant, that, as Rojofotsy paddy is not known in Madras as an article of commerce, the Chamber are not in a position to give the information inquired for by the Board.

2. It is probable that Mr. T. C. Pakenham, the British Consul at Madagascar, could place the Board in possession both of seed and of particulars of the method of cultivating the paddy referred to.

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SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 4th October 1877, No. 4,633.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

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No. 188. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1877, No. 3,268.

Miscellaneous.

APPLICATION will be made to the British Consul at Madagascar for a supply of the seed of the paddy referred to, and for information as to the nature of the plant, and the method of cultivating the same.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1877 Wards.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November 1878.

Read.

Rec'd.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 180—188.

G.O., 180A November 1877 No. 3,208.

Rec'd.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 4th October 1877.

Read the following

No. 820

From

W. R. Robertson Esqr. M.C.S. & C.

" Superintendent Govt. Farms

To

C. A. Galton Esqr.

Actg Secretary Board of Revenue

Madras.

Sir

When preparing my Report on the Carolina paddy experiments of this Presidency, I had occasion to search through many American publications for information regarding the early history of that paddy & while so engaged, I frequently met with Statements to the effect that, the Carolina paddy is the descendant of paddy imported into America from Madagascar.

2 It being a matter of some importance in connection with the improvement

of the rice of this Country, to
determine whether Madagascar
now possesses any varieties
of paddy of a class so high
as that from which the Carolina
paddy must have originated;
I obtained, through the kindness
of the Revd Mr Organe of Madras
the address of the Revd Mr Joy,
a Missionary residing in
Madagascar; & I asked that
gentleman, to be good enough
to procure & forward to Madras
samples of the different
varieties of paddy grown in
Madagascar.

3. The samples of paddy have just
reached me; they represent 5 varieties
but only one appears to merit
special attention; it is that of
the paddy known in Madagascar
as Rojofotsy; I enclose a sample

of this paddy & a sample of
its rice. It will be noted that
the grain is very large. For
comparison I also, enclose
samples of Carolina paddy
& rice.

4. On comparing the 2 varieties
of paddy it will be observed
that the grain of the Madagascar
variety is considerably the larger.
I find that, while 846 grains
of the former weigh 1 ounce, it
requires 990 grains of the latter
to make up the same weight.
The Carolina paddy is a very
good sample &, quite as
large in the grain as, when
first imported into this Country.
Had the Rojofotsy paddy
been as well cultivated as
the Carolina paddy, the grain
would have looked much
better; only a portion of it

appears to have been properly
matured. Both varieties of
paddy, Contain an admixture
of paddy that yields a red
rice. It can scarcely be
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to be of common origin for, it frequently
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mixed with white rice. The
red rice which is found
in America amongst Carolina
rice, may have been as readily
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in Indian Seed, as in Madagascar
Seed.

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2 varieties of paddy, it
will be observed that, the
Carolina rice is smaller,
thicker white plumper &
more Starchy than that of
the Rojofotsy paddy. From a

a small experiment I made,
I found that, while the Carolina
paddy yielded 79.79 percent
of rice, the Rojofotsy yields
only 76.46 percent by weight.
The lesser yield of rice from the
Madagascar paddy was due,
I think to many of the grains
being imperfect for, as I have
already noticed the perfectly
formed grain is heavier than
the grain of Carolina paddy
of equal quality. The two
samples are not, of course,
of equal Commercial value,
for export purposes, but, for
local Consumption I would
Consider the Madagascar rice
is quite equal to the Carolina
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the habit of the plant that
produces the Rojofotsy paddy.
It is, of course, quite possible

that the crop may be unsuited for introduction into this Country from being long in reaching maturity, or for other reasons. It seems however desirable that further inquiries should be instituted

7. It seems not improbable but that the Rojofotsy paddy may be the variety from which the Carolina paddy has descended. The color of its husk is certainly not that rich golden color which is so characteristic of the Carolina paddy seed but the color of the husk may have become gradually darker in America. However, after growing a crop of the Rojofotsy, I will be better able to form an opinion on this matter.

8. If Madagascar cannot supply a variety of paddy suited for introduction into this Country with a view to its cultivation, the Island may perhaps be able to afford a supply of paddy which, at the present crisis, might prove highly acceptable as food in this Country.

Govt Farm Office
Tsiadana 21st September 1899

I have &c
(Sd) W. R. Ellerton

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Submitted to Government with the suggestion that steps be taken to procure a report on the nature of the Rojofotsy paddy plant & its mode of culture.

2. The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce is requested to be so good as to inform the Board whether he knows how a supply of the seed could be obtained for the purpose of experiment at the Tsiadana Farm.

(True copy & extract)

Chas Carter
Subsecretary.

To The Secretary to Govt R.D.
Ork 4 Packets.

No. 4,633.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th October 1877.

Read the following letter from J. JONES, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 17th October 1877 :—

I REGRET to have to inform you, with advertence to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 4th instant, that, as Rojofotsy paddy is not known in Madras as an article of commerce, the Chamber are not in a position to give the information enquired for by the Board.

2. It is probable that Mr. T. C. Pakenham, the British Consul at Madagascar could place the Board in possession both of seed and of particulars of the method of cultivating the paddy referred to.

---

SUBMITTED to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 4th October 1877, No. 4,633.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Superintendent, Government Farms.
" " Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.

Rcd. A. Baitt.

Revenue Department

No. 3268

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 19th November 77

Read the following Pro-
ceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Subt letter from the Supt
Govt Farms regarding the useful-
ness of Rojofotsy Paddy of
Madagascar in this country with
the suggestion that steps be taken
to procure a report on the nature
of the plant & mode of culture -

R. E. 4th Oct. 1877 No. 4633

Subt letter from the Chairman
of the Chamber of Commerce,
Madras, stating that the Chamber
are not in a possession to
furnish information required
regarding cultivation of Rojofotsy
paddy -

" - " 26th Oct. 1877, No. 4856

Application will
be made to the British
Consul at Madagascar
for

Revenue Dept.

Nov 1877.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 26TH OCTOBER 1877, No. 4,856.

Rojofotsy Paddy.—Submitting to Govern-
ment letter from the Chairman of the Chamber
of Commerce, Madras, stating that the Chamber
are not in a position to furnish information
required regarding cultivation of —.

Encl.

Received 29th October

OCTOBER.

No. 4,856.

for a supply of the seed
of the paddy referred to
and for information as
to the nature of the
plant and the method
of cultivating the same

14 Do Rd of Revenue 26-11-11

60

c. 16 hooks R. 19-4-77 186-88