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TAMIL NADU ARCH

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTME

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	3274	Press. / Mis.
Dated	20.11.1877	197 .

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Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

20th November 1877, No. 3,274.

Read the following paper:—

No. 196. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th October 1877, No. 4,824.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting letter from Dr. J. Shortt giving an account of his experiment in pony-breeding.

No. 197. ORDER THEREON, 20th November 1877, No. 3,274.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. The Government have read Dr. Shortt's report with interest.

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Military Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Copy of (1877) Letter.
REVENUE.
2b
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
&c., &c., &c.
Dated November 20th.
Rect.
Encl.
G.O., 20th November 1877, No. 3,274.
NOVEMBER.
Nos. 106-107.
Pony-breeding.—Reporting Proceedings of Board of Revenue on Letter from Dr. J. Short dwelling at length on success of his experiment on [illegible]

No. 4,824.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th October 1877.

Read the following letter from J. SHORTT, Esq., M.D., to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ercaud, 28th September 1877:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the following account of my experiment in pony-breeding, as the Board were good enough to let me purchase the Government stallion pony "Rajah." I had four mares, two Pegues and two country, and I have had four foals from them, and the mares are again in foal. There were many difficulties to contend with ere success attended my efforts. The mares would not "hold" at first and I was disappointed, but I soon found that the mare came into season about once in every three weeks or twenty-one days, when she is willing to receive the stallion of her own free will, yet she does not conceive on every such occasion. To give an instance, I put a Pegu mare to the stallion on the 21st day on four successive occasions, and after the fourth time she refused him for three months, and then gave indications of wanting the stallion again; he was allowed to serve her, and she went into foal at once, and has a foal now at her side, and is again in foal.

2. In another instance, I put one of my Pegu mares to a large horse; he was a little too large for her, and she showed great unwillingness to receive him; notwithstanding he served her once, and she seems to have gone into foal of which I was ignorant; about two months after, she was put to the stallion pony when he became my property, she received him unwillingly and a week after miscarried the foal she was carrying. In a third instance, a country mare was put to the stallion, she received him kindly, but refused him subsequently for about two months, when she gave indications of being in season, received the stallion when put, and went into foal at once, and has a foal at her side, and is in foal again.

3. The plan I adopt is to put the mare to the stallion on three successive days, when he is allowed to serve her on each occasion twice or thrice, and on the 21st day she is again brought before the stallion, if willing she is put to him otherwise she is removed. I find it difficult at first to get mares that have not bred before into foal, and when in England last I made inquiries and found the same difficulty to exist there also for the first time, and to avoid which subsequently the stallion is put to the mare within the first ten days of her foaling, frequently on the third day after, and this plan ensures conception to a certainty. Physiologically speaking, this is bad practice, but practically it is a success, and breeders are thus enabled to secure a foal every year. The practice is bad as the womb can scarcely have had time to recover itself ere it is called on to prepare for conception a second time.

4. The mare carries her foal for eleven calendar months or about 335 days, but there is considerable variation in this matter: in one instance, one of my mares carried her foal twelve months, in another it was eleven months and twelve days, and in a third eleven months and three days, and in the fourth exactly eleven months. Instances have been known where mares have carried their foals for thirteen months.

5. From a memorandum furnished me by Mr. Wedderburn, the Collector of Coimbatore, when I purchased the stallion pony "Rajah," it would appear that he served seventy-three mares in four years, or at an average of seventeen mares annually, and only eleven foals were the result, giving a fraction over one foal to every six mares; this I consider a large failure, and I can now readily understand the difficulty that must have been in the way to account for this small proportion. After the stallion pony came to me, he covered six mares, four were my own property and, as related above, some of them had to be put to the stallion several times, the other two mares belonged to other gentlemen and were only served once and in both instances it proved a failure. Of the four foals I had I lost two,—one from an accident, a donkey approached the mare whilst she was feeding and she turned round to kick at the donkey, missing which she struck the foal on the

forehead and killed it on the spot. In the second case, owing to the great scarcity, I procured some of "Cook's crushed food for horses" on which the mare was fed, and this appeared too rich most probably for the foal immediately sickened and died of diarrhœa.

6. The pony stallion "Rajah" is a very handsome Bay pony, standing thirteen hands in height, and having Arab blood in him; he is good tempered and gentle, originally was with a view to secure the manure for my estate. I had no grazing ground for cattle, and I preferred keeping half a dozen ponies to that of having a lot of half-starved cattle, and in this I have not been disappointed. I secure a foal every year, work the mares in saddle or harness for six months, when the work is gradually lightened as the time for foaling approaches, and one man looks after three or four ponies. Unfortunately, I have no pasture ground, and owing to the present drought the keep of the ponies has proved expensive; the morasa, in consequence of having to import fodder up a hill station, every cooly-load costs 4 Annas extra to take up the hill, and a bullock-load 7 Annas, as every thing has to be brought up from the plains, but I believe that I am repaid in the manure I secure.

7. I offered to place the services of the stallion pony at the disposal of the Collector of Salem for three or four months, but got no reply to my communication. I shall be glad to do so at any of the districts on condition that his keep and care is warranted whilst he is so employed and his expenses to and fro paid.

RECORDED.

2. The Board are glad to learn that Dr. Shortt's experiments in pony-breeding have been fairly successful; but the services of his pony are not required in any district on the public account.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To J. Shortt, Esq., M.D., Ercaud.
Copy to the Superintendent, Government Farms.
" the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Rd. T. D. Ryan.

1 April/74 No 13-15

Revenue 1877 24th Oct
No 4870

1877.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH OCTOBER 1877, No. 4,824.

Encl.

Received 6 November

OCTOBER.
No. 4,824.

Pony-breeding.—Recording letter from Dr. J. Shortt, submitting an account of his experiment in [illegible].