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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

860

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

26.6.1876~~196~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 280. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th June 1876, No. 1,501 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd May 1876, No. 106.

IN reply to Proceedings, Board of Revenue, dated 4th May 1876, No. 1,175, requesting my opinion on a site for a Government Farm near the village of Ootacalmantapam, lately reported on by Mr. Robertson, Superintendent of the Government Farms, and to ascertain upon what terms the land can be acquired, I have the honor to note that, as stated by Mr. Robertson, the site was suggested to him by me.

2. When the cotton experimental cultivation was made here about thirty years ago, this tract of country, lying in the Palghaut gap, seemed from its superior rain-fall to indicate a good position for cotton, which is generally injured in this district by too scanty a rain-fall.

3. The site has, of course, no important source of irrigation. If permanently irrigated land, such as is referred to in paragraph 6 of Mr. Robertson's letter in Proceedings, Board of Revenue, 4th May 1876, No. 1,178, is to be taken up for a Government Farm, a very large price will have to be paid, totally incommensurate with the object in view.

4. It is remarked that the locality in question is well suited for mulberry, tobacco, and green crops.

5. As regards the first, unless a filature were established, the growth of mulberry would be unprofitable. I am not aware that there is any silk culture by ryots in the district except at Collegal, where it appears to have been a branch of the Mysore industry.

6. The tobacco grown by the ryots at Ootacalmantapam has frequently, when passing, attracted my attention; it is chiefly owing to the rich soil adverted to. The leaf, however, I found on inspection to be much smaller and more coarse and less adapted for European consumption than some grown in the Municipal garden of Coimbatore.

7. The field devoted to pasturage, which Mr. Robertson saw, is an evidence of the value attached to pasturage by the ryots of this district, who often keep a portion of their holding in grass.

8. As regards the price to be paid for this valuable and favored land, it will not surprise the Board to learn that the owners are totally unwilling to part with it. It may be true that the village

Vide Tahsildar's report enclosed. officers and unconcerned ryots may have given an opinion on its value, but the owners state that their livelihood depends on their land—it is their patrimony and inheritance—being so good they could not get as good elsewhere, and money will not always compensate.

9. The question for consideration is, whether the culture, for the sake of example, of this land is such an object as to cause the Act for the acquisition of land for public purposes to be put into operation.

10. It has been shown by public accounts that instead of profit there is a loss on the Model Farm now established at Madras, if the native cultivator, with

his minimum of expense in steadings, &c., without hired labour, and with utmost economy of living, just cultivates the land with advantage; it is a question whether the land, burdened with the charges of European and other supervision, and paid labour, would show a balance on the right side of the account.

11. This being what the cultivator of the ground and practical men look to, the necessary and unavoidable expenditure on the Government Farm would frighten rather than allure the ryot.

12. As the chief advantages to be shown to the ryots are the improvement of land exhausted by frequent cropping, the supply of town manure at the small village of Ootacalmantapam would hardly suffice, if it could be applied, to fulfil the purpose of restoring the land after cropping. The distance from the railway terminus, or rather the town, would be against the land being seen by any but passengers to Pollachy.

13. The question for consideration by Government is, whether the possessors of the land now in question are to be forcibly ejected from their property; whether the advantages to be derived from cultivating the land as a Government Farm will counterbalance the discontent which such a proceeding will originate.

14. So far as improvements to be derived from high cultivation and improved modes of irrigation are concerned, the people of Coimbatore have already a means of judging when they can see the improved crops raised by the application of such irrigation and high cultivation. As in Great Britain, agricultural profits are simply a question of manure. He who can apply most has the largest crops, with the usual expense of culture. This they can see and imitate, as they do, to some extent, without being deprived of their ancestral property. Tobacco, mulberry, and green crops for the sustenance of live-stock, which were to be the products of the Model Farm, are here exhibited without any expense to Government or to the ryot. Thus eight acres of guinea-grass and lucern support thirty Municipal bullocks and save the Municipality Rupees 1,000 per annum in the purchase of paddy straw; on twelve acres tobacco of extraordinary size and fineness is produced and sold readily, one acre of mulberry has been planted, and silk of good quality turned out. He will be more likely to follow the example so set before his eyes than to go a distance of eight miles for this purpose.

15. Under such circumstances, though prepared to take the land under the Act, I do not counsel this extreme measure.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

*Translation of an Arzee from the Tahsildar of Coimbatore to the Collector of Coimbatore,
dated 20th May 1876, No. 143.*

I beg to enclose two statements showing the lands in the Ootacalmantapam and Okkilipalliem villages in this taluq, inspected in company with the Revenue Inspector, Naraina Rao, and others, by Mr. Robertson, Superintendent of the Government Farms, with a view to their being taken up for an experimental Government Farm.

2. The owners of the lands referred to in the statements were sent for and examined. They say that the land is their patrimony, that they cultivate the land themselves and eke out a livelihood, that they have no other means of livelihood, that they can get no other lands in the said villages, and that therefore they will neither sell nor lease their lands. Their depositions, nine in number, are enclosed.

THE Board agree with the Collector that it is not desirable to acquire the site at Ootacalmantapam by proceeding under the Land Acquisition Act. Mr. Wedderburn will use his best endeavours to find another suitable site. The Board suggest that the Farm might be established in the neighbourhood of Pollachy, which is now the head-quarter station of the Head Assistant Collector.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 281.

ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1876, No. 860.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Coimbatore Departmental Farm.—Recording
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue regarding
the acquisition of land for the —.

JUNE.
Nos. 280-281.

G.O., 26th June 1876, No. 860.

Dated June, 26th.
Recd.

Encl.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

REVENUE.

Vol. of 1876; 3030/1876

No. 1,501.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th June 1876.
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260/14
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(True Copies and Extract.)

E. M. ...
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

Copy to the Superintendent, Government Farms.

.. to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore

W. H. French.

4023 May 176 P 245.4.26

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Revenue 1876. *Deposited*

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH JUNE 1876, No. 1,501.

Copy sent 1/76

Encl.

Received 23 June 176

JUNE.
No. 1,501.

Coimbatore Experimental Farm.—Agree-
ing with Collector in thinking that it is not
desirable to acquire certain site at Ootchalman-
tapam for — under Land Acquisition Act;
requesting him to find another suitable site; and
suggesting that the Farm might be established
in the neighborhood of Pollachi. *Ch. 860*

Received

14 To the Board of Revenue on 28 July

C-24: June 196 P 26: June 23 6 26
176/245
28 June 1876