

(1) Number of pages 18(2) Date of repair 7-6-40(3) Initials of the Referencer IX

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>1195-1194 A</u>	Press Mis.
Dated <u>26. 9.</u>	<u>1883.</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

26TH SEPTEMBER 1883, Nos. 1194, 1194-A, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Revenue and Agricultural Department (Agriculture), under date Simla, the 7th September 1883, Circular No. 66-A:—

Read—

Resolution in the Home, Rev., and Agricultural Dept., No. 274-278, dated 17th Sept. 1879.
Letter from the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, No. 1432-69, dated 11th Oct. 1882.
Letter from the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 4741-277, dated 23rd Dec. 1882.
Letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 19, dated 16th January 1883.
Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 171-A, dated 6th February 1883.
Letter from the Government of the Punjab, No. 148, dated 29th May 1883.

Resolution—

OBSERVATIONS.—In the Resolution of the 17th September 1879 it was decided that as grants-in-aid to agri-horticultural societies had been made a charge on provincial funds, the control over such grants should be transferred to local Governments. At the same time it was suggested that donations from the public funds should be governed by certain fixed principles, such as the extent to which the operations of the societies promote objects of public benefit and the amount of the income derived by them from independent sources. The Government of India also desired to be furnished once every three years with a progress report showing the work accomplished by each society and the help afforded from provincial funds.

2. The first triennial reports have now been received and afford the following information. There are, or rather were, agri-horticultural societies at Calcutta, Madras, Lahore, Nagpur, and Rangoon; those at Lahore and Nagpur have, under recent arrangements made by the local Governments, received a new organisation under which they will no longer be known by their former title.

3. The society at Lahore had long been on the decline owing to a variety of causes. The great difficulty of securing a permanent Honorary Secretary, with sufficient leisure to devote to the proper working of the society, and the greater advantages and facilities afforded to contributors of information by the periodical press of late years, had with other things combined to create a lack of interest in its members. The original objects of the society were imperfectly carried out, and its gardens had gradually assumed the character of a mere agency for supplying seeds and plants. The condition at which the society had arrived is clearly set forth in a joint report submitted in March last by Major Wace, Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, and Mr. Baden-Powell, the Honorary Secretary. On the recommendation of these officers, the Government of the Punjab has decided that the institution shall in future be known as the Government Agri-Horticultural Gardens, Lahore, and managed by a committee composed of *ex-officio* and nominated members. The present grant of Rs. 9,000 per annum is to be continued, but its expenditure will be subjected to the control of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Subscriptions will be received as heretofore, but subscribers will not be entitled to more than the full value of their subscriptions in seeds and plants. With the object of securing scientific supervision and advice, it is further intended that, with the permission of the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens at Saharanpur should inspect the Lahore gardens at stated periods every year. The school for the training of gardeners now attached to the gardens is to be maintained and improved.

4. The Nagpur Society was maintained principally by annual grants from local and provincial funds. In 1881-82 these amounted to Rs. 4,000 against Rs. 373 realised from subscriptions, Rs. 2,700 from sale of produce, Rs. 600 from miscellaneous sources, and Rs. 500 paid by the municipality. The work of the society lay for the most part in the distribution of plants and seeds, of which but a small proportion were new or exotic varieties. No attempt had been made to collect botanical specimens; no proper record appears to have been kept of the results attained in the experimental cultivation of fruit trees, grasses, &c., and the efforts made to disseminate information have been very limited.

Under these circumstances the Chief Commissioner has decided to formally make the gardens a Government institution, which, practically speaking, they have always been, and to place them under the Provincial Department of Agriculture. The existing grants are to be maintained, and the functions of the society will continue to be exercised by the institution which will take its place. It is hoped by this arrangement to secure continuity of work, which has hitherto been impracticable owing to constant changes in the Honorary Secretaryship of the society, and to bring the institution into closer relation with the district gardens which exist at every headquarter station.

5. Among the remaining societies at Calcutta, Madras, and Rangoon, first in order of importance stands the society at Calcutta, whose operations extend to the whole of India. This society receives a grant-in-aid from Government of Rs. 2,400 per annum. The remainder of its total income of Rs. 35,000 consists of Rs. 16,000 received from subscribers and Rs. 17,100 from sales of produce. In 1883 the society numbered 595 members, some of whom are residents of foreign countries. Its work comprises the distribution of plants and seeds to members and the public, the trial and distribution of various indigenous and exotic products, and the rearing of useful plants. The society interchanges plants and seeds with similar bodies in the British colonies and the other provinces of India, and carries on a considerable correspondence regarding the introduction of new staples, field crops, &c. It also publishes a monthly journal of its proceedings, embodying the botanical and agricultural information collected from time to time. Of the subscriptions received from members, the greater part is said to be returned to them in the annual distribution of vegetable and flower seeds, fruit, grafts, publications, &c., and the Secretary represents that an increase of the grant-in-aid from Government would enable it to perform a larger amount of useful work for the public at large.

6. The assistance received from Government by the society at Madras amounts to Rs. 3,000 per annum, besides a special grant of Rs. 500 for prizes for useful products. The rest of its income is made up of from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000 realised from sale of seeds, plants, &c., and between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 2,500 from subscriptions. A proposal is under the consideration of the local Government to increase the annual grant of Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 4,000 in view of the work done by the society. This consists in introducing, acclimatising, and distributing plants of known economic value, in making known improved agricultural implements, and in engaging and training gardeners for employment in India and Burma. Like the Calcutta Society, it publishes periodical reports and any information contributed by its members. It also maintains valuable and extensive botanical gardens, which have recently been enlarged and afford much interest and instruction to the scientific public and students of various botanical classes. An annual show held by the society is much appreciated by the native public, and serves to interest them in the objects which the association has at heart.

7. Owing to the smallness of the European community and the difficulty in obtaining native co-operation, the society at Rangoon has hitherto led a precarious existence. It is almost wholly supported by donations from public funds, viz., Rs. 1,200 per annum from provincial revenues and a similar contribution from the municipality. Rs. 1,600 are obtained from sales of garden produce and some Rs. 700 from members. The objects of the society are the same as those of its contemporaries at Calcutta and Madras, though necessarily conducted on a smaller

scale. Efforts are said to have been made in 1881 to induce some Burmese gentlemen to join it as members and with some small success. In the same year the first step was taken by the Provincial Administration to utilise the society's agency for the promotion of agriculture by prevailing on the latter to set apart a selected area of the garden for experimental cultivation of crops in which the Agricultural Department is specially interested.

8. It appears to the Governor-General in Council that, under the circumstances referred to above, the Governments of the Punjab and Central Provinces have acted advisedly in placing the horticultural gardens at Lahore and Nagpur under the Agricultural Departments in those provinces. Experience has shown that the communities at those stations possess neither the leisure nor the opportunities and facilities for an effective performance of the duties which the objects of such societies impose upon their working members. Whilst, therefore, acknowledging the zeal and devotion with which the members of the associations in question have carried out their self-imposed task, the Governor-General agrees with the local Governments that the interests of the gardens will be promoted by the new arrangements which will furnish that continuity of management and direction from the want of which they have hitherto suffered.

9. Of the great utility of the institutions at Calcutta and Madras there can be no question. At the same time it appears to the Government of India that the agency afforded by these societies might be more largely utilised by local Governments for the distribution of information, seeds, and plants; for the experimental cultivation of crops; and for various other objects. Where Agricultural Departments exist, the societies might usefully co-operate with them, and the Government grant may appropriately be regulated in view of such co-operation. It seems desirable therefore that in future reports the opinion of the officers in charge of the Agricultural Departments as to the utility of the societies to the general public should be recorded. The Government views with favor every endeavour made to enlist the interest and assistance of natives and of agriculturists generally in this work. In this way the value of the societies to the country at large can be greatly increased, and their labors bear permanent fruit. In Rangoon it is observed that these suggestions have to some extent been anticipated, and the Government of India hopes that, working as it does in a comparatively new field and in enjoying other advantages, the society at that station will by the end of the next three years show that it has made full use of its opportunities and attained an increased measure of usefulness.

Madras.
Bengal.
Punjab.
Central Provinces.
British Burma.
Bombay.

North-Western Provinces
and Oudh.
Assam.
Coorg.
Hyderabad.
Ajmere.

ORDER.—Ordered that copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin.

(By Order.)

(Signed) E. C. BUCK,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

ORDER—dated 26th September 1883, No. 1194, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The above resolution will be communicated to the Honorary Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society, to the Director of Agriculture, and the Board of Revenue, and will be laid upon the Editors' Table.

2. With reference to the concluding portion of the resolution, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires that the agency afforded by the society should be as largely utilised as possible for the distribution of seeds and plants and for such experimental cultivation as is practicable within the narrow limits of the gardens.

3. The Director of Agriculture will accordingly place himself in communication with the Honorary Secretary, and report to what extent his department and the society can usefully co-operate.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.
" Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.
" Board of Revenue.
" Director, Government Cinchona Plantations, Parks and Gardens, Nilgiris.
" Editors' Table.

No. 1194-A.

Copy to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government

Circular No. 66A.

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ORDER.—Ordered, that copy of the foregoing Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations noted in the margin.

Madras.	Bombay.
Calcutta.	N. W. P. and Oudh.
Assam.	
Central Provinces.	Coorg.
British Burma.	Hyderabad.
	Ajmere.

By order,

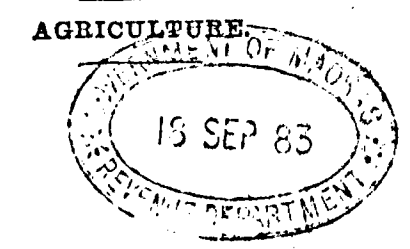
E. B. Dutt.

Secretary to the Government of India.

Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Revenue Department
No. 60A
1883.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL
DEPARTMENT.



RESOLUTION.

Circular No. 60A.

Dated the 7th September 1883.

7/9

SUBJECT.

Reviews the working of the several Agri-Horticultural Societies in India during the past three years.

and the last part
of the Order.

Enough work be
done for the
moment by
issuing the first
portion of it.

Sir J. Hooker is
strongly of opinion
that South India
is not taking any
thing like her
fair share in
the Botanical
Enterprise of
the Empire. Certainly
it is that many
of the *Cruciferae*

Calcutta do a
great deal more
small & poor as
they are by com-
parison.

The state in long
decade through
the India office
defence proposals
on this subject
at least such
an event will very
probably occur.

I think we have
been not happy
convinced by any

11
heartily expression of
opinion about the
work which is being
done by the Agri-
cultural Society

Msd
Sept 26/83

2026-9-25/1194

Current No: 5892

13/
From the Govt. of India.
d. 7th Sept, Recd. 18th Sept.

Note

Paragraphs 6 & 9 of the Resolution
of the Govt. of India concern
the Agri-Horticultural Society
of Madras.

G.O. 6th Feby 1883 no: 171.
With reference to para
6 the grant has been raised
from Rs: 3,500 to Rs: 4,000.

With reference to para: 9
a draft order is submitted for
approval. Mr. Stevenson has
for years devoted much of
his leisure to the Gardens & he
will probably misunderstand the
situation unless he Govt. clearly
disclaim any intention of putting
him in any way under the
Director of Agriculture. It is
moreover by no means likely
that the Gardens, which from
their position & extent are
necessary

A worthy man such as
no one I am sure wishes
to injure.

much more horticultural than agricultural in character, would benefit by any step in this direction. A suspicion of State management will lead to a disposition on the part of the amateurs who now waste to leave all the work they did to the man who is paid for doing it.

Draft C.O. 1194726-93

The above Resolution
will be communicated to the Hon^y
Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural
Society to the Director of Agriculture
& the Board of Revenue & will
be laid upon the Editor's Table.

The Govt. of India
concur in the opinion expressed
by this Govt. in their Proc^d. of
the 6th Feb^y. last as to the good
work performed by the Society
of the utility of which it is

to today
I never saw any means
agree with the strong language
of this Revolution. Then
Proceedings. etc.

Cur: no: 5892:

re marked, there can be no question.

With reference to the concluding portion of the Resolution the Right Hon^{ble} The Governor in Council also desires that the agency afforded by the society should be as largely utilised as possible for the distribution of seeds & plants for such experimental cultivation as is practicable within the narrow limits of the gardens.

The Director of Agriculture will accordingly place himself in communication with the Honorary Secretary to report to what extent his department & the Society can usefully co-operate. The Gov^t have no wish to see any alteration made in the present system of management to the efficiency of which, under Mr. Macdonald's able direction, they have lately had

So. 6th Feb 83 no 171 The pleasure is testified but in deference to the opinion expressed by the Gov^t of India they desire to be placed in possession of the views of the Honorary Sec^y. The Director as to the policy sketched in para 7 of the Resolution

~~The Hon^{ble} Mr. Secretary.~~
The Right Hon^{ble} The Governor.

Print & deep order
as above. The
Secretary's instruction

19. The Hon^{ble} Sec^y of the Society
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26/9/83

26-9-83

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21-2-17

2.11/3811

Govt. of (1883) Madras.
REVENUE.

8081, 1804-1805

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

I.O., &c., 26th September 1883,
Nos. 1194, 1194-A.

SEPTEMBER.

Agri-Horticultural Societies.

Orders passed on resolution of the Govern-
ment of India reviewing the working of — in
India during the past three years.

