Sectt. I (1)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1511	Press / Mis.
Dated	21-4-1977	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 519. Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent, Government Farms, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Sydapet, 13th April 1877, No. 352:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th. The alterations referred to in the last paragraph of my letter to the Board, No. 296, of the 27th of March, are chiefly—

(*a.*) Alterations to the surface of arable ground to admit of occasional irrigation.

(*b.*) Alterations in the surface of land too irregular to admit of comparative experiments being carried out on it.

(*c.*) Alterations in the physical character of certain sandy soils by admixture with other soils possessing the necessary physical characteristics.

(*d.*) Alterations in the areas of fields in view to securing, as far as possible, uniformity in the soils of each.

I had in view other alterations, but probably the foregoing will suffice.

2. The alterations referred to in the previous paragraph have been considered necessary for some time, but until the present year of drought there has been no opportunity for carrying out the whole in a systematic way, nor was the necessity very urgent until the establishment of the School of Agriculture.

3. Had the Farm remained as an ordinary Experimental Farm, the few acres of land where uniform conditions can be secured, and which hitherto has been the experimental area of the Farm, would probably have sufficed. But for educational purposes a much larger area is necessary, and it became necessary to take steps to secure on the other soils of the Farm somewhat similar conditions to those met with on what previously was the experimental area.

4. A good deal of the work on which we are now engaged would probably have been carried out eventually, even had the Farm remained as an ordinary experimental one, but, instead of being carried out at once, and in a systematic way, as we are now doing, it would have been done piece by piece during a period probably of several years. This piece-by-piece way of carrying out the improvements has some advantages, chiefly in not interfering to any extent with the cropping of the Farm; but this year the land is nearly all available.

5. Of course, a portion of the Farm will always continue to be devoted to *original* experiments. There is yet very much to be done towards determining the quantity of water necessary to raise different kinds of crops under given conditions of soil and climate. It has hitherto been impossible on the Sydapet Farm to carry out any extensive experiments of the sort from an insufficiency of water at certain seasons of the year, but this difficulty will, I hope, cease to be experienced after the completion of the new river channel.

6. For the practical training of our students, it is necessary that we should *repeat each year* many of the experiments which have already afforded all the information that we require. For instance, we need to demonstrate in the field, to each successive class, the effects of deep tillage and of shallow tillage; thick sowing and thin sowing; broad-cast sowing and drill sowing; cultivation on the ridge and

cultivation on the level; crop raising with organic manures and with mineral manures; crop raising with a lavish use of water and with a small quantity of water; and many other rudimentary experiments, regarding which we have already obtained a great deal of information. Hence for this new educational work we need a large area of land on which somewhat uniform conditions can be secured.

No. 520. ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1877, No. 1,511.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Government Farms.
„ the Board of Revenue.

No. 352. 151/3 Government Farms' Office
Sydapet, 13th April 1877

From

W. R. Robertson Esquire, M.R.A.C.,
Superintendent, Government Farms.

To,

J. H. Garstin Esquire
Additional Secretary to Government
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th. The alterations referred to in the last para of my letter to the Board No. 296 of the 27th of March are chiefly:—

(a) Alterations to the surface of arable ground to admit of occasional irrigation.

(b) Alterations in the surface of land too irregular to admit of comparative experiments being carried out on it.

(c) Alterations in the physical character of certain sandy soils by admixture with other soils possessing the necessary physical characteristics.

(d) Alterations in the area of fields with a view to securing as far as possible uniformity in the soils of each.

I had in view other alterations but, probably, the foregoing will suffice.

2- The alterations referred to in the previous paragraph have been considered necessary for long time but, until the present year of drought, there has been no opportunity for carrying out the whole in a systematic way nor, was the necessity very urgent until the establishment of the School of Agriculture.

3- Had the Farm remained as an ordinary Experimental Farm the few acres of land where uniform conditions can be secured and which, hitherto, has been the experimental area of the Farm would probably have sufficed. But, for educational purposes a much larger area is necessary, and, it became necessary to take steps to secure on the other soils of the Farm somewhat similar conditions to those met with on what practically was the experimental area.

4- A good deal of the work on which we are now engaged would, probably, have been carried out eventually even had the Farm remained as an ordinary experimental one but, instead of being carried out at once and in a systematic way, as we are now doing it would have been done piece by piece, during a period, probably, of several years. This piece by piece way

way of carrying out the improvements has some advantages chiefly, in not interfering to any extent with the cropping of the Farm but this year the land is nearly all available.

5. Of course, a portion of the Farm will always continue to be devoted to original experiments. There is yet very much to be done towards determining the quantity of water necessary to make different kinds of crops under given conditions of soil and climate. What hitherto has impossible on the Lyallpur Farm to carry out extensive experiments of the kind, from an insufficiency of water at certain seasons of the year but this difficulty will, I hope, cease to be experienced after the completion of the new river channel.

6. For the practical training of our students, it is necessary that we should repeat each year many of the experiments which have already afforded all the information that we require. For instance, we need to demonstrate in the field, to each succeeding class, the effects of deep tillage and of shallow tillage; thick sowing and thin sowing; broad-cast sowing and drill sowing; cultivation on the ridge and cultivation on the level; crop raising with organic manures and with mineral manures; crop raising with a large quantity of water and with a small quantity of water; and many other rudimentary experiments regarding which we have already obtained a great deal of information. Hence, for this new Educational work

we need a large area of land on which somewhat uniform conditions can be secured.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

John Robertson

Rev. 1877 Dept.
Fho. 2489

From
W. R. Robertson Esqr. M.R.A.C.
Supt. Govt. Farms
To
J. H. Garstin Esqr.
Additional Secretary
to Government, Madras

Dated 13th
Received 14 } April 1877.

No. 352.

Explaining the nature of certain alterations necessitated by the establishment of the School of Agriculture.

E.O. 21 April 77 Pr. 1571

No. 1571
Recorded
19th [illegible]
21 April 1877

1 To the Supt. Govt. Farms 4/1 [illegible]
30 the Boundary Rev.

The Chemical [illegible] channel will cost Rs 40 per acre irrigated!

I do not see this any [illegible] to [illegible]

B.C. 18/4