

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	250	Press
		~~His~~
<u>S20 - S21.</u>		
Dated	28 th January 1869.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

From

The Honorary Secretary,
Agri Horticultural Society,
Madras.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir

I have the honor by desire of the Committee of the Agri Horticultural Society, to submit the following for the consideration of Government.

2 For more than a quarter of a century the society has been carrying on its operations, and during that time has been the means of introducing a large number of useful ornamental plants, effecting many improvements in gardening, adding to and improving the food supplies of the people, throwing much light on indigenous Vegetable products useful in the Arts, introducing and testing new varieties of Cotton, and bringing to notice various exotics of great economical value.

3 Perhaps its greatest work, however, has been the establishment of a Botanical Garden, which contains a collection of tropical plants unsurpassed, except by that of the largely endowed imperial garden in Calcutta. The Scientific and practical value of such institutions is so fully recognised, that nearly every colony under the British rule, however unimportant

and a further sum of Rs. 1000

portant, has its Botanical Garden supported by Government. In this Country such a Garden is especially needed, the European residents being mostly in Government employ or in business and having neither the means nor time, while the Agricultural classes of the Natives are too ignorant and apathetic to undertake the culture of new plants, or try to improve these in their possession. At present too the influx into our hill ranges of Europeans anxious to extend the productive resources of these tracts, and the introduction of Arboriculture into nearly every Collectorate render it necessary to have such an institution at the Presidency, to afford the necessary information and assistance. The Committee

would also point out its value as a means of teaching practical Botany to the students in the Medical College, and they believe it would be impossible to conduct the class satisfactorily without the Garden. Indeed the Government have long practically recognised its importance, by frequently asking for information and assistance, which the Committee are always happy to afford, and by a grant of 250 Rupees per Mensem.

4 The funds of the Society consist of the subscriptions of Members, profits on sale of seeds and plants, and the Govt. grant just mentioned. The first and second of these it need hardly
be

of the income, and but for the last and the gratuitous services of Office bearers on the Committee, the Society must long ago have ceased to exist in its present character. Of late years too the general working expenses of the Garden &c. have increased so much, that the Committee now feel that the operations of the Society must be generally curtailed, or debt incurred. At present a considerable sum is due to the Agents of the Society, and although the Committee hope to repay this by economy and recovery of outstanding debts, they feel that they cannot now carry on the work of the Society and maintain its high character as they would wish; and that ere long it may be necessary to permit the Garden to degenerate into a mere nursery under a Native gardener.

5 The Committee are persuaded, that ^{the} existence of the Society in an efficient state is of sufficient importance to the Country to render it incumbent on Government to ^{do} all in their power to avert such a result as that indicated above. In other parts of India the necessity of Government supporting similar institutions has been fully recognised, the Agricultural Society in the Punjab, for instance having a grant of 750 Rupees per Mensem, and receiving besides large sums from local funds
of

of a public nature.

The Committee venture therefore respectfully to ask, that considering the importance of the matter, and urgency of the circumstances, they may receive a monthly allowance of 500 instead of 250 Rupees.

Hoping the above may meet with favorable consideration.

Madras
Agri Horticultural
Society's Gardens
11th Decr. 1868.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedt Servt

E. Peiris. M.B.

Honorary Secretary

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th January 1869.

No. 520. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 11th December 1868, No. 515:—

1. I have the honor, by desire of the Committee of the Agri-Horticultural Society, to submit the following for the consideration of Government.

2. For more than a quarter of a century the Society has been carrying on its operations, and during that time has been the means of introducing a large number of useful and ornamental plants, effecting many improvements in gardening, adding to and improving the food supplies of the people; throwing much light on indigenous vegetable products, useful in the arts; introducing and testing new varieties of cotton; and bringing to notice various exotics of great economical value.

3. Perhaps its greatest work, however, has been the establishment of a Botanical Garden, which contains a collection of tropical plants, unsurpassed, except by that of the largely endowed Imperial Garden in Calcutta. The scientific and practical value of such institutions is so fully recognised, that nearly every Colony under the British rule, however unimportant, has its Botanical Garden supported by Government. In this country, such a garden is especially needed, the European residents being mostly in Government employ or in business, and having neither the means nor time, while the agricultural classes of the natives are too ignorant and apathetic to undertake the culture of new plants, or try to improve these in their possession. At present, too, the influx into our hill ranges of Europeans, anxious to extend the productive resources of these tracts, and the introduction of arboriculture into nearly every Collectorate, render it necessary to have such an institution at the Presidency, to afford the necessary information and assistance. The Committee would also point out its value as a means of teaching practical Botany to the Students in the Medical College, and they believe it would be impossible to conduct the class satisfactorily without the garden. Indeed, the Government have long practically recognised its importance, by frequently asking for information and assistance, which the Committee are always happy to afford, and by a grant of 250 Rupees per mensem.

4. The funds of the Society consist of the subscriptions of Members, profits on sale of seeds and plants, and the Government grant just mentioned. The first and second of these, it need hardly be said, form a somewhat fluctuating portion of the income, and but for the last and the gratuitous services of Office bearers on the Committee, the Society must long ago have ceased to exist in its present character. Of late years, too, the general working expenses of the garden, &c., have increased so much, that the Committee now feel that the operations of the Society must be generally curtailed, or debt incurred. At present, a considerable sum is due to the Agents of the Society, and although the Committee hope to repay this by economy and recovery of outstanding debts, they feel that they cannot now carry on the work of the Society and maintain its high character as they would wish; and that ere long it may be necessary to permit the garden to degenerate into a mere nursery under a native gardener.

5. The Committee are persuaded, that the existence of the Society in an efficient state, is of sufficient importance to the country to render it incumbent on

and a further sum of Rs. 100

of a public nature

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th January 1869.*

Government to do all in their power to avert such a result as that indicated above. In other parts of India, the necessity of Government supporting similar institutions has been fully recognized; the Agri-Horticultural Society in the Punjab, for instance, having a grant of 750 Rupees per mensem, and receiving besides, large sums from Local Funds of a public nature.

The Committee venture, therefore, respectfully to ask, that considering the importance of the matter, and urgency of the circumstances, they may receive a monthly allowance of 500 instead of 250 Rupees.

Hoping the above may meet with favorable consideration.

No. 521.

ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1869, No. 250.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council recognizes the utility of the Society, which appears to have been hitherto conducted with very fair success, but, before sanctioning any addition to the present grant, he desires to ascertain, what grants are now made to the similar establishments maintained at Calcutta, Bombay, and in the Punjab.

2. Ordered accordingly that the following letters be despatched:—

To the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

(Here enter 28th January 1869, No. 251.)

To the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

(Here enter 28th January 1869, No. 252.)

To the Secretary to the Government of Punjab.

(Here enter 28th January 1869, No. 253.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

and a further sum of Rs. 6

Memorandum.

Madras Agri-Horticultural Society

The Madras Agri-Horticultural Society appears to have been started in 1835.

In 1836 the Secretary of the Society applied to Govt. for preliminary assistance; it was stated that Rs. 20,000 had been granted to the Agri-Horticultural Society of India in 1829, besides Rs. 4500 for bullocks, stock, &c. and Rs. 10,000 per annum for Premiums.

This request was forwarded for the favourable consideration of the Govt. of India - and Rs. 10,000 appears to have been mentioned as a suitable sum.

The Government of India, in reply, after commenting on the general failure of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, and its farm, and of the similar experiments authorized the Govt. to grant a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,000 and a further sum of Rs. 10,000

Govt. of 1869 Minutes.

REVENUE.

To

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Dated January, 28th.

Recd.

Ind.

G. O., 28th January 1869, No. 250.

JANUARY.

Nos. 520-521.

Agri-Horticultural Society.—With reference to the application for an additional grant, information to be obtained from Calcutta, Bombay, and Punjab on the extent to which assistance is given to similar establishments there.

for annum for 3 years.
 The Bengal Society was stated to
 then receiving Rs 130 per month
 an annual donation of Rs 1500

3. The Madras Society was then in-
 formed that this Govt would
 grant a donation of Rs 1000 for
 3 years, & premiums for improve-
 ments in agriculture & horticulture

4. Nothing more appears in the
 records till 1844: but from a
 statement of accounts of the Society
 from its commencement (contained
 in a letter from the Secretary of the
 Soc. in April 1844) it seems that
 the Society received from Govt
 in 1837. a donation of Rs 1000
 1838. 500
 1839. 500
 1842. 500

In his letter above referred to the
 Secretary requests Government
 to grant a fixed monthly allow-
 -ance, as their income depending
 chiefly on subscriptions was
 precarious and subject to

considerable difficulty, and urged
 that a monthly allowance of
 Rs 250 equal to that given to
 the Bombay Society should be
 sanctioned. This the Madras
 Govt. accordingly recommended,
 but the Govt of India sanctioned
 150 Rs only per month.
 In 1855 the Society again addressed
 Government. They appear to have
 rendered the garden useful &
 attractive, and have fairly
 fulfilled the purposes for which
 the Society was formed, in spite
 of considerable obstacles: but they
 reported that they required more
 land valued at 12000 Rs
 the purchase of which would
 involve increased expenditures
 estimated at from 1500 to 3000 Rs
 per month.
 The Government readily acceded to
 their requests. The purchase of
 the additional land required
 was sanctioned at a cost of
 Rs 15,400. & the Govt of
 India granted an additional
 allowance of Rs 150 per month

The receipts & expenditure of the Soc.
 at this time were as follows:
 Receipts.
 80 members subscribing } 2240
 at Rs 28 per ann. }
 Govt grant in ann } 1800
 total } 4040
 Expenditure.
 Estate Agency } Rs 216 = 259
 in name }
 Indian Garden Expans } 500
 keep of cattle } 432
 Annual Budget } 200
 total } 3726

Extraordinary expenses, all paid
 out of the fund.
 Rs 1200
 10782

considerable difficulty, and urged
 that a monthly allowance of
 Rs 250 equal to that given to
 the Bombay Society should be
 sanctioned. This the Madras
 Govt. accordingly recommended,
 but the Govt of India sanctioned
 150 Rs only per month.
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 of considerable obstacles: but they
 reported that they required more
 land valued at 12000 Rs
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 per month.
 The Government readily acceded to
 their requests. The purchase of
 the additional land required
 was sanctioned at a cost of
 Rs 15,400. & the Govt of
 India granted an additional
 allowance of Rs 150 per month

The Secy of India replied that as the Bengal Society only got Rs 222. 14. 11. per mensem, Bombay only Rs 250. and the Punjab a monthly donation of Rs 200 only, they could only sanction a grant of Rs 250. in all, to the Madras Society: and this has continued a small token of the present time.

It may be however that Government
aid has been refused more liberally
since then & Societies in other
Provinces, - indeed Dr. B. did
state that £750 per annum is
granted to the Punjab Society
besides large grants from local
funds - and even if not, it is
hardly a conclusive argument,
unless the results compared with
expenditure is also known.
It might have been better had the
Secretary sent a statement showing
the present average receipts, and
the expenditure of the Society.

I must make a present
of the Society of the 2000
if there are any savings
under Education License
a Act - we might with
this view before preparing
notes on the latter article
herein.



The Society ask for a current grant
of R. 500. per annum. —
Mr. Cuthbert proposes to give them
a round sum of R. 2000. I would
not do this. If the Society had asked
for such a grant for any specific
purpose I would, but they have
not done so. I recognize the
utility of the garden but before
making it a larger grant I would
like to know what grants are ^{at present} made
to the similar establishments of

Memo
 Nature of
 Society

No: 16 June 1836 8-12 214.
 10 January 1837 - 62-53
 9 June 1837 - 48-50
 23 July - 52-56
 18 July - 38-37
 7 May 1824 - 5-8
 25 June - 17-82
 9 January 1855 - 31-82
 12 June - 65-87
 7 August - 81-82

J. L. L. L. L.

November 1855
 77-3875

From
 The Honorary Secy
 Agri Hort. Society
 Madras.
 To
 The Secy. to Govt.
 Rev. Depart.
 Forb & George
 Dates 11.2. Dec/58
 11.2. Dec/58

N. 575.
 Letter soliciting
 increased monthly allow-
 ance from Govt. for the
 support of the Agri
 Horticultural Society
 of Madras.
 Secy 250-28 Jan 1859

Council
 1858

Received 14 January 1859

10/1/1859

No. 250

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 28th January 1869.

Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary Agri Horticultural Society Madras.

Soliciting an increased monthly allowance from Government for the support of the Agri Horticultural Society of Madras.

Here enter 11th December 1868 & 1869

I think the Society is a useful one & that it deserves a fair share of State support. I would not give it more unless it can be shown that similar institutions are better supported elsewhere. The letter is a specimen of the kind of support the Society now receives. W.D. it is a specimen.

In their Honorary Secretary's letter above recorded, the Madras Agri Horticultural Society, apply to Government for an additional grant of Rupees 250 per mensem. The Society at present receives Rupees 250 per mensem from Government, and it is represented that the increased grant is urgently required to enable the Society to maintain the position of usefulness, which it has achieved. It appears that the

If there is any doubt as to the utility of this Committee this matter will effectively be settled by the fact that it is a specimen of the kind of support the Society now receives.

the general working expenses
of the Society have of late in-
creased very much, and that
unless the funds of the Society,
which consist of subscriptions
of members and of profits
by the sale of seeds and plants,
in addition to the Government
grant, are supplemented by a
further monthly grant from
Government, it will be necessary
to curtail its operations. The
Honorary Secretary represents
that in other parts of India
similar societies have received
very liberal assistance from
Government, and the Punjab
Agricultural Society is
instanced as receiving 750
Rupees per mensem, besides
large sums from local funds.
2. From the records of
Government, it appears that the
Madras Society has received very
liberal assistance from the
State from its commencement.
Between 1827 & 1842 the Society
received grants aggregating
Rs. 6,000. Application was subse-
quently made for a fixed
monthly grant of Rupees 250.
The sum of Rupees 150 per
mensem was eventually sanc-
tioned. In 1855, the Govern-
ment acceded to the request
of the Society for the grant
of a large sum for the pur-
chase of additional land
required for the garden: no
less than Rupees 15,000 was
expended from State funds for
the purchase of the lands, and
the Government of India was
requested to sanction an
additional monthly allow-
ance of Rupees 150 (or Rupees
300 per mensem in all). In
reply, the Government of
India

India pointed out that a similar Society in Bengal received only Rspees 223 per mensem, that in Bombay only Rspees 250 and that in the Punjab Rspees 200 only. A grant of Rspees 250 per mensem, was therefore allowed in the case of Madras and this has continued unaltered to the present time.

3. The Governor in Council recognizes the utility of the Society, which appears to have been hitherto conducted with very fair success, but before sanctioning the larger grant ^{an application to the Punjab} ~~now applied for~~ desires to ascertain what grants are at present made to the similar establishments maintained at Calcutta, Bombay and in the Punjab.

Ordered accordingly

that the following letters be despatched. -

To
 The Secretary to the Government of Bengal. } W.E. 7B. January 1869
 The Chief Secy to the Government of Bombay. } W.E. January 1869
 The Secretary to the Government of Punjab } W.E. January 1869

copy To the Honorable Secy Agri Horticultural Society, Dec 20 29

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Ed. H. S. L.

1871

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