M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 168 — Press Mis.

361.362

Dated 15 — 1 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th January 1867.

No. 361. Read the following letter from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Bombay Castle, 8th December 1866, No. 4,589 :—

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward, herewith, an Extract from the Proceedings of this Government, No. 4,587, of this date, and, with reference to paragraph 3 of the letter from the Collector of Khandeish, to request that this Government may, as early as possible, be informed of the results of the efforts made by Sir W. Denison towards introducing English Machinery into the Madras Presidency.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the Revenue Department, dated 8th December 1866, No. 4,587.

Read the following papers :—

Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, N. D., to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 28th November 1866, No. 5,028.

1. I have the honor to forward, for the consideration and orders of Government, a letter from the Collector of Khandeish, Mr. Ashburner, containing several very important proposals connected with the material improvement of the district under his charge. The first relates to the introduction of machinery with a view to economize labor in various agricultural processes, and the others, to the improvement of the breed of cattle in Khandeish.

2. With regard to the former subject, His Excellency in Council will, I have no doubt, learn with much satisfaction that, with the assistance of Kassinath Mahadeo, the Mamlutdar of Dhoolia, whose energetic exertions in the matter the Collector highly commends, Mr. Ashburner has induced the ryots of the Dhoolia Talooka to subscribe the sum of 2,500 Rupees to be granted in prizes to the exhibitors of agricultural produce and farm stock, and to procure machinery, such as that mentioned in his second paragraph. 500 Rupees more have been promised, and with these 3,000, and 5,000 per annum more which he wishes Government to contribute, he would hold an annual exhibition at the Mhyjee Fair, similar to that which has apparently met with so much success in Kattiwar.

3. This proposal I beg cordially to support. It would be superfluous on my part to urge the advantage to the agriculturists of Khandeish of being able to see in practical use machinery by which their labor would be greatly economized and their profits increased. It will be sufficient to point out the unusual suitability of the occasion chosen by Mr. Ashburner for the proposed exhibition. Government are aware that at Mhyjee Fair there are assembled merchants and traders of many descriptions from all parts of the country, both within and without British territory. Through them the knowledge of the existence of such machinery as it is proposed to exhibit would be spread, and bear fruit far more speedily than would be attainable by any other method of communication practicable.

4. The time for the next anniversary of the Fair is now so near at hand, that it would not be possible to obtain any of the proposed machinery from England. Some, however, may be procurable in this country, and there it would be advisable to get together before the interest of the subject has had time to cool in the minds of the subscribers to the fund. I would respectfully beg to suggest, therefore, that for the next Fair a sum of Rupees 3,000, equal to that subscribed by the cultivators of Dhoolia, should be allowed, and a guarantee be given that in the event of the exhibition succeeding fairly, Rupees 5,000 a year will be contributed towards the exhibition for the next four years. An early answer is solicited, in order that the necessary preparations for the exhibition may be commenced without delay.

5. On the subject of the improvement of the breed of cattle for agricultural purposes, Mr. Ashburner has two distinct proposals—the one being to allow all the ground now set apart for grazing purposes to be brought under cultivation, by which a system of stall feeding of the cattle

would be rendered necessary; and the other to provide bulls of good breed to cross with the common cows of the country.

6. With regard to the former of these, I need hardly observe that, if sanctioned, the introduction of the system must be a work of time, in carrying out which unusual tact and judgment would have to be exercised by the local officers. The passive, if not the active, opposition of, in the first place, the ryots themselves, and in the second, in a greater degree, of the non-agricultural owners of cattle, who would in consequence of the cutting off of the source of their supply of forage become dependent on the former for food for their cattle, and indirectly for fuel for themselves, would have to be overcome. The evil effects of the present system Mr. Ashburner has probably not overdrawn, but it would be simply impossible to revolutionize it at once. In most places few men would be found possessed of the moral courage required to take up the grazing lands of a village in opposition to the wishes of the community; and if the Collector were to enclose them to preserve the grass without ample notice, so as to admit of fodder for stall-feeding being got together, the discontent of the people would probably manifest itself in a variety of unpleasant ways. In some localities, too, it would be better to encourage grazing to the exclusion of tillage. Under all the circumstances, it is evident that a cautious course of action is the only one practicable.

7. Mr. Ashburner's proposal to provide good bulls to cross with the country cows is perfectly practicable and feasible; and I have no doubt that if Government were to sanction the proposal for the purchase of Mr. Richardson's and the Guntoor bulls in the first instance, their keep and expenses would be met easily from the proceeds of small fees for their services, which might be levied from the first. The offer of prizes for the best calves, the progeny of these bulls, would, of course, be an additional incentive to people to make use of them, but even without this it appears to me that were the opportunity offered, they would be sufficiently alive to their own interests to take advantage of it readily. In the case of these bulls, which would not be liable to be injured in moving about as stallions would, I see no reason why they should not be taken on regular circuits, as led horses are at home. Probably, many a man, who would not take the trouble to walk with his cow up to the Mamlutdar's Cutcherry, would willingly pay a small fee to have her served at her own village, and the result of the experiment would be watched with greater interest by the villagers than if the bulls were kept where most of them would never see it.

8. Mr. Ashburner will be requested to report separately on the subject of a larger supply of stallions mentioned in the concluding paragraph of his letter.

Letter from the Collector of Khandeish, to the Acting Revenue Commissioner, N. D., dated 4th October 1866, No. 1,971.

1. The cultivators of the Dhoolia Talooka have subscribed the sum of Rupees 2,500, to be granted in prizes to the exhibitors of the best specimens of agricultural produce and farm live stock to procure from England machinery calculated to economize human labor, and to carry on agricultural operations more efficiently than the rude implements now made use of.

2. I propose to procure from England the following machinery:—

(1.) A Bullock-power Pump for irrigation.
(2.) A Winnowing Machine.
(3.) A Sugar-cane Press.
(4.) A Reaping Machine.
(5.) A Mowing Machine.
(6.) A light hand Force-pump suited to the ordinary wells of the country.
(7.) A Hand-mill for Jowaree, Bajree, &c.
(8.) A Chaff-cutter.
(9.) A sub-soil Plough.
(10.) A Cotton Press and Platt's Gin worked by bullock-power.

I intend to hold a sort of humble exhibition at Mhyjee Fair each year, at which the people may see these machines in work, and be able to judge of their practical value. The success which has

attended Major Keating's efforts to introduce agricultural machinery into Kattiwar, has encouraged me to hope that something similar may be done for Khandeish. The people have expressed the greatest interest in the subject, have already paid Rupees 2,500 into the treasury, and have promised a further sum of Rupees 500. I now ask Government to subscribe a sum of Rupees 5,000 in support of this useful work, and to guarantee that a similar sum will be granted for five years. By that time I hope the exhibition will be self-supporting, and have begun to produce useful results. A guarantee is necessary, in order that measures may be taken in advance to procure machinery, issue prospectus of prizes to be given, &c., &c.

3. I am in correspondence with Major Keating in order to secure the benefit of his advice and experience, and I would beg that the Madras Government may be asked to furnish information on the results of the experiments for the introduction of machinery made by Sir W. Denison. It is probable that they will afford much valuable information, and enable us to avoid errors and failures, which are, to some extent, inseparable from an undertaking in which we have to purchase our experience. If funds are not available from Imperial sources, I would suggest that the amount should be granted from the Chillur Kurch.

4. I have much pleasure in bringing to your favorable notice the valuable assistance I have derived from Mr. Kassinath Mahadeo, the energetic Mamlutdar of Dhoolia. He has been most indefatigable in explaining the object of the proposed measure to the Patels of his charge, and it is entirely owing to his co-operation that they have subscribed so liberally, and taken so much interest in the subject.

5. I take this opportunity of urging the importance of taking some measures to improve the breed of the working cattle of the country. You are aware that they have deteriorated from year to year, and are now a stunted inferior breed, almost unfit for draught or agricultural purposes. It is not unusual to see four or five pairs of these wretched bullocks yoked to a plough in a soil that one good pair of bullocks could work with ease.

6. The causes of this deterioration are—

1st.—The carelessness of the cultivators in allowing their cows to be served by any inferior bull they may meet in the village grazing grounds.

2nd.—Their improvidence in not providing fodder for their cattle during the hot season. They depend on the village common grazing lands to feed their cattle throughout the year. These are so overstocked that they are quite insufficient to feed even half of the cattle of the village; the result is actual death by starvation to a large number of them, and semi-starvation to all.

The remedy I propose is to allow the village grazing lands to be cultivated. They are utterly insufficient for the purposes for which they were intended. If the grass they produce were allowed to arrive at maturity it would, perhaps, feed one-fourth of the village cattle, but under the present wasteful system it is cropped from the very beginning of the monsoon, and much of it is trodden down by the cattle and wasted. If the cultivators were deprived of this, this delusive and insufficient means of feeding their cattle, they would be compelled to lay in stores of fodder. By this not only would the cattle improve, but manure would be accumulated, the land would be enriched, and finer crops would be the result. This subject of manure is one of the greatest importance, now that works of irrigation are being extended. It will shortly call for the very active interference of Government. If irrigated cultivation is carried on without large supplies of manure, the land becomes in a very few years impoverished and entirely unproductive. The supply of manure by the present improvident system of agriculture is very limited, and I believe the period is fast approaching when the supply of water for irrigation will exceed the means of the cultivator to avail himself of it owing to the want of manure. In England the land-owner protects his land from impoverishment by a clause in the lease which requires the tenant to keep so many head of cattle, and forbids the sale of straw and manure. I believe at the next revision of the Survey it will be found necessary to introduce some such stipulation in the Survey tenure to secure the land from utter exhaustion.

7. If it be deemed undesirable to cultivate the village grazing lands, I would suggest that they should be treated as Kooruns, the grass preserved till it is ripe, and then sold by public auction in the village to which it belongs.

8. Provision having been made to secure the cattle from starvation by the abolition of the common grazing lands, I would next suggest that stallion bulls of a superior breed and power should be stationed in every Talooka, and I would offer prizes for the finest calves, the produce of the Government bulls, in the same way as granted for colts bred from the Government stallions. The apathetic indifference to the improvement of the breed of horses was very [illegible] the first three years, but that difficulty has now been overcome—owners of mares are beginning to take an interest in the subject, and the Government stallions have more mares than they can serve. I believe the same result would follow the introduction of a superior breed of cattle. It is even likely to become more rapidly popular, for comparatively few Patels are owners of mares, while every one possesses cattle.

9. There is now a particularly favorable opportunity of securing a bull of a very superior breed. It is a very large and powerful animal, bred from an English cow and a Guzerat bull: it belongs to Mr. Richardson, Judge of Ahmednuggur. It might be supposed that such a cross would prove delicate and soft footed, but such is not the case. This bull has been regularly worked in Mr. Richardson's carts over the roughest roads, and at the hottest season of the year, he has proved himself to possess sound feet, and a power of enduring hard work in the sun: he is for sale. I would suggest that this price should be fixed by Major Neale, who bred him; and that he should be purchased by Government as a stallion. I would further suggest that twenty other bulls should be imported from Guntoor in the Madras Presidency and stationed in Khandeish. It is probable that they would make a better cross with the present breed of Khandeish cows than the larger bull of Guzerat, who are apt to suffer from sore feet on the hard roads of Khandeish, or the Deccan.

10. I take this opportunity of reporting that during the past month ten mares, which had been brought to the Government stallion at Dhoolia, were sent away, the time of the stallion being fully occupied. There are three stallions in Khandeish, and they are all fully employed. I would suggest that six more Arab stallions should be supplied for Khandeish. I am aware of the difficulty of procuring Arabs of a proper form. In the event of its being found impossible to procure them, I would rather wait than put up with English or Persian stallions of inferior make. The English stallion did more harm than good while stationed in Khandeish—he was quite unsuited to the country mares.

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1. Resolution.—The Government of India will be requested to sanction the expenditure of a sum of Rupees 5,000 during each of the ensuing five years for the purchase of improved machinery and agricultural implements to be exhibited at Mhyjee. In the meanwhile a sum of Rupees 3,000 may be expended at the Fair about to take place, in anticipation of sanction.

2. The Madras Government will be requested to report the results of the efforts made by Sir W. Denison towards introducing English machinery into the Madras Presidency.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council, while fully recognizing the importance of checking the improvident practice that at present prevails in the mode of grazing cattle, and the advantages to be derived from a system of "stall feeding," is unable to accede to the extreme measure proposed by Mr. Ashburner of giving all the village grazing ground in cultivation; nor, considering the vast number of tenants who hold direct from Government, would it be possible to enforce any agreement that might be made as to the number of cattle each man was to keep, and as to the prohibition of the sale of straw and manure.

4. The purchase of Mr. Richardson's bull is authorized at whatever price Colonel Neale may consider reasonable. Mr. Ashburner should be requested to place himself in communication with the authorities at Guntoor, and ascertain from them the cost of importing twenty bulls.

5. The requisition for six additional Arab Stallions should be considered and disposed of in the Military Department; and that Department should also be requested to consider whether a Government Farm might not be established in Khandeish as a branch to that now existing under Colonel Neale at Allehgaon.

Ordered that copies of the above be forwarded to—

The Revenue Commissioner, N. D.
Colonel Neale, Superintendent Government Cattle Farm at Allehgaon.
The Military Department of the Secretariat.
The Accountant General.

Note.—The Governments of India and Madras have been addressed as directed.

No. 362. Order thereon, 15th January 1867, No. 168.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Farm Committee and the Remount Agent at Oossoor, who are requested to report the result [illegible] experience of the improved agricultural implements used at the Sydapet and Oossoor Farms, with especial reference to their adaptability to the means (pecuniary and other) of the ryots of the country. The degree in which they have adopted by the people already should also be stated.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Farm Committee.
,, the Remount Agent, Oossoor.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 168. 4

Comds to the Farm Comrs
& the Lemnock Agent
at Oxford who are re-
quested to report the
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Experience of the improved
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adopted by the people already
should also be stated 15th Sept 1868.

Thursday &c.
-tical Farmers
&c

to Command
English Machinery into the Madras Presidency.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant.

F. P. Chapman
Chief Secretary to Government.

Capt Humphrey
R. Clive