M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 172 — Press Mis.

370.371

Dated 15—1—1867

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

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

No. 370. Read the following letter from the Agent for Remounts, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Oossoor, 14th February 1866, No. 488:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Proceedings of Government, dated 2nd February 1866, and in compliance with Order thereon, No. 275, lose no time in replying to the questions put.

2. Referring to paragraph 3 of the Minute by the Honorable the President, I would beg to explain that His Excellency appears to labor under a misapprehension regarding the field he alludes to of twenty-five acres. Two or three crops were not sown together, as is the native custom, each kind of grain was sown perfectly distinct; but as I merely wished to sow a little of each, to see what the result would be, I sowed the six different kinds of crop in one and the same field, and as the same operations of manuring, ploughing, harrowing, weeding, &c., &c., were carried out over the whole field, I of course lumped the whole cost of cultivation at so much for the whole field, and so much per acre of the field, but I shewed the out-turn of each grain separately upon the quantity sown; thus the whole field having been cultivated, I sowed on a few yards of it, three measures of Ram Till, costing two Annas, and received nine measures, worth six Annas, and so on with the other five kinds of grain; the straw, and after grass, cost of course nothing, but came in naturally as profit.

3. The two columns "Cost of actual cultivation," and "Value of depôt assistance," if added together, shew the exact cost a private cultivator would have undergone in the cultivation of any single field, or of the whole Farm, where any general facts are to be deduced from the experiment; but by keeping these two charges distinct, I was enabled to shew the actual money profit to Government on each field at a glance, as the black ink denotes the actual money expended and received, the red ink what was merely assumed to have been expended by throwing the two columns into one; the actual profit of the Farm can never be truly seen, as a portion of the money said to have been expended will not have been so, and therefore the actual profit will be shewn to be less than it really has been.

4. I trust I shall be excused for observing, that it has been a matter of great pain to me, to see placed upon record by a member of Government, that he has no great faith in a plain statement of facts submitted by me officially for the information of Government; all that I have stated is to the best of my power of finding out a fact. I have taken nothing from hearsay. The grain sowed and sold has been measured or weighed. The ground has been measured by the Revenue Survey Department. The hours of working of both horse and man have been taken by a watch, and, in fact, every exertion has been made to be as strictly accurate as it is possible to be; an aspersion, therefore, such as I now labor under, cannot but be a source of great pain to me, more especially as all the additional bodily as well as mental labor entailed on me by the Farm, has been undertaken solely for the benefit of Government, and not from motives of personal aggrandizement.

5. The term high farming can scarcely, I think, be applied to a coating merely of dry stable manure of six and a half small cart loads to an acre of ground; as all my farming operations are carried on with horse labor, I omitted to specify "cart" loads in my statements.

6. With reference to the remarks in paragraph 3 of the Honorable H. D. Phillips' Minute, I beg to state that, as the three farms are quite distinct, and immediately round the horse lines under the immediate charge of each subordinate, it was not possible to throw the three accounts into one last year; and so they were kept separate, that each man should have whatever credit Government might be pleased to give him for his exertions, as also to shew Government that there was no particularly favorable circumstance attached to one farm more than another. The subordinates are, I consider, by no means well-paid, as compared with other and much less responsible positions; but what they have done, has been during hours that, but for the farm, would have been at their own disposal. My own superintendence has also been given gratuitously, but most willingly, and has not therefore been taken into the account, nor can I well see why it should be, as no ryot would employ European superintendence, but would of course do the work himself.

7. Referring to paragraph 4, the manure is charged at the rate (eight loads per Rupee) at which it had always been sold at the depôt previous to its being all required for the Government farm, nor, as far as I am informed, would it fetch a higher price now if offered for sale. The small horse carts in use at the depôt carry much less than used to be packed in the large basket carts of the natives, when sold at the depôt, and laden by the purchasers.

8. I omitted to put "hire of" before the heading ploughs, as I assumed that the number of ploughs, 548, and the charge, Rupees 205½, would shew at once that it must be for the hire of native ploughs, and not the purchase.

9. Referring to paragraph 6, I have paid all through the year the highest rate of daily hire to both male and female coolies, viz., two Annas to the former, and 1 Anna 4 Pice to the latter; no children have been employed. The grass is furnished to the depôt by a contractor, therefore no grass-cutters are employed, or have been for years, and as I can with difficulty get one horse-keeper to three horses, instead of three horse-keepers to one horse if required, as was the case when the circumstances mentioned in the paragraph under reply took place, it can easily be understood that no farm work is done by the horse-keepers; they keep the pickets and roads within the lines in order and the hedges cut, and collect firewood for boiling the gram, but do nothing more.

10. The acre of Sugar-cane was watered from a small pot-well dug in the corner of the garden in former years, and the Sugar-cane got an occasional watering by a cooly, perhaps twice a week at first, and not oftener than once a week as the water grew scarcer towards the hot weather. The four Rupees charged is therefore merely the cooly hire for raising the water, about an hour at a time. No use has, or can ever be made, of any of the depôt wells for the irrigation of any part of the Farm. Each is in a patch of lucerne, which it waters in the wet months, but they all become dry in the hot season, and are useless even for that purpose.

11. In reply to paragraph 8, the horse-labor has been calculated considerably above the cost of the feed and expenses of the horse to Government, viz., at 8 Annas per diem for a single horse, or 1 Rupee per pair, each horse having cost Government only Rupees 12-5-8½ per head, per mensem, in the year under review. The driver

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

is charged at 4 Annas per day, whilst he is paid by Government at the rate of but 3½ Annas per day, one pair of horses and one man are, therefore, debited against the Farm at the rate of 3⅓ country ploughs or carts, as the case may be. The day is calculated at ten working hours, as in England.

12. I shall now proceed to give concise answers to the questions as submitted in the Order No. 275, dated 2nd February 1866.

*Manure.*—Whether the loads entered in his statement are cart or cooly loads. How the value is estimated, and the stock kept up to produce the 1,346 loads used.

13. Cart loads, valued at eight loads per Rupee, the rate at which manure has hitherto been sold at the depôt. The stock is kept up by the stable litter of the horses at the depot, and by the sweepings of leaves, &c.

*Ploughs.*—Whether this item of 205½ Rupees represents the hire of country ploughs or this charge and the cost of working the English ploughs in use at the depôt.

14. This item of 205½ Rupees is the sum actually disbursed for the hire of 548 country ploughs, at 6 Annas each per diem, hired during the season for work in the Farm.

*Harrowing carting to the yard, threshing, and winnowing.*—How these charges are calculated.

15. These charges are calculated on the number of hours the horses and men are employed in each work; 1 Rupee for a pair of horses, and 4 Annas for the driver, being allowed for ten hours work.

*Water.*—Sugar-cane is considered to consume as much water as two crops of paddy, and is therefore charged a double rate.

16. Water for irrigating paddy is charged for at the rate it is charged to ryots. The small patch of Sugar-cane mentioned was watered from a pot-well in the garden dug years ago, and the cooly hire only is charged for.

*Assumed assessment.*—The Agent will apply to the Collector for the actual assessment of the lands included in the Farm.

17. The assessment charged in the Statement is the actual assessment that had been paid for the depôt land, before it was purchased by Government for the Farm.

*Value of Depôt assistance.*—The Agent is requested to explain how this item is calculated, and whether it includes any part of the pay of Sub-Conductor Peel and Sergeants Grieveson and Brotherston, and any allowance for interest in the value of machinery in use, wear and tear, &c.

18. The Depôt assistance has reference only to manure, horses, and native men. No part of the pay of the European agent or subordinates has been charged, because whatever superintendence they afforded, was rendered during those hours in which they were not employed on their stable duties, but which, under other circumstances, would have been passed in their own houses.

19. The prices realized for the produce of the farm were those ruling at the village in which the depôt is situated, but there is no reason to believe they varied from the other villages around.

No. 371. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1867, No. 172.

**Miscellaneous.**

1. Colonel Thompson is assured that it was by no means the intention of Government to call in question the correctness of any of his statements of *fact*, as the quantities of grain sown and reaped, the area of land cultivated, hours of labor, and the like, although they might doubt the accuracy of some of his deductions, and consider his statistics, in the full sense of the term, not altogether reliable. He has carried out his farming operations with much zeal and energy, and they would be most unwilling to disparage his public-spirited and gratuitous exertions which, on the contrary, they fully appreciate.

2. The Governor in Council does not consider that Oossoor is well suited for the purposes of a model or experimental farm. It is at the extreme corner of the district, bordering Mysore, in a poor and scantily peopled part of the country and not easily accessible. The farming operations there carried on cannot afford results useful as data towards the assessment of the country. The Farm should, therefore, be regarded as an adjunct to the Stud, and the Remount Agent should cultivate as much land as can be tilled with the resources in labor, manure, &c., of the Stud, and its proper establishment. Such implements, &c., as may be needed with this object should of course be retained, and the rest be disposed of by transfer to the Sydapet Farm or otherwise.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 172.

No. 509 From Remount Agent.

Sir, I am sensible that the location of the miscalled Experimental Farm at Oossoor, is a mistake - and it seems to me well worthy of reconsideration by Government whether the whole thing ought not to be abolished. Oossoor is a place of little importance and stands on the very border of the Salem District where it joins the Mysore country. It is moreover in an angle of the district and might be abolished as it attracts a little". The population in the Taluk are the crops known in the Taluk are worth the crops - and a penny from that Colonel Thompson farming operations are of a really superior

superior character. The crops & produce are ten times per acre. That a native cultivator can turn with a pair of sturdy bullocks, - I fail to draw the probable advantages of contrast & comparison between a system carried out by a primitive native plough and that attained the aid of the best implements in ploughs from England, with harrows, drills & numerous machines of the same class, & yielded by an unlimited supply of horses intended hereafter to be with the Bde Artillery, & Col Thompson has at his disposal to say nothing of the energetic agency of several Non commissioned officers working in forming models under the Colonels orders. All that can arise out of the establishment of such operations, as have been done, is a feeling of jealousy amongst the native inhabitants that State

,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Farm Committee
,, Chief Secretary's Dept.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

people shd be content to use such complicated machines as are shown them - that we shd use horses when bullocks will suffice - that we should have so many loads of manure & land for which a market would be found - they stand as towns-people but they don't initiate in rural matters, for they cannot reach them with their scanty limited means -

It would be well, I think, if a census of cattle were now instituted in regard to what has really been the amount of public money expended on the supposition that the purchase of land or in bullocks & ploughs from England & steam or other ploughs & other modern articles which under from which Col: Thompson, with his ability, he has so large & valuable a quantity that he at present retains his services & another non commissioned officer to whom

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despatch contains a formal application - In a despatch from the S of State rec'd about 8 days ago observations are made in regard to this Farm which indicate beyond any mistake, that the authorities at home are very sceptical as to the sincerity of this intention on the part of Jos Long to withdraw from cultivation. but it seems to me that the despatch in question has supplied a reasonable basis for the special leasing which I now suggest.

3. 5. 66

Sworn and subscribed before me this 3rd day of May 1866 at the Surveyor General's Office St Augustine Florida

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

I regret that, through some misapprehension in this office, my statement of 31 Oct last has been communicated to Col Thompson and has caused him annoyance - In entering upon the consideration of any claim to land I endeavour to ascertain the correctness of the statements of fact, as to the quantities of grain sowed & reaped - the number of hands employed & the kind of labor and cultivation used - hours of labor and the like - all of which I might doubtless accurately form my calculations and conclusions of this description and consider his statistics in the full sense of the term but although the schedule - as my Hon Colleague Mr Philbrick seems also to have done - I noticed with this opinion and Col Thompson - He has carried on his farming operations with much zeal and energy and I should imagine with unwillingness to disparage his efforts in the grand question I stumped the first objection to the location of a Home

15th May 1867.

or Experimental Farm at Ottawa, an out of the way place, on the frontier of the Province - in a poor and scantily peopled part of the Country - not easily accessible and distant from any large Town or Railway. The results of the Farming operations carried on at Ottawa are of no value as data towards the assessment of the Country generally - in as much as the Farm differs in every respect from European implements & systems of agriculture among the nations from whom we can visit it —

The Amount applied & moved for, which should be expended in the erection of as much land round the Station of as much land round the Station as might be tilled with the labour and manure of the Farm and such implements as he may require for that purpose should be kept with him and the rest transferred to Sydenham Farm or elsewhere.

J.P.

I entirely concur in the terms of the last paragraph of Sir T. Ryan's remarks

N.

" the Farm Committee.

" Secretary Dept

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Col Thompson is assured that it was by no means the intention of Govt to call in question the correctness of any of his statements of fact, as the figures, tables of grain sown & reaped, the area of land cultivated, rains of Water & the like, although they might be drawn the accuracy of some of his deductions and conclusions, in the fullest sense of the terms, must all with which -

~~Rotth~~ She has carried out his farming operations with much zeal & energy and they could be much unwilling to discourage his public spirited & patriotic exertions, which in the contrary they fully appreciate.

The piece does not consider that possessor is well suited for the purposes of a Model & Experimental Farm. It is at the extreme corner of the District, bordering Upton - in a poor & scantily peopled part of the County & not easily accessible. The farming operations there carried on cannot

result except as a ~~model~~ data to the neighbourhood of the country. The Farm should therefore be regarded as an object by the Board and the Superintendent should cultivate as much land as can be tilled with the resources in labor, manure & capital of the Board & its profits establishments as may be needed with this object should of course be determined & the best be this listed by transfer to the Model Farm or otherwise. ~~&c &c~~

&c &c

Lgd.

? State here.?

Col T's operations are also paid for by his annual earnings —

1 Copy Lotbinière Remounts Agents Office for Dept 24
14 " Bds of Revr
6 " Farm Committees
7 " Militia Dept

Revenue 1867 Dep.
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No 172

Pro of the Madras Govt
dd 15th Jany 1867.

No 370 to 371