

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2840

Press
~~Mis.~~

~~338-559~~

Dated 29-11-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th November 1867.*

No. 558. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary Government Farm, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 14th October 1867 :—

I am directed by the Committee of the Government Farm, Sydapet, to forward their Report for the year 1866-67, and to enclose two statements, one of receipts the other of expenditure, shewing a balance of Rupees 25-5-11 to credit.

REPORT.

1. The Government Farm at Home's Gardens was established in April 1865, and placed under the management of a Committee, which submitted their report for 1865-66 on the 30th June 1866. I am now directed to submit their report for 1866-67, ending the 31st March 1867.

2. When the Committee took charge of the farm, they found it covered with jungle and prickly-pear. In their first report, they stated they had cleared away much of the jungle, and had nearly eradicated the prickly-pear. That they had commenced the roads on the farm, which had been partly metalled; cleared out some of the wells, and repaired the masonry; raised the farm buildings; put a house in order for the Overseer; laid out some fields, and cropped them. The work that has subsequently been done is as follows :—

3. CLEARING.—Two fields have been added to the farm on the side of the Mount Road, by the removal of worn-out and useless plantations of guava trees. The fields, which were opened last year, have this year, by the employment of extra labor, been partly freed from the roots with which they still remained encumbered, and are in fair order. Such work as still remains to be done to free them entirely from roots will be carried out from year to year.

4. ROADS.—The road from the farm buildings to the Mount Road, through the Roshum Bagh, partially metalled at the date of the last report, has this year been completed. Two culverts have been built at an expense of Rupees 140, and the road now forms an excellent approach to the farm. The bridge across the stream which separates Home's Gardens from the Roshum Bagh, has been completed at a cost of Rupees 2,150. This work was executed under contract by Messrs. Horgan & Co., and has been creditably done. The other roads on the farm have now all been metalled. A culvert has been built on the road from the Mount Road to the farm buildings. This culvert carries water raised at the windmill well.

5. BUILDINGS.—A fowl-house has been built during the year behind the Overseer's house. A well on the right of the Roshum Bagh road has been cleared out, and the masonry repaired, and two wells on the road leading from the farm buildings to the Marmalong bridge have been put in working order. The Superintendent's bungalow has been repaired at a cost of Rupees 250.

6. IRRIGATED CULTIVATION.—In the last Report the Committee stated that about five acres of land had been converted into wet, near the farm buildings. Half this land forms one field on the east of the bucket pump well embankment. The remainder is divided into three plots, one between the bucket pump well embankment and the farm buildings, on which Guinea grass is grown, another north of the farm buildings, and the third between this plot and the embankment of the windmill well. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ acre field was, at the beginning of the south-west

monsoon, prepared for paddy. Carolina paddy was sown on two acres of it, and country paddy on the remaining half acre. The Carolina paddy crop was 1,100 measures. The country paddy measures 360. The straw of the Carolina paddy was not better than that of the indigenous production. Whether this was owing in part to the soil being too sandy, or entirely to the mode of management adopted not being suited to the paddy, the Committee are not aware. They are quite sensible, however, that they have errors of management to record. They treated the paddy like country paddy, watering it in the same way, raising the plants in seed beds, and then transplanting them; whereas they believe that it ought to have been sown broad-cast, and not flooded with water at all. 940 measures were sold to the Board of Revenue for distribution throughout the country. The yield of straw on this field was a little less than five tons. Thus for the whole field the out-turn was measures $1,100 + 360 = 1,460$ measures of paddy, worth at 20 measures per rupee, 73 Rupees, straw 5 tons, at 7 Rupees per ton = 35 Rupees, in all Rupees $73 + 35 = 108$ Rupees. On nearly an acre and a half of this land, a kar, or second crop of country paddy, was sown in February. It yielded 960 measures and two tons of straw. The paddy sold for 45 Rupees. The straw was worth Rupees 14, and, like the straw of the first crop, was appropriated to the consumption of the farm cattle, and with other straw obtained from the gram and cholum cultivation, will last until the end of October next. The reason the second crop of paddy was on so small an area as $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, was, that the Committee found they could not adequately water a larger area with the means of irrigation at their command. With regard to the first wet crop, it is evident that, with a gross yield from $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, worth 108 Rupees only, the actual expenses of cultivation were not paid, or nearly so.

7. *Guinea Grass*.—The Guinea grass field of $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres, adjoining the bucket pump well, did not yield as it would have done, had the Committee been able to throw more water upon it. It should have given nine crops in the year. It only gave six. Another Guinea grass field has been made on the west side of the wind mill engine embankment.

8. *Sweet Potatoes*.—The crop was not so good as anticipated, and only sold for Rupees 26-4-0; they appear to be more suited to garden than farm cultivation.

9. *Pumpkins*.—Pumpkins were cultivated on the wet land, on the east side of the windmill engine embankment, but did not thrive, owing to the land becoming sour in consequence of the embankment leaking.

10. *Tobacco*.—On part of the wet plot north of the farm buildings, tobacco of the Himalayan, Ohio, and Shiraz kinds, supplied by the Board of Revenue, was put down. The land was manured with poudrette. The tobacco thrived luxuriantly, and has been prepared for sale.

11. *Carob Beans, French Honey Suckle*.—Carob beans and French honey suckle, also sent by the Board, were put down on a portion of this field; a few of the carob beans came up, and are healthy plants. Three plants only of the honey suckle were raised, they were very sickly, and do not seem well suited to the climate.

12. *Maltese Lucerne*.—Her Excellency the Lady Napier was so good as to supply the Committee with some Maltese lucerne for experiment. The seed was

planted on a piece of land prepared for the purpose near the river, but unfortunately none of it came up.

13. *DRY CULTIVATION*.—Twenty-five acres of land were this year sown with gram. They yielded in all 1,078 measures. This insignificant out-turn was owing to the land being too rich for a pulse which, unless put into a soil which will hardly support a better crop, runs to stalk and pods badly. The stalks made pretty good fodder for cattle.

14. *Cholum*.—This grain was sown on $26\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land: the yield was 1,744 measures, or an average of sixty-six measures per acre. The crop did not thrive, and never looked well. The Committee are of opinion that the fault here was want of manure, as they had not sufficient to manure the land properly. Every acre of cholum land ought to receive from 15 to 20 tons of manure, with such a dressing cholum should yield well. The cholum was reaped by the reaping machine. This machine, drawn by one pair of bullocks at a daily cost of 12 Annas, cuts four acres per day, doing the work of certainly forty coolies at 3 Annas each, or work worth Rupees 7-8-0. The reaping and stacking of the cholum cost Rupees 2-7-2 per acre, while for reaping and stacking the gram, a much light and more easily reaped crop than cholum, the cost was 4-5-9 per acre.

15. *MANURE*.—Poudrette was used with the tobacco in the field near the farm buildings. The rest of the farm was manured with farm-yard manure and sweepings procured from Sydapet at a small cost; not nearly enough manure was employed owing to the difficulty of procuring it, as already stated. The manure stored at the bandy-stand, referred to in the report for last year, has been carted to the farm. There were 523 bandy-loads, about 260 tons.

16. *CATTLE*.—Two pairs of bullocks have been purchased during the year, making in all eight pairs on the farm. The service of the Nellore bull have not been much sought after, but for what reason the Committee are not able to say. The cows that have been sent to him, have been mostly the property of European residents in Madras. The Australian heifer, referred to in the last report, has dropped a calf to the Nellore bull. Both the Nellore heifers have been served by the bull.

17. *Sheep*.—One hundred country sheep were bought in February for Rupees 170, and put on the farm to feed down the grass on the sides of the roads, the gram, and cholum fields. The President, Mr. Fane, brought two Patna rams,* and two others have been since

* From Calcutta in January.

procured from Mr. Taylor, of Patna, who has a noted breed. One of the two brought by Mr. Fane died, and one of Mr. Taylor's; the other two are both doing well. The stock on the farm now consists of fifty-one Coimbatore, Mysore, half-bred Merino, and Patna ewes, and twenty-three lambs, their produce, from three to five months' old, which are well grown, and promise to be superior stock.

18. *Pigs*.—The experience the Committee have now had leads them to believe that pigs will not pay, as they are very expensive to keep, and there is positively no sale, to repay the expense of feeding and keeping them. Twenty sucking pigs were born this year: two were taken away by the owner of one of the sows, ten were sold for 5 Rupees each, one died, and there are seven remaining at the farm. Two sows died of apoplexy.

19. **MACHINERY, PLOUGHS.**—Ransome and Sim's small iron plough, and Howard's dwarf plough, are decidedly superior to any others tried by the Committee. The cultivator plough with wooden yoke and single handle, sent from Bengal by Mr. John Stalkaart, the inventor, is not a success, and the Committee cannot recommend it, being much more difficult to work than the two-handed ploughs. The Committee are trying to improve and strengthen Ransome's and Sim's model, which is not strong enough where the handles are joined to the yoke for our hard Indian soil.

20. **Wind Engine Pump.**—The wind-engine has worked unsatisfactorily during the year, and is not a powerful or reliable machine; with the strongest wind it does not more than half fill the supply pipe, which is four inches in diameter, and with a light wind the quantity of water drawn up is very small. During the still season of the year the machine is almost useless. It is fixed on an elevated bank, so that it is well exposed to the breeze. The Committee have a project for supplementing it, by means of a pump worked by the engine of the steam plough. If this is done, the farm will be well supplied with water, because the pool in the river from which the water is drawn is inexhaustible, and the bank commands the greater part of the farm.

21. **V Pumps.**—Mr. Fane brought down a small V pump, a novel invention, from Calcutta, and it worked so well, raising seven hundred gallons per hour, that the Committee resolved to send for another of a larger size. The larger one was said to be able to raise 3,000 gallons per hour, and on its arrival was put up at the wind engine well, where the water has to be raised 27 feet. The pump would not work at all at this depth. The drawing power bore no comparison to that of the small V pump. It is so worthless a machine for raising water from a depth, that a member of the Committee, who imported one for his own garden, found he was obliged to give it up, and return to the native system of watering by picottahs.

22. **Bucket Pump.**—The bucket pump is a most satisfactory one. It has never been out of order, though it has now been working above two years, and it raises a very large quantity of water at a very small expenditure. It is equal in lifting power to $5\frac{1}{4}$ picottahs, one picottah raises on an average 5,850 gallons in a working day of eight hours steady labor. The bucket pump raises in the same time 30,700 gallons, equal to $5\frac{1}{4}$ picottahs.

One Picottah costs monthly				RS.	A.	P.
3 Men each	Rupees 5	...	...	15	0	0
Wear and tear of Picottah	...	...	...	1	0	0
Monthly cost	...	...	...	16	0	0
$5\frac{1}{4}$ Picottahs' cost	...	...	...	86	10	0

Bucket Pump costs monthly				RS.	A.	P.
Bullocks and Driver	...	...	...	22	0	0
Cost price of pump	...	...	Rupees 500			
Bullocks, harness, &c.	...	...	" 200			
	...	...	" 700			

Allow for interest, wear and tear, 15 per cent. per annum	...	...	...	8	12	0
Monthly cost	...	...	...	30	12	0

Difference in favor of Bucket Pump ... Rupees 55 14 0

Or, to take it in another form, a picottah raises about 10,900 gallons for 1 Rupee, while the bucket pump raises 29,900 gallons at the same cost.

23. **Curran's Pump.**—This pump, on the chain system of a large size, was put up as an experiment by the late Lieutenant Curran. The greater part of the machinery is of wood, and is very bulky and heavy; the Committee found the pump would not work, and Lieutenant Curran was not more successful with it himself. The cogs on the wheels, affected by the weather, ceased to fit accurately soon after the pump was put up, and the efforts of the bullocks to turn the levers only caused the cogs to give away, and greater friction to occur. The pump has never been of any service.

24. **Steaming apparatus, &c.**—This arrived from England during the year. It consists of a boiler, with steam-pipes passing into two cylinders, in which the grain is steamed. The apparatus works well. The Committee have also imported an oat-crusher, an useful implement, and a machine for crushing oil-cake, a cheap and simple article, not liable to get out of order.

25. **Weighing Platform.**—This was sent to the farm from the Government workshop, it has been adjusted by the Acting Superintendent, and works accurately.

26. **Winnowing machine.**—One of the Winnowing machines has been much applauded. One of the members of the Committee, M. R. R. Yagambra Moodelliar, a large proprietor, has had one made, and will endeavour to introduce it generally. The drawback of this machine is the cost.

27. **SUPERINTENDENE.**—In the last Report the Committee brought to the notice of Government the difficulty they had experienced with respect to a Superintendent. In the first year of their management, they had two Superintendents, neither of whom gave satisfaction. Shortly afterwards they obtained a third, an East Indian, who had passed two years in learning farming in England, but he did not prove more energetic or useful than his predecessors, and the Committee in January 1867 replaced him by a pensioned trooper, Mr. Fox, who has since been on the farm, and with whom the Committee have been as well satisfied as his qualifications could lead them to expect. They expect shortly to hear that a qualified Superintendent has been engaged for them in England, as sanctioned in Proceedings Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th October 1866; the Superintendent the Committee have written for will be an educated farmer.

28. **OVERSEER.**—The Overseer has continued to give the Committee entire satisfaction, and is a most trustworthy, respectable man.

29. **APPRENTICES.**—One of the Apprentices referred to in the last Report, an East Indian, has left the farm; the other, Thomas Turner, an European, is working steadily and well. The Committee have raised his salary to Rupees 15 a month. In lieu of the Apprentice who has left, the Committee have taken on a boy named Conway, who has been educated in part at the School of Arts, and understands smith's work. The Committee required a smith who would also make himself generally useful, having parted with their regular smith in consequence of the usual work not being enough to take up a man's time entirely.

30. In conclusion, the Committee think that under the adverse circumstances shewn by the report, the farm has progressed as satisfactorily as can be expected. There is a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the fields, and the soil is much more easily worked than at first; but the constant changes of Superintendents

6 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
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render it impossible to record any satisfactory or distinct results from experiments which have as yet been tried. They hope, however, that under the new Superintendent a proper system of management will be instituted, and that the next Report will be more satisfactory.

By order of the Committee,

(Signed) J. H. BLAIR,
Honorable Secretary Government Farm.

Abstract of receipts of the Government Farm during the year 1866-67.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter, two months.	Total.	
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	
Budget allowance..	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	8,000 0 0	
Government allowance for wages...	469 11 0	469 11 0	319 11 0	362 0 0	1,621 1 0	
Rent from ryots ..	629 12 6	248 6 6	69 8 0	124 1 0	1,071 12 0	
Quit-rent for houses on the farm ...	18 14 7	26 0 10	1 4 0		45 3 5	
Gram-fed sheep sold ...		44 8 0			44 8 0	
Sucking pigs ...		30 0 0	16 0 0	5 0 0	51 0 0	
Cholum ...	1 8 0	49 0 0			50 8 0	
Sweet Potatoes ...	26 4 0				26 4 0	
Pumpkins...	14 0 0				14 0 0	
Rent of Mangoe trees ...	65 8 0	106 8 0			172 0 0	
Firewood ...			33 0 0		33 0 0	
Lucerne seed ...	8 0 0	10 4 0		6 4 0	24 8 0	
Rye-grass seed ...		23 8 0	0 5 4		23 13 4	
Feeding pigs, property of private individuals ...				50 0 0	50 0 0	
Grazing and feeding cattle on the Farm ...	27 5 0			6 0 0	33 5 0	
Pressing hay ...	12 4 0	2 4 0			14 8 0	
For use of Farm bull	4 0 0	1 0 0			5 0 0	
Fines, ploughmen, and coolies and cattle trespassing ...	2 0 0		3 11 0		5 11 0	
Total ...	3,279 3 1	3,011 2 4	2,443 7 4	2,553 5 0		
		3,279 3 1				
		6,290 5 5	6,290 5 5			
			8,733 12 9	8,733 12 9		
Grand Total ...				11,287 1 9	11,287 1 9	
Balance in hand on May 1st, 1866...					3,005 10 2	
				Deduct balance, 1st April 1867	14,292 12 11	
					25 5 11	
					14,267 7 0	

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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Abstract of expenditure of the Government Farm during the year 1866-67.

	1st Quarter, May, June, July.	2nd Quarter, August, September, October.	3rd Quarter, November, December, January.	4th Quarter, February, March.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Labor on Farm ...	381 9 0	535 8 0	132 3 0	107 13 0	1,157 1 0
Pay of Establishment.	992 7 10	1,105 11 5	1,016 0 4	804 3 9	3,918 7 4
Farm buildings, Wind Engine, Pump and Wells.	1,906 1 0	1,543 3 6	145 5 0	45 3 1	3,639 12 7
Repair of old buildings		40 0 0			
Purchase of live stock.	305 0 0	79 0 0	57 8 0	276 13 4	718 5 4
Do. of Carts...	103 8 0	220 0 0			323 8 0
Do. of Implements.	138 5 0	75 5 6	85 8 0	1,227 5 5	1,526 7 0
Do. of Seeds ...	0 12 0	87 11 0	144 1 7	17 6 5	249 15 0
Food for live stock ...	443 13 6	801 1 3	819 9 0	321 7 11	2,388 15 8
Manure ...	3 0 0		21 4 0	27 9 0	51 13 0
Sundries, including Books and Stationery.	47 4 6	51 9 6	61 9 2	79 10 0	240 1 2
Compensation for rented lands resumed and huts removed.	13 0 0				13 0 0
Total ...	4,334 12 10	4,539 2 2	2,483 0 1	2,910 7 11	
		4,334 12 10			
		8,873 15 0	8,873 15 0		
			11,356 15 1	11,356 15 1	
Grand Total ...				14,267 7 0	14,267 7 0

(Signed) J. H. BLAIR,
Hony. Secy., Govt. Farm.

No. 559. ORDER THEREON, 29th November 1867, No. 2,840.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government are of opinion that looking to the agency hitherto at the Committee's disposal, the progress reported in the above communication was as much as could be expected, and the property has evidently been much improved in value.

2. They trust that, with the experience already gained, and with the aid of the new Superintendent, who it is understood has arrived and is in charge of the Farm, the Report for the current year will indicate more satisfactory results.

3. The Government are much obliged to the gentlemen of the Committee for their services on this interesting undertaking.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Farm Committee.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Agri-Horticultural Society.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

At the
meeting
of the
Committee
on the
11th
Oct.

27. Superintendence.

In the last report the Committee brought to the notice of Govt: the difficulty they had experienced with respect to a Superintendent. In the 1st Year of this management, they had two Superintendents, neither of whom gave satisfaction. Shortly afterwards they obtained a 3^d, an East-Indian, who had farmed two years learning farming in England, but he did not prove more energetic, or useful than his predecessors, & the Committee in January 1867. replaced him by a pensioned knight, Mr. Fox who has since been on the Farm, & with whom the Committee have been as well satisfied, as his qualifications could lead them to expect. They expect shortly to hear that a qualified Superintendent has been engaged for them in England, as sanctioned in Proceedings of the Govt: Revenue Dep^t 11th Oct: 1866; The Superintendent the Committee have written for, will be an educated farmer. —

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One of the apprentices referred to in the last report, an East-Indian has left the Farm, the other Thos. Turner, an European is working steadily, & well. The Committee have raised his salary to Rs 15 a month. In view of the apprentice who has

has left the Committee have taken on a boy named Conway, who has been educated in part at the School of Art, and understands Smith's work. The Committee required a smith, who would also make himself generally useful, having parted with this regular smith on consequence of the manual work not being enough to take up a man's time entirely. —

30. In Conclusion, the Committee think that under the adverse circumstances shown by the report, the Farm has progressed as satisfactorily as can be expected. There is a marked improvement in the cleanness of the fields, and the soil is much more easily worked than at first, but the constant changes of Superintendents renders it impossible to record any satisfactory or distinct results from experiments which have as yet been tried. They hope however that under the new Superintendent a proper system of management will be instituted, & that the next report will be more satisfactory.

By order of the Committee

Walter Blair

Honorary Secretary
Govt Farm.

R.D.

N^o. 2840.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Under date the 29th Nov. /87.

Read the following
letter from the Hon. Secy.
Govt Farm. —

(A.C. 14th Oct. /87.)

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N

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L.A.

6 Copies To the Farm Committee Dec 24 1880
1 Copy to N. B. A. N
1 — Ag. Soc. N

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Wm. L. L. L.
21 January 1822 4148
Wm.

Revenue 1864 Dept
No of County or No. or

1822 2840.

Pro of the L. L. L. L. L.
of 129, November 1864

Dr. Wm. L. L. L. L. L.
from 30 May 1864 to 1864

1822 2840.