M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 378 Press ~~Mis.~~

185. 186

Dated 15 — 2 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 185. Read the following letter from the Agent for Remounts, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ossoor, 8th February 1867, No. 468 :—

1. In compliance with Government Order No. 168, dated the 15th January 1867, calling for a report on the result of further experience of English agricultural implements used on the Remount Depôt Farm, with reference to their adaptability to the means (pecuniary and other) of the ryots of the country, as well as the degree in which they have been adopted by the people; I have the honor to inform you that increased experience has confirmed me in the opinion of their adaptability to the country, and of the enormous economy in their use, by the saving of time, and consequently of loss, from long exposure to the weather, and of interest in the outlay.

2. I mean that a small "Threshing" and "Winnowing machine" of Ransome's and Sim's, worked with two horses, and capable of being sufficiently well and speedily worked by two good pairs of bullocks, will thresh and clean in a week or ten days as much grain of any kind as the united efforts of an average village with all its resources could accomplish in a season, and consequently that the deterioration of the grain, by exposure to alternate rain and sun and high winds, as well as from vermin, are all saved, besides the hire of watching peons. In addition to this, the grain and straw will be in the market, and their money's worth in the ryot's pocket months before it can be under the Indian system. This is acknowledged by all the thousands of ryots who have come to see the operations going on at this Farm.

3. In the same way a "Pony Plough," made by Howard of Bedford, can be worked by any ryot, and drawn by an average pair of ryots' bullocks, and all ryots that have seen those ploughs at work admit, from actual measurement, that one of them will do as much work as five native ploughs, thus saving the purchase of four pairs of bullocks, and their feed, and the hire of their drivers.

4. The fourth implement I shall refer to, is the "combined Mowing and Reaping machine," made by Burgess and Keys, which, with a pair of good bullocks, will cut down three-quarters of an acre of hay or corn per hour; this could not be done by 200 women, and this saving is fully acknowledged by all, even the most unenlightened amongst the natives.

5. But having said thus much as to the saving in time and money effected by these few simple implements, I regret to be obliged to add that none of them have been introduced into this part of the country, nor will be, I fear, for years to come, simply in consequence of the paucity of ryots holding land sufficient to make them pay, or to enable them to purchase them.

6. The price of a Threshing machine landed in Madras would be about Rupees 400, of a Winnowing machine 112, of a "Howard's Pony Plough," with extras, 40, of a "combined Mowing and Reaping machine" 350. As long, therefore, as the great majority of ryots hold but from one to five acres of land, it is utterly impossible they can purchase these implements, however much they may appreciate their valuable qualities.

7. These implements are only purchased and kept by large landholders in Great Britain, or, I believe, by Limited Liability Companies, who hire them out by

the day or job to the smaller farmers, and when the headmen of villages in India or the Rajahs and Zemindars holding large farms can be brought to see their own advantage in using these implements, or when they can place sufficient confidence in each other to sink some of their capital in such companies, we may hope to see them introduced into this country, but not till then. Their introduction must, as in more enlightened lands, take place through the upper and wealthy classes, and not through the small landholders.

8. In conclusion, I would add for the encouragement of large landholders, or companies, that I have not only not found any difficulty in teaching the Native workmen on this Farm the use of all English implements, from the simple pitch fork and shovel to the more elaborate "Improved Corn Drill" and "combined Mowing and Reaping machine," but that they have learned the use of them all quickly, and apparently with pleasure, and are very good mowers with English scythes, and capital ploughmen, both occupations assigned in England to the superior workmen on a Farm.

9. I have had but one European to assist me on this large Farm in teaching all the workmen, and setting up and keeping in working order all the implements, (some fifty or sixty in number,) which is conclusive proof that there is no inability on the part of the Natives of this part of India at least, either physically or mentally, to work any English implement used in the cultivation of land.

No. 186. ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1867, No. 378.

Miscellaneous.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Bombay Government, with reference to their Chief Secretary's letter, dated 8th December 1866, No. 4,589.

2. The Government await the information sought from the Sydapett Farm Committee, and would be glad to learn from the Revenue Board what results have been obtained in the districts to which some implements were supplied both for show and on application by private parties for payment.

(Here enter No. 379, dated 15th February 1867.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

No. 378.
Ordered to be communicated to the Bombay Government with reference to their Chief Secretary's letter dated 8th December 1866 No. 4589.
The Government await the information sought from the Sydapett Farm Committee and would be glad to learn from the Revenue Board what results have been obtained in the districts to which some implements were supplied both for show and on application by private parties for payment.
15th July 167

Pro 15th June 1867 At 361-362

Reported to England
D/ 9th June No 29 of 1868.
Mil:

1867 24

Revenue Department

Pro of Govt No. 333 Feby

From Lieut Col J. Thompson
Agent for Revenue

To The Secretary to Govt
Revenue Department
Fort Saint George

Dated 8th Feby 1867

Received 13 Feby 1867

No 468

Reply

Report on the result of further experience of English Implements used on the Revenue Depôt Farm, as called for in the Proceedings of Government, No 168 dated 15th January 1867

No 185-186.

8 Mar Feby