

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	525	Press
	45 46	Mis.
Dated	2 — 8 — 1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled19-0-10-525
(10/10/67)
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd March 1867.*

No. 45. Read the following letter from the Honorary Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 23rd February 1867, No. 115:—

1. Having seen in the "Times" of the 21st instant a paragraph, intimating the receipt by Government of seed of the *Pinus Maritima*, I have the honor to request that the Government will kindly place a small quantity of the seed at the disposal of the Agri-Horticultural Society.

2. The tree is a very interesting one on account of its valuable products, from the use that has been made of it in covering vast tracts of drifting sands on the coast of France, and because it was the first species of pine systematically cultivated by the French Government.

3. It was in 1789 that Mr. Bremon tier, then Administrator of Forests, thought of recovering the vast downs on the sea coast by planting this pine, and he commenced operations in the Gulf of Gasconey, which was skirted with an expanse of drifting sand measuring 300 square miles. Not only was this immense tract completely destitute of vegetation, but the sand was often drifted into the interior, so as to cover and render useless cultivated land and cover trees. The first step that Mr. Bremon tier took was to rear zones of the pine, commencing on the side from which the wind generally blew. The seeds were sown along with those of the broom on the places where the trees were intended to grow, and to prevent their being carried away by the wind or overwhelmed with drift; these spots were then carefully covered with pine branches, fastened together like bundles. The broom first sprang up, and served as a protection to the young pines, and it took the latter about seven years to overtop the broom, which they eventually choked. After the first zone attained some height, a second was planted to leeward of it, and so on until the whole expanse was covered with thriving plantations. It is needless to say anything regarding the products of the *Pinus Maritima* or *Pinus Pinaster*, further than that it yields valuable timber, Bordeaux turpentine, a kind of tar, and pitch.

4. It is a native of the mountains of the south of France, of Italy, and of Switzerland, where it attains a height of fifty or sixty feet, and seems to thrive best in a sandy loam. There are some fine specimens of it on the Ayrshire coast, and, I believe, it was intended to give it a trial amongst the drifting sands of Murrayshire. It seems to stand the sea breeze better than any known pine, being in this respect like our hardy *Casuarina*; but it is questionable if it will thrive in the tropics. The most hopeful fact in its history, as regards its suitability for this climate is, that it grows in some of the warmest districts of Italy, and must have been long cultivated there, as its characteristic top may be distinguished in old paintings of Roman artists.

5. To promote success in this experiment a nursery will require to be established at each station where its cultivation is to be tried. Beds of sandy loam, mixed with a moderate quantity of rotten dung, should be formed in some shady moist garden, the seeds sown on the surface, and then covered with sandy soil, carefully sifted through the fingers, to the depth of half an inch. The beds will require to be protected by a thin pendal of palmyra leaves, to diminish the direct heat of the sun and evaporation; and watering in the dry season must be carefully

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attended to. Pines in England are rarely fit for transplanting under two years. When this operation is performed here, it would, I think, be advisable to plant the young trees alternately with Casuarinas of say two years' growth, as the latter would afford shade and protection to them from the hot winds.

6. Hoping that Government may comply with my request.

No. 46. ORDER THEREON, 2nd March 1867, No. 525.

Miscellaneous.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with reference to G. O. dated 11th February 1867.
2. They will reserve a supply of the Pinus Maritima seed for trial by the Agri-Horticultural Society, and consult with the Society as to the measures best calculated to secure a useful distribution of what is sent to the districts.
3. They will also forward a supply of the seed for trial in the Ootacamund and Bangalore Government Gardens.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.
.. the Conservator of Forests.
.. the Editors' Table.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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Comm. S. S. W. 1867
f. Rev. with ref. S. S. W.
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To the Board of Revenue,
Honorary Agri Horticultural
Society -
J. H. S. W. 1867.
Editors' Table 4
22 March/67.

Pro. 11th Feby 1867 no. 128-129

Reported to England
of 10th May 21 of 1869

Revenue 1867 - 1868
Pro of Govt of India

From the Govt.
Geety. Agri. Soc.
- ticultural Society

Dated 23rd 3 Feby
Received 25th 3 1867

W. 115-

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1852-2 March

Requesting that a
small quantity of the seed of the
seed of the Pinus Maritima
people placed at the disposal
of the Society - in view
account of the growth of this
tree in France & the
the mode for its culture
in this country -

N. 45 & 60

28 Feby 1867 R. March