Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1546

DATED 20th March 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Stating that the Govt is unable to accept the Bds' recommendation that Col. Forrest's proposal viz. the growing of maize on a small scale in Bellary by means of famine labour, may be given a trial.

BACK PAPERS.

G O	No	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

D.O. CURRENT No. 43.

Hon. the Chief Secy.
Hon. the Rev. Member.
H.E. The Governor.

From H. A. Stuart Esqre

For Order

No.

RS 15-3-97

15/3/97. Dept. 16/3/97 Dated 14th March 1897

Received 15th

Registered 15th

Enclosures

Spare copies

I don't think the experiment is likely to be of any use. Over many years failures in trying to introduce new methods of cultivation in ordinary times warn us against it. The Revenue Officers & the people are not in circumstances to permit them to give even the ~~ordinary~~ usual amount of attention to the experiment. It will be as well to consider a scale of rates as the result is to help us as regards this famine.

JG
16/3/97.

The experiment would have cost but little.

C. 15/3/97. Prof. as Hon. Members are aware
R 16/3/97

H. C. will say no more. 17.3.97

SUBJECT.

Regarding Colonel Fraser's scheme for Chemical manures

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

RECEIVED AT MADRAS 15 MAR 97

S

Bellary

14-3-97

My dear Stokes.

In reply to your letter of the 12th inst. about Col. Fraser's scheme. I want to say that I have no faith in it as I do not think Indian crops will stand the cost of chemical manures. The experiment

Reminder sent 11-3-97

C. 9/3/97

...me an expo... means of famine labou... of growing maize on a small scale in the Bello... Dist.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

is, however, to be on such a small scale that the cost would be trifling. But before going on with it I would call upon him to state how much chemical manure he requires, the cost of it, and the qty. of maize he expects to realize. He seemed to me most vague about the financial factors when he came to see me on the subject. There would be no difficulty in sparing him a few relief-workers, to dig a temporary well and trench and irrigate the land.

Yours sincerely
H Allen

Memo to Asst Engr
C 9/3/77

Means of famine labour of growing maize on a small scale in the Bellary

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
16 MAR 97
SECRETARIAT

The Hon. the Govr & H. Exc. the Governor.

From The Board of Revenue Revi: Settt: Land Records and Agriculture

No. 1150 Revi:

Dated 5th March 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

Orders

DS 9-3-97

9/3/97

This is not a case for trying experiments.

DS 10/3/97

+ Remarks under Sec 214 Famine Code were ought to wait till the Collr ought but it is desirable

DS

Might not the Collector be asked if thinks the experiment desirable? Then the Board recommend sanction.

DS 11.3.97

DS 12/3/97

SUBJECT.

Submitting for the favourable consideration of Government letter from Col: A. J. Forbes R. Retired list, offering to make an experiment by means of famine labour of growing maize on a small scale in the Bellary District

RD/D

C. No. 20 36.

P. & mis. No. 1546, d/20 March 97

The Govt. regrets its inability to accept the Board's recommendation

2. Neither the Revenue officers nor the ryots can devote much attention at present to the experiment which is proposed to be made and the small scale is on which it is proposed to be made do not appear to be of any practical use in any case. Further, the results of the experiment cannot be utilized during the present famine as it will probably be four months before they are known.

RS
20-3-97

List from orders

Board (Sellt)

Copy to Collector Bellary

Sent 24.3.97.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.

Code / Class

Monthly Number.

To (Office)

From (Office)

Words | Day. | Hour. | Minute. | Official Instructions.

To (Person)

From (Person)

64 Word Form.

F.C.2.

Telegraph Master.

Mitigate famine for Bhuds that are
Short cottage
& Why plan briefly to take not prices
Have collected area of Grain distributed in the
famine

RECEIVED BOARD OF REVENUE
2 MAR 97
MADRAS

From
Col A. T. Fraser
R.E. retired list.

To The Secretary to Govt of Madras
Revenue Dept
Through the Board of Revenue
Dept Agriculture &c.

Bellary
March 1. 1897

Sir

Being on a short tour in India, & happening among other places to visit Bellary, & find the old difficulty exists of quite suitable work for famine relief to yield any return, & also the Newspaper paper stating work has to be done that is not much wanted.

2 In consequence, after the advantage of talking over the subject with the Collector of Bellary, & the Dist Engr Offr, I have the honor to request the favor of being granted permission by Govt to assist the P.W.D in getting the Government of Growing Maize on a small scale as famine relief work made.

3 The Government would merely carry out the principles of my pamphlet of 1892 — Land Improvement in India — & repeat our Government made in the Mysore famine, with a view of substituting work strictly to mitigate famine for kinds that are all most outlay.

4 My plan briefly is, to take not more than an area of Government land in the

first instance adjoining a well; trench it a foot deep at least with famine labor, digging in Chemical manure at the rate of say 4 cwt per acre. Then to form the surface into alternate ridges and furrows, leaving raised paths at intervals for the labor to pass & distribute water.

2. In the ridges thus prepared manure would be sown, & water applied in the furrows: by which treatment cooperation would be much reduced as compared with the native way of laying out the ground in square plots & watering them all over.

3 So far it is a question of labor only; but this would be thrown away during drought if Chemical substances were not used in addition to tillage & watering.

4 The reason of this is that Nitrogen is just as necessary to prevent plants withering as water. Indian soils, even those of Sun & Rain, do not naturally contain much of this element. In normal seasons Cultivators supply it by ploughing in leaves, farm litter, & any stuff they can which decomposing in moist Earth generates Nitrogen in an indirect manner. But in drought fermentation cannot take place.

5 So that cultivation of Maize as famine relief work requires the use of Nitrate of Soda to give the Nitrogen at once; & nothing can be done without a Chemical Nitrate.

6 Similarly, Indian Soils are poor in Phosphorus which is necessary to make the Corn fill with Grain; & there is no way of introducing it so rapidly as by Superphosphate of Lime.

10 With the foregoing a Small quantity of Potash — to make the Cobs strong & proper-

Department.	C. No.	Year.

green — has to be ensured.

11 I have not yet been able to obtain the Madras market prices of those three agricultural chemicals. The superphosphate of lime is easily made anywhere by dissolving bones in sulphuric acid. But I have no reason to think a limit of expenditure of Rs 250, upon seed & Chemical Manures need be exceeded in making a satisfactory experiment such as I have indicated.

12 The success of it will appear very soon after the plants come above ground, when extension could take place very rapidly at the discretion of the Famine Management. The advantage of maize is that it stands great heat, needs little water, & can be reaped three months after sowing.

13 I would also particularly observe in conclusion, that neither the tillage labor, nor the Chemical application would be lost money even if no crop came up. For the more turning over the soil, & enriching it, would tell to the full whenever seasonable rain let ordinary cultivation be resumed.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obdt Servt

C Pinder
Col. Secy

12th March 1897

My dear Stuart

Please see the enclosed copy of a letter from Col: Fraser. The Govt desires to have your opinion as to whether the experiment is desirable and might be tried.

Yours sincerely
(Sd) G. Stokes.

H. A. Stuart Esq: I.C.S.
Ag. Collr of Bellary

Wrtn 13/3/97

JRB
Q. Boards Collrs Letter Head
Acknowledgt
Dft

Make a copy of the enclosed letter of Col. Fraser & send it to Dr. to the Collr asking for his opinion whether it is desirable to make the experiment.

Send. 11/3/97.

Draft D.B submitted
RS
12-3-97

(Sett. 24—2,000—29-10-96)

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture.)

Dated 5th March 1897.

No. 1650 Revs:

Read letter from Col: A. J. Fraser R.E Retired List dated 1st March 1897:-

Resolution.

Submitted for the favourable consideration of Government, with the Board's recommendation that Col: Fraser's suggestion may be tried, and that it may be carried out by the Collector of Bellary with the assistance which the Board understands Col: Fraser volunteers.

2. If sanctioned, one of the

Department.	C. No.	Year.

the Agricultural Inspectors may be deputed to maintain a complete record of the ~~Expectations~~ Experiments, under the orders of the Collector.

(True Extract)

R. V. Smiles
Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Copy to Col: Fraser R.E
Retired List.

Encl
5/3/57

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed
} 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189, DATED

CURRENT F.C.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT							
STATEMENT ITH DITTO							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—
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