

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1907

DATED

29th May 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Progs Educational Departt recording rep
on the work performed by Dr J. W. Leather Assn
Agricultural Chemist to the Govt. of India at the
College of Agriculture, Laidapet.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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Revenue Dept. Government (1899) of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Current No. 3393.

Recd. 26th May
Regd. do - } 1899.

Enclosures
Spare copies

G.O., No. 265, 9th May 1899.

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Note

The Edel order was has been
Communicated to the Board after
directly.

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Am Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India.

Recording report on the work performed by Dr. J. W. Leather, —, at the College of
Agriculture, Saidapet.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), Mis. No. 1894, dated 11th April 1899.

Read—the following letter from the Hon'ble Mr. G. H. STUART, M.A., Acting Director of Public Instruction, to the Secretary to Government, Educational Department (through the Director of Agriculture, Board of Revenue), dated Madras, 16th March 1899, No. 3192 :—

I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, the enclosed copy of the report of Dr. J. W. Leather, the Assistant Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India, on the lecturing and analytical work done by him at the College of Agriculture, Saidapet, with reference to G.O., No. 634, Educational, dated 30th July 1895.

ENCLOSURE.

Copy of report from the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India, dated 16th December 1898.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the courses of instruction which I have given at the college during the present winter term.

2. I delivered a course of 23 lectures on soils to the third class. I have treated the subject as thoroughly as might be, and where it was possible to demonstrate a fact by means of a laboratory experiment, I had a special attendance of the class in the laboratory or in the field. There were three such extra * attendances. One was to illustrate how weak acids or alkalis

* Amounting to 4 hours.

(Intld.) W. K.

may attack rocks, processes which are always taking effect in nature, but which I had to carry out under somewhat artificial circumstances. A second had the object of showing the application of the elutriator for the mechanical separation of soils. The third was to explain how samples of soils should be selected and this was naturally done on the farm. I was also able to demonstrate to the students by experiment that the vegetable debris which falls annually on the surface soil is decomposed by means of moulds and fungi, and not by simple process of oxidation. One of the difficulties in the case of a course of lectures on soils is to devise experiments which will properly exemplify the facts spoken of. The necessary experiments are either too long or unsuited to the lecture-room.

In the examination which has been held at the conclusion of the term, I find that three out of thirteen answered the paper badly. The other ten however have done fairly or very well.

3. The second class worked under my direction in the chemical laboratory, the course of instruction including the differentiation of the principal carbohydrates and oils. No examination in this work has been held, but probably all the students can now carry out this qualitative analysis. At the same time it is necessary for me to observe that several of them have a very poor command of English, and really do not properly understand what they are doing. Doubtless you will readily agree with me that it is impossible for a student who has not a fair command of the English

language to understand organic chemistry. This is one of the stumbling blocks with agricultural students in India. However the experimental work in the chemical laboratory is useful in other ways, and the worst of the students will appreciate that there is at any rate an essential difference between the several carbohydrates or oils. I held seven * classes in the laboratory for purposes of demonstration, and in addition the first half of the class worked in the laboratory three afternoons † and the second half three afternoons ‡.

* Amounting to 9 hours.

† " 5½ "

‡ " 4½ "

(Intld.) W. K.

Resolution—Mis. No. 1894, dated 11th April 1899.

Submitted to Government for information.

2. It does not appear whether Dr. Leather did any analytical work at Saidapet such as was done by the Assistant Agricultural Chemist in former years.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. BENSON,
for Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with two papers in original.

Copy to the Director of Public Instruction.

Endt. Mis. No. 1406, Revenue.

Transferred to the Educational Department.

(By Order.)

(Signed) N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Ag. Under Secretary to Govt.

20th April 1899.

ORDER—No. 265, Educational, dated 9th May 1899.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

A. E. Lyngstue
for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

" Revenue Department.

" Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement).

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READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 189

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CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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