



GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 1849.

[N^o 190.]

PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency CHARLES FITZGERALD, Esquire, Commander in the Royal Navy, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

IN pursuance of the authority in me vested by a certain Ordinance of the Legislative Council, No. XX of the 10th Victoria, intituled "An Ordinance to establish a Toll to be levied on Sandal-Wood, to be applied to the construction and repair of public roads and lines of communication," and which provides (section VIII) "that it shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, at any time, by proclamation under his hand, to suspend the operation of this Ordinance for such time as he may think expedient," I do hereby notify and proclaim the suspension of the operation of the aforesaid Ordinance for a further period terminating the 31st day of December, 1849.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of the colony this 13th day of June, 1849.

CHARLES FITZGERALD,
Governor, &c.

By His Excellency's command,
R. H. BLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !!

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
June 27, 1849.

POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS.

BY virtue of the Ordinance 9th Victoria, No. 6, "To provide for the conveyance and postage of Letters," and of the provisions of the said Ordinance empowering the Governor to increase and reduce the postage of the same from time to time as to him shall seem meet, His Excellency has directed it to be notified, for general information, that henceforward the charge of one penny on each Newspaper received into the colony will be discontinued.

By His Excellency's command,
R. H. BLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
May 31, 1849.

DEPASTURING LICENSES.

The following applications have been received: May 30, 1849—R. Heppingstone, Wonerup Townsite Reserve, adjoining the fee simple lands of Sir James Stirling, J. T. Cook, G. Layman, R. Guerrier, J. and G. Chapman, and Messrs. Bussell.

June 20, H. D. McGlew, for the unoccupied portion of the Townsite of Busselton, to be put

up to auction by the Resident Magistrate, Vasse, on Wednesday the 18th July.

By His Excellency's command,
R. H. BLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
June 30, 1849.

WEEKLY REPORT OF LICENSES ISSUED.
W. Herbert, Publican's License, Toodyay.
By His Excellency's command,
R. H. BLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
June 27, 1849.

TENDERS.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, for the information of all whom it may concern, that the tender of G. Shenton for three tons of Flour, has been accepted.

The Tenders for the Guildford Road, and for 250 cubic yards of Stone, have been rejected, as being too high.

By His Excellency's command,
R. H. BLAND,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, June 29, 1849.

His Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following enclosure in a despatch recently received from Earl Grey, on the subject of the cultivation of a grass called the Para Grass, some seeds and plants of which it is His Lordship's intention, if possible, to send out to this colony.

By His Excellency's command,
R. H. BLAND, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Curaçao, June 14, 1848.

By Colonel W. T. D'Urban, I am informed that your Excellency has heard of some particular kind of grass having been introduced into Curaçao from South America, and is anxious to obtain some.

I give myself, in consequence, the honour to transmit to your Excellency, by the way of St. Thomas, a box containing a good many plants of that valuable vegetable called Para Grass, to the cultivation whereof great interest is paid on this Island; whereby I take the liberty to add a translation from the Dutch of an article on that subject which has been placed by me in the *Curaçao Gazette* of Saturday, the 20th April, 1848, and which contains directions on the mode of cultivation of the same, which your Excellency will observe is very plain and easy.

In offering the above to your Excellency, I must politely request your Excellency's indulgence for such orthographical faults as have been committed in the said translation by the pen of a Dutchman, who, in the first part of the world, is but seldom in the opportunity of speaking, and thereby cultivating, the English language; begging further your Excellency to believe that

I am, &c.,

E. J. HENGARDE, A. D. C.,
Inspector of Agriculture.

To His Excellency Governor Reid, &c., &c.

PARA GRASS—*Panicum Jumentorum*.
(Humboldt and Knuth.)

Translated from the *Curaçao Gazette*, April 20, 1848.
The islands of Curaçao, Bonaire, and Aruba, have al-

ways been known to suffer under the want of sufficient food for all sorts of stock which are reared on the estate, and wherefrom the planters in those islands derive the principal means of subsistence.

The preservation of such stock, during epochs of long and severe droughts, as being daily dependant on the results of former good seasons, during which considerable quantities of corn, leaves, and indifferent grass sorts, are gathered, dried, and carefully stored.

Much were they to be blamed who neglected such precautions at proper times, as with the return of every dry season, vegetation is not only stopped, but becomes almost entirely extinct, causing that most remarkable fallow, ruddy appearance to these islands which so particularly distinguishes them from other spots under the tropics.

But even these precautions have not always proved sufficient in such instances, as not only one but several succeeding years of drought have from time to time visited these islands, during which all that had been stored for food was consumed, in consequence whereof the greatest part of the stock died away. What inhabitant of Curaçao does not bear in mind the painful recollection of these losses, sustained in the years 1842 and 1843?

Though the introduction of hay from the United States took place under these circumstances, yet few but wealthy inhabitants could avail themselves of this expensive object, and this only for the preservation of but a few horses and other animals of burden; meanwhile all the rest of the stock which could not be properly stalled, and which remained erring about the fields, was lost.

This short but true picture of but a part of the shadow side of a planter's existence on these islands, bearing a faithful resemblance to the tale of the Danaids, exposes briefly of how great necessity it is to attach more interest on these islands to the cultivation of good grass sorts.

In consequence, it will not be astonishing to see a few planters accede with fervour to the cultivation of this article; they being however limited, by want of better, to the cultivation of Guinea Grass, which has that disadvantage of requiring, during the dry season, constant irrigation, by want of which it not only becomes soon hardened, and, as such, unfit to nourish stock, but is even apt to wither and fade away entirely, as is the case with mostly all other vegetation on these islands; indeed to shoot out again with the first showers of a rainy season, but having meanwhile undergone, during many succeeding months, a total stop in growth.

In this necessity, now a good and continual article of food for stock has at length been provided. Our late Governor, Baron R. F. von Raders, Actual Major General and Governor of Surinam, having, in the month of November, 1846, made a present to these islands of the Para Grass, *Panicum Jumentorum* (Humboldt and Knuth), about which His Excellency gives the following communication:—

“This grass continues growing under the most severe droughts, and requires, when once located, no other care, as it suffocates the vegetation of all other sorts of grass. Especially in consequence of these qualities, I have thought it would be a valuable acquisition for the Island of Curaçao, and its dependencies.”

In addition to this communication, we can join the following particularities, extracted from “*Les annales de la société d'Agriculture à Martinique*,” according to which the late General Bertrand, whose estates are situated in the driest part of the Island of Guadeloupe, has preserved his stock during a severe drought which visited these Islands some years ago, only by means of an extensive cultivation of Para Grass, while at his neighbour's, and further over the whole island, where this cultivation had been neglected, almost all stock died away; and we are told that in the beginning of the year 1844, the same grass sent by the French man-of-war schooner *Gazelle* was presented to General Paez by Admiral D'Uval D'Ailly, Governor of Martinique. According to the observation in the *Liberal of Caraccas*, this grass is far superior to Guinea Grass, as it thrives in every season, in dry as well as in wet weather. It was considered a great acquisition for the Republic of

Venezuela, where droughts often occur for more than five or six months succeeding, during which all kind of vegetation withers in the fields.

Since the introduction of Para Grass on the Island of Curaçao, the same has been cultivated under different circumstances of soil and season, under which it has kept up entirely its good reputation; so that we now dare to affirm, with the greatest confidence, that if general attention is paid to the extension of this useful branch of agriculture, the present made by Governor Von Raders will at once become of incalculable advantages to these Islands.

The cultivation of Para Grass is effected by means of seed and of cuttings.

The stem, creeping along the surface of the ground, consists of joints of from five to six inches long; at each of the joints it fixes itself in the soil, and thereby pushes one or more perpendicular stalks upwards; the creeping stems arrive sometimes to the astonishing length of from ten to twelve feet, while the height to which the perpendicular stalks arrive entirely depends on the nature of the soil and the state of moisture of the same. To lay out a plantation of this grass, it is but required to divide the stem into so many parts, somewhat below each joint, which joints are then planted in the ground, which has beforehand been well ploughed, with the knot side about $\frac{2}{3}$ parts in the same, at the distance of 1½ feet assunder, while upwards, and until it has arrived at the proper height, no other labour is required but weeding. On the Government estate, the “Hope,” Para Grass was cultivated, as a trial, in low land of black garden soil, and also on higher situated hilly, very unfertile soil; in the first instance it has grown up into an almost impenetrable mass, which having been cut already several times, has every time, however, pushed up again with renewed vigour; in the other instance it has grown up quite as well, though much later planted; in both instances, however, without application of artificial irrigation; while as a particularity of its nature may be mentioned, that it will not thrive at all in the shadow of large trees, and but indifferently in very moist places.

Equally favourable results have been obtained on different other private estates on this Island, where the same trials have also been taken, and where, as well as on the Government estate before named, Para Grass for planting can now be had on application by whoever should desire to occupy himself with the cultivation of the same.

From which side the cultivation of Para Grass is envisaged, it certainly merits the greatest recommendation.

As green food for stock it retains, under the most severe droughts, all favourable properties, and cut and dried, it yields, if not allowed to grow higher up than two feet, an excellent and, by all stock, much-liked fodder, which principal quality recommends it far above Guinea Grass, which cannot be laid up as hay. Taking further into consideration that during the short rainy season, which on these islands seldom lasts longer than three months, Para Grass can be cut upwards of two times, then certainly all further recommendation of the same becomes superfluous; we consequently beg to conclude this article with calling to the remembrance of the planters that beautiful encomium, “that he who raises two stems of grass where formerly but one did grow, becomes a benefactor to mankind.”

(Signed) E. J. HENGARDE, A. D. C.,
Inspector of Agriculture.

Curaçao, April 16, 1848.

General Post Office, Perth, June 27, 1849.

Notice is hereby given that the undermentioned letters are detained at this office for non-payment of Ship Postage:—Mr G. Cook, Ross, V. D. Land, (2); Mr H. M'Giddy, Campbell Town, V. D. Land, (1); Mr J. Pearce, Cascade Factory, V. D. Land, (1); Mrs M. Sherwood, Launceston, V. D. Land, (1); Mr T. Tucker, Ross, V. D. Land, (1); Mr J. White, Adelaide, South Australia, (1).
A. HELMICH, Postmaster-General.

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