

Educational (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 4

Dated 5-1-98

INDEXED. 5-5

W. G.
6-26-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording Pro: Rev: Dr. stating
that a letter will be despatched
to the G. of I for obtaining a
qualified Botanist from
England.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

CN^o 66/98/0 83
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educational Dept.

Government { 1897 } of Madras. REVENUE.

9/1/97
757-2/96

Order No. 485-1-9

Recorded

7A
21/11/97

Recd. 10 12 } 1897.
Regd. 10 - 12 }

Enclosures - 1

Spare copies

Copy to the D.P.O.

G.O., No. 990, 26th November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

Botanist.

Stating that a letter will be despatched to the Government of India for obtaining a qualified — from England for the future administration of the Botanical department in the Madras Presidency.

Please return to
10/11/97

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again G.O., No. 91, Revenue, dated 15th February 1897.

READ—also the following letter from A. G. BOURNE, Esq., D.Sc. F.R.S., Acting Superintendent, Government Museum, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 6th September 1897, No. 626:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 91, Revenue, dated 15th February 1897, I have the honour to submit the following remarks.

2. Mr. Lawson and Abboye Naidu (late herbarium keeper, Government Museum) having both died before I commenced the present investigation without having placed on record any general notes with regard to the collections, I have had to depend upon intrinsic evidence only for my information.

3. I gather that at one time or another all the specimens passed through Mr. Lawson's hands and that he only returned to Madras specimens of species of which he had ample materials. I have now re-united the collections and have thereby greatly strengthened the material in very many cases. I have, however, segregated, at any rate as a temporary measure, all specimens of species represented in Southern India from the other Indian and Extra-Indian species. As this report has reference to the botanical survey of Southern India, I shall speak only of the South Indian species. The collection consists of specimens collected for it by Wight, W. Elliot, Drew, Cleghorn, Beddome, Bidie and Lawson and of specimens presented from the Herbaria of Kew, Calcutta, Poona, Peradeniya, C. B. Clarke, Gamble, Cameron, Bourdillon and others. There are also a large number of specimens emanating from two or three sources which I have up to now been unable to localize. The number of specimens added by Mr. Lawson particularly from the Nilgiris is very great indeed. In addition to the sheets of dried plants there is a collection of seeds and fruits formed by Mr. Lawson which I have united with a similar collection made by Mr. Gamble which was transferred from the office of the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, to the Museum.

Mr. Lawson left a small collection of coloured drawings of plants chiefly orchids and balsams, but no systematic collection of notes; there are, however, short but valuable notes in his handwriting upon many of the sheets bearing the specimens themselves. His chief work is expressed in the arrangement of the herbarium itself, the bringing together what he considered to be specimens of one and the same species although described under various names. This determination of the synonymy is, of course, a very important factor of all herbarium work; I only wish to point out that the position of a particular specimen in a particular cover may represent much labour.

4. The list which I have prepared and which is, I fear, owing to my having had to expedite this report, not as free from errors as I could wish, shows—

(i) that a considerable number of species not hitherto recorded from Southern India do occur;

(ii) that a very large number of species which have been recorded from Southern India are not represented in the herbarium.

Of the former group one or two only appear to be new species and undescribed; of the latter the great majority are gaps several of which I have already filled as the result of my recent tours while others will be easily filled by a good collector in the course of a series of tours in the Presidency. There are, however, many cases in which the absence of a species indicates that Mr. Lawson had come to the conclusion that it was synonymous with some other species. I have not attempted to pick these out as each case affords matter for critical work.

5. I am asked to suggest the nature and extent of the operations required to bring the botanical survey of Southern India to completion. I need hardly point out that it is a work which cannot ever be said to be complete. A considerable amount remains, however, to be done before our knowledge of the South Indian flora equals that of many other parts of India or of Ceylon.

In the first place the herbarium needs strengthening not only by the representation of species at present not represented at all, but by the more ample representation of most of the other species, a great deal of work has to be done upon fresh material and when the chief districts of the Presidency (I mean districts likely to vary botanically) have been each two or three times visited so as to secure flower, fruit, &c., it will be possible to commence a hand-book to the flora to carry out which to the end will, however, entail some work at the herbaria in Calcutta and Kew.

6. I hope that I shall not be exceeding my instructions if I add one or two suggestions in continuation of the memorandum submitted by Mr. Thurston and myself and printed in the Government Order under reference.

K. Rangachari, whom I appointed herbarium keeper on the death of the late incumbent, took a first class in Botany at the examination for the Master of Arts in 1894. He has since been a schoolmaster at Anantapur, where he devoted his leisure to further botanical study and accepted this appointment, although on a considerably lower salary on account of his love of the subject. He has proved himself on the tours I have recently taken a most admirable and critical collector. I think that if the scheme proposed in the above-mentioned memorandum be adopted I might gradually withdraw from all except a general control and that he might eventually perform the duties and draw the full salary of Government Botanist.

It has been arranged that an Assistant Professor of Zoology be appointed to the Presidency College from the beginning of next year and I am to carry on and extend the teaching of Botany. I venture to suggest that the botanical teaching should be deferred for, say, a couple of years while I devote my whole attention to the survey by touring throughout the Presidency at the end of which time I shall be glad to take furlough which I am prepared to devote to the working out at Kew of the various problems which have arisen; this would, I think, put matters upon such a footing that K. Rangachari could continue the work.

READ—letter from the Acting Superintendent, Government Museum, dated 16th September 1897, No. 655.

ABSTRACT.—Enclosing a proof copy of the list of plants referred to in his No. 626 of the 6th instant.

READ—also the following letter from E. MACONCHIE, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India (Department of Revenue and Agriculture), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, the 14th September 1897, No. 2632-1—K. W.:—

I am directed to invite a reference to your letter, No. 647, dated the 28th July 1897, and to enquire when the Government of India may expect to receive the further communication promised on the subject of the Botanical Department, Madras Presidency.

No. 990, REVENUE, 26TH NOVEMBER 1897.

ORDER—No. 990, Revenue, dated 26th November 1897.

Miscellaneous.

Dr. Bourne's report makes it clear that there is still an ample field for botanical research in this Presidency.

The Government is, however, unable to accept Dr. Bourne's suggestions as to the future conduct of the botanical survey, as this course would involve the indefinite postponement of the question of obtaining a competent botanist from England and would delay the commencement of botanical teaching at the Presidency College for two years at least.

2. In these circumstances, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to adhere to the original intention of this Government to obtain a qualified botanist from England. In view of the difficulty experienced by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State in finding a competent expert for the salary offered, viz., Rs. 400—50—600 per mensem, with free quarters, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to fix the pay of the proposed appointment at Rs. 500—50—700 per mensem, with free quarters.

3. The following letter will be despatched to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Government Central Museum.

Copy to Educational Department (with copy of letter to India)

Rxd. Shaik Karim.

40 Copies.

1897.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

From

The Government of Fort St. George.

Recd.

Enclosures

Regd.

1897.

Spare copies

Letter, No. 991, 26th November 1897.

NOVEMBER.

REQUESTING that the sanction of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State may be obtained to the appointment of a botanist for the Madras Presidency, and that His Lordship may be requested to select and appoint a suitable person for the place at as early a date as possible.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From

G. S. FORBES, Esq., I.C.S.,

Ag. Secretary to the Government of Madras,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE,

Dated Fort St. George, 26th November 1897.

SIR,

In continuation of Mr. Stokes' letter, No. 647, Revenue, dated 28th July 1897, and with reference to Mr. Maconochie's reminder No. 2632-1-K.W., dated 14th September 1897, I am directed to address the Government of India further on the subject of the appointment of a Government botanist for this Presidency.

Miscellaneous.

2. In paragraph 4 of Mr. Stokes' letter No. 92, Revenue, dated 15th February 1897, it was stated that His Excellency the Governor in Council had, as an experimental measure, entrusted the duties of the Government botanist to Dr. Bourne, Officiating Superintendent of the Government Central Museum, and it was also stated that His Excellency the Governor in Council would devote further consideration to the subject on the receipt of a report from Dr. Bourne on the results of his examination of the herbarium and of the late Mr. Lawson's notes. This report has now been received, and it is clear therefrom that the botanical survey of this Presidency is still far from complete and that its satisfactory prosecution would engross a large portion of the undivided time and labour of a qualified officer. The work cannot be entrusted therefore to Dr. Bourne as a permanent arrangement, unless he is at the same time relieved of the professorial duties which he will resume on Mr. Thurston's approaching return from furlough.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is unable to recommend any such course, and accordingly, after careful consideration, has resolved to revert to the original proposal of this Government to obtain a competent botanist from England. In view of the difficulty experienced by the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State in obtaining a qualified candidate for the appointment on the salary originally offered, viz., Rs. 400 per mensem, rising by annual increments of Rs. 50 to Rs. 600 per mensem, with free quarters, His Excellency the Governor in Council has reconsidered this matter and would propose to fix the pay of the appointment at Rs. 500 per mensem rising by annual increments of Rs. 50 to Rs. 700 per mensem, with free quarters. As stated in the Revenue despatch of this Government to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State, No. 4, dated 13th July 1895, the officer selected should be given to understand that he will be under the general control of the Superintendent of the Government Museum at Madras, and in addition to his ordinary duties as botanist and the superintendence

of the portion of the botanical survey of India which appertains to this Presidency, he may be required to lecture on Botany at the Presidency College and to examine on that subject for the Madras University. His head-quarters will be at Madras. It will also be necessary for him to pass the same test in Tamil as officers of the Forest department appointed from England.

3. I am to request, therefore, that the sanction of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State may be obtained to the present proposal, and that His Lordship may be requested to select and appoint a suitable person for the appointment at as early a date as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

59 Copies.