M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1450 Press ~~Mis.~~

291-294

Dated 22-7- 1861.

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

No. 291. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. YULE, Secretary to the Government of India (Agricultural Forests), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Fort William, 10th May 1861, No. 1,559:—

SIR,

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to inquire whether there is at the disposal of the Government of Madras, or known to it, any Officer of any branch of the service, thoroughly well qualified in the subject of forest conservation, whether at present employed in the Forest Department or otherwise, whose services could be made available to report on the Himalyan Forests of the Punjab, and to lay down a plan of conservation for them.

2. At present the indication of such an Officer, with particulars of his qualifications, is all that is wanted, and to that inquiry I am directed to solicit an early reply.

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No. 292. From H. D. RAE, Esq., Assistant Superintendent, Bombay Revenue Survey, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Ootacamund, 1st June 1861, No. 16.

SIR,

1. Captain Morgan, the Officiating Conservator of Forests of this Presidency, yesterday showed me a letter to your address, from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department, which had caused you to require him to state whether he was acquainted with any person, or Officer, whatever, competent to report on the Himalayan Forests of the Punjaub, and to devise a scheme of conservation for the same; and, as Captain Morgan was of opinion that, of all the persons known to him, I alone was qualified for the above undertakings, he asked me, in the event of my being able and ready to accept the appointment, to write to you offering myself as a candidate for it, and to give you details regarding such of my qualifications as I could at so short a notice render. Under these circumstances, and being extremely anxious to hold an appointment so congenial as the above to my pursuits, I beg to be permitted, through you, to tender my services accordingly to the Government of India for employment in the Khohistan of the Punjaub, as indicated: and in so doing I would beg to offer the following remarks.

2. Though myself a Bombay Officer (a classifier of soils and an Assistant in the Revenue Survey Department, in the receipt of Rupees 650 per mensem), my name and connections in this Presidency are, I think, sufficiently well known to you, and many other gentlemen connected with the Government of Madras, to render unnecessary, I hope, any detailed account of myself beyond the following.

3. I am the grandson of that Colonel Daly, whose material aid to the Madras Government during the troubles with Tippoo Sahib called forth a letter of thanks from the then Governor General, and a special and handsome pension for life from the Court of Directors. My father was an old Peninsula Officer. I am the only member of my family, during five generations, who has not been in the Army. I am an *Uncovenanted* Bombay Civilian.

4. I am acquainted with three native languages, viz., with the Tamil of this Presidency and Ceylon; the Goozeratee of the Bombay side, spoken by the Parsees and by the inhabitants of the Province of Guzerat; and with the Hindustani both of this Presidency and of the northern parts of Bombay.

5. I have been fourteen years in India, about the first five of which were spent on this side, and eight in the Bombay Presidency. Further, having resided in Travancore, and visited the Coffee Districts of Ceylon and the Wainád, and having traversed more or less throughout Mysore, Malabar, the Concan, the Deccan and Guzerat; in fact, not only over the table lands of the interior, but also right up the coast from Nemera Ellia to the foot of Mount Aboo; and being more particularly acquainted, by long residences, with the Anámalais, the Mudumalais and the Neilgherry ranges of hills, where the subject of their conservation, as well as that of

the Segoor and Malabar (Nellemboor) Forests, and of those within the Cochin and Travencore countries, have, opportunely, been matters of inquiry and interest to me for mere amusement and information; I trust, therefore, I may venture to say that I shall bring some practical and varied knowledge on the working of Forests, as well as considerable collateral information, to bear on the duty proposed.

6. In addition to the fact of the above opportunities, which I have enjoyed principally within this Presidency, I beg to submit the accompanying papers as bearing more particularly on my qualifications. These, you will observe, are all of recent date, but are all that I can tender at so short a notice. If required, however, I shall be prepared to produce further evidences of competency.

7. I have been on these hills now for the past eighteen months on Medical Certificate; and, as matters at present stand, I must return to Bombay on the expiry of my leave by the first coast steamer after the present monsoon, *i. e.*, in September. During these eighteen months you are aware that I have made myself conspicuous in numerous ways, with reference not only to local *Abkari* arrangements, land tenures, and other revenue subjects, but also especially with reference to agricultural and colonizing matters, to the extent that, during my present stay here, the Board of Revenue have more than once done me the honor to consult me in my private capacity on public questions during your late tenure of office as the Board's Secretary. You have gained this acquaintance of me chiefly from your official position, and you must, I think, admit that such prominence is rarely acquired by persons from other Presidencies temporarily sojourning here.

8. But regarding those special qualifications, which I am called on to particularize, I must, in addition to your official acquaintance with me and the public knowledge of me in Madras (as a successful producer of Sea Island and New Orleans Cotton on these hills, as also of *Imphee* here, and as a grower and manufacturer with my own unaided hands of, very lately, a merchantable and highly palatable Tea in these regions) alone allude to these in a good deal of what I now enclose; for, in agricultural, chemical, geological and such matters, I must remain silent if I do not lift the veil and show myself to be *the* anonymous correspondent of the Bombay and Madras (and occasionally Calcutta) newspapers on the subjects. For the convenience of reference, the accompanying are chiefly extracted from *local* Madras papers. I beg further to append a few notices in which my name occurs; two official opinions, recorded not recently, by the Madras Conservator, Doctor Cleghorn, and by his *locum tenens*; also a few letters that I am in the habit of receiving from strangers (Planters and Merchants in Ceylon and India) on agricultural and such subjects. But should all these, and Doctor Lindley's notice of me as *the* authority on the proper cultivation of Coffee, fail to establish my competency to fill the appointment in question, I would beg, finally, to appeal to my letters* published about a year back in the Madras "Athenæum," *one of which is on the subject of, and is headed Conservancy.* As it bore on colonizing matters, and knowing the interest His Excellency Sir William Denison took in this subject, only about a fortnight ago I transmitted the only copy of it I had beside me to His Excellency the Governor. His Excellency Sir C. Trevelyan, Doctor Cleghorn, and Captain Morgan, are also aware that I am the author of that letter—by it am I ready to be judged.

* Signed "Festina Lente."

9. The gentleman in the Bombay Presidency who alone has any particular acquaintance with me and my qualifications is Dr. Giraud, Physician to His Excellency Sir G. Clerk, and late Professor of Geology, Chemistry, Botany and Materia Medica in the Grant Medical College at Bombay.

10. As the first cultivator and manufacturer of Tea on these hills, I should remark (as you are aware from some late official letters from me) that I have long made the Botany, and vegetative powers, of the Himalayas generally, and of the Indian Tea Districts particularly, my special study, as bearing on my own Tea venture here. As I must, in about three months, depart from this for a few years, I have placed my Tea estate in charge of an European who has been educated in the public gardens here. Should I be so fortunate as to be ordered off to the Punjaub, I shall not only bring with me, I think, some acquaintance with the Himalayas,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*22nd July* 1861.

derived from such works as the Flora Indica, but there hope to acquire, in the Kangra Valley and Dyrah Dhoon (where the very finest Himalayan Teas are produced), information, &c., that will prove valuable both to myself and to the Government, who consider my Neilgherry Tea estate as one "of importance to the public interests." About three-quarters of a lac of Tea seedlings are now being permanently planted out by me, and these have for the next few years very little more to do than grow, while I trust I may be gleaning information for their benefit. Thus, I think, if I am required to proceed to the Punjaub, it will very probably become unnecessary for the Madras Government to procure the suggested Chinese Tea manipulators.

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No. 293. From H. D. RAE, Esq., Assistant Superintendent, Bombay Revenue Survey, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Madras Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 8th June 1861, No. 18.

SIR,

1. With reference to my letter to you (No. 16) of the 4th instant, I would beg to submit the following remarks for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General of India in Council.

2. In the event of the duty, to report on the Himalayan Forests of the Punjaub and to devise a scheme for their conservation, being deputed to me, I would beg to be allowed to proceed to take up the appointment *via* Calcutta.

3. I am aware that, as a general rule, in the Himalayas, as in the Western Ghâts, the farther we proceed north-west the less is the amount of rain-fall, and the lower does the snow line descend; while, irrespective of altitude and latitude, proximity to mountain masses and to the sea, aspect, breadth of land, and such matters governing vegetation, we have the physical Geography of the Himalayas showing high sheltered valleys where sub-tropical forms of vegetable life ascend to higher altitudes than the general grass-topped rolling plains of the Khassias, Neilgherries, Pulnis, &c., &c., on which, being swept freely by the prevailing winds, we have temperate types of vegetation descending lower. But the objects to be held in view in the proposed conservation (not so much with reference to the existing state of the Forests in question as to the requirements of the country at large, and of the populace of the plains and of the Hills) are matters which I should like to have opportunities of discussing, &c., with competent authorities both at Calcutta and with his Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the Provinces in question, and other persons at places *en route*, to which and to whom, perhaps, it would be preferable that I should proceed at an earlier date from this *via* Calcutta than *forego* by proceeding at a much later date *via* Kurrachee on the opening of the coast at the termination of the south-west monsoon.

4. The nature of the conservation to be exercised, and the mode in which to carry it out, could, no doubt, be easily discovered and devised on the spot—whether the same be for staying the ruthless devastation of fire and axe by the cultivating or other classes; or for the increased production or simple preservation, or both, of existing forests, or springs, or both; or for meeting local wants of sorts, of the people, or of public works, in a manner both self-supporting and advantageous to Government. But by the route I propose to proceed do I alone think I shall have had opportunities of arriving at my destination armed with a large knowledge of local facts, and an insight into the Himalayan experience possessed by others, on the duty to be carried out.

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Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 294. From J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 22nd July 1861, No. 1,450.

SIR,

1. In reply to your letter, dated the 10th May last, No. 1,559, I am directed to inform you that the only Officer of experience in Forest Conservancy available at present for the duty of reporting, &c., on the Himalaya Forests of the Punjab, is Major D. Hamilton of the 21st Regiment, N. I.

2. Major Hamilton has been employed for some years in the Conservancy Department of this Presidency, and held charge of the Anamalai Teak Forests in the Coimbatore District.

3. Captain Michael, of the 39th N. I., is also well qualified from similar experience; but this Government are not aware whether the Resident at Hyderabad can spare his services.

4. I am also to forward an application for employment on this duty from Mr. H. D. Rae, whose certificates are enclosed. Mr. Rae has lately obtained a grant of land on the Neilgherries on favorable terms for experimental Tea cultivation. His residence on the grant is not obligatory, but it may fairly be assumed that the object of Government in making the grant is more likely to be attained if the experiment is conducted under his personal superintendence. It is for the Government of India to decide whether, under these circumstances, his employment is desirable or not.

RD

No 1450

To the Secretary to the
Govt of India

Sir

In reply to your
letter dated the 10th Inst
No 1550
I am directed to inform
you that the only
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I have &c
22 July 1861

To

The Govt. of India

Nominating certain officers to report on the Himalayan Forests

Revenue 1861 Departt.
Pro: of Govt. for July.

No 1450

To the Secretary to the
Government of India.

Recommending to the Government of India Major D. Hamilton of the 21st Regt. N. I. as a proper person to report on the Himalaya Forests of the Punjab.

No 291 at 294.

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