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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

J. W. D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	589 W.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	4. 3. 1884.	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

7

70
4TH MARCH 1884, No. 589 W., PUBLIC WORKS.

589
1
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

READ—the following papers :—

From J. C. LARMINIE, Esq., Executive Engineer, Nilgiri Division, to the
Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, dated Ootacamund, 2nd February 1884,
No. 518.

With reference to code paragraph 1226, I have the honor to inquire whether any
and what rent is to be charged for the property known as "Cinchona Villa" and
recently purchased by Government as a residence for the Director of Government
Parks and Gardens. The cost of the purchase, including repairs and improvements up
to date, amounts to Rs. 16,440.

No. 63 E.W.

Endorsement on the above.

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer for the favor of his opinion whether Mr. Lawson
should be charged house-rent; and whether Rs. 82 a-month, which is about 6 per cent.
on the cost of the building, would be a sufficient rent.

COIMBATORE,
7th February 1884.

(Signed) J. BEATTY, Colonel, R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.

Memorandum to the Revenue Department, dated 9th February 1884, No. 307 C.
Endorsement thereon by the Revenue Department, dated 18th February 1884, No. 730.

ORDER—dated 4th March 1884, No. 589 W., Public Works.

Free quarters having been guaranteed to Mr. Lawson, no rent will be collected
on Cinchona Villa while in his occupation.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated March, 4th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 4th March 1884, No. 589 W.

MARCH.

Cinchona Villa

Directing that no rent be collected on —
while in the occupation of Professor Law-
son who is entitled to free quarters.

Executive Engineer's Office
No. 518 Nilgiri Division
Ootacamund 22 Febry 1884

From,

The Executive Engineer
Nilgiri Division

To,

The Superintending Engineer
4th Circle

Sir,

With reference to Code para
1226, I have the honor to enquire
whether any and what rent is
to be charged for the property,
known as "Cinchona Villa" and,
recently purchased by Govern-
ment as a residence for the
Director of Government Parks
and Gardens. The cost of
the purchase including repairs
and improvements up to date
amounts to Rs 16440.

I have &c

/Signed/ J. C. Larminie
Executive Engineer
True

No. 63
4/17

12

True copy - Forwarded to
the Chief Engineer for the favor
of his opinion whether Mr. Lawson
should be charged house rent,
and whether Rs 82 a month
which is about 6 per cent on
the cost of the building would
be a sufficient rent.

J. Beatty, Colonel R.E.
Supt. Engineer IV circle

Coimbatore }
7th February 1882 }

14TH OCTOBER 1882, No. 1116, REVENUE.

589
3

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 14th September 1882, Revenue No. 32:—

With reference to Your Excellency's letter, No. 16, of the 21st December last, I now enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter from Mr. Thiselton Dyer on the subject of the appointment of a Superintendent for the Nilgiri Chinchona Plantations.

2. Your Excellency will observe that Mr. Lawson, the Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford, has offered his services for the appointment, and Sir Joseph Hooker considers that Professor Lawson would be able to give a considerable impulse to other branches of botanical administration in your Presidency, besides proving an efficient administrator of the Chinchona Plantations.

3. The salary mentioned to Sir Joseph Hooker for a Superintendent of your Chinchona Plantations was Rs. 600 a month, and, although not so stated in Mr. Thiselton Dyer's letter, I understand that Professor Lawson would accept those terms, on the understanding that he was also furnished with an official residence.

4. I shall be glad to receive, by telegram, a reply as to whether you desire that the appointment should be given to Professor Lawson.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. T. THISELTON DYER, Esq., to Sir LOUIS MALLET, c.b., Under Secretary of State for India, India Office, dated Royal Gardens, Kew, 3rd August 1882.

I am desired by Sir Joseph Hooker to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (R. 114) of May 6th.

1. The papers relating to the Madras Chinchona Plantations, transmitted in your letter of the same date, are herewith returned.

2. Sir Joseph Hooker gathers from these documents, especially the letter from the Government of Madras, dated March 14th, 1879, that since the death of Mr. McIvor, the Madras Chinchona Plantations have somewhat languished.

3. It is stated in this letter that, while Mr. McIvor computed that the number of plants was 1,125,204, the actual number which Captain Walker found to exist was only 569,031.

The discrepancy appears to Sir Joseph Hooker most astonishing, as it amounts to not far short of half.

4. Only two Chinchonas have as yet been found to thrive on the Nilgiris. These are the species which produced Red bark and Crown bark, respectively. Of the latter, there are, in round numbers, 3,000,000 plants. This element of the Nilgiri Plantations is of great importance, because it supplements the deficiencies of those of Sikkim in which there is no Crown bark.

5. The varieties of *Chinchona Calisaya* have hitherto failed on the Nilgiris. The Government of Madras remark, in their letter already cited, "Further experiment with the latter

(Yellow bark) is needed, and also in hybridisation, and the systematic cultivation of such hybrids as appear to be of value. This subject opens out a wide field for research, and may possibly be the means of extending the cultivation to districts where Chinchonas cannot now be grown. The best method of harvesting the bark is also as yet open to question."

They also state, "What is wanted is a scientific but practical horticulturist, who shall be capable of working the Plantation to the best advantage and of experimenting in the direction of careful artificial hybridisation and the modes of propagating the several varieties."

6. The Secretary of State, however, did not act upon this recommendation, but, in a despatch, dated August 7th, 1879, directed that the Plantations "for the present, at any rate, be at once placed in charge of an officer of the 'Forest Department.'"

This was done accordingly, as notified in the letter of the Government of Madras, December 14th, 1880, and the Government Chinchona Plantations were placed under the Conservator of Forests.

7. This Officer, Colonel Beddome, happened to be one of the best botanists in India. Such a circumstance was necessarily a pure accident, inasmuch as the Forest Service, dealing with administrative and technical matters proper to it, would not necessarily develop in its officers such exceptional scientific acquirements as Colonel Beddome possessed, nor could it be expected to supply those qualifications which the Madras Government, in their letter of March 14th, 1879, pointed out that the Superintendent of the Chinchona Plantations should possess.

8. The result was that Colonel Beddome's examination of the Plantations immediately raised a variety of points requiring scientific study. Some of these have already been the subject of official correspondence with Kew.

9. The Secretary of State arrived at the conviction, which he communicated to the Madras Government, November 10th, 1881, that "Colonel Beddome has raised several questions which already prove that the Plantations should be under the immediate charge of an officer of high scientific attainments and botanical experience."

10. The Madras Government, in reply, December 21st, 1881, "renew the application of 1879," and ask that a competent man may be selected.

11. Sir Joseph Hooker has thought it desirable to review the history of this matter, in order to get a definite idea of the kind of officer required. It is quite clear to him that the appointment should, in social and intellectual status, rank with those of the Forest Service.

This puts the whole class of gardeners out of court. This class often produces men of exceptional capacity, who, under superior guidance, are capable of doing first-rate work. But they rarely exhibit the force of character sufficient to enable them to stand alone, or to conduct considerable administrative affairs.

12. After passing in review the gentlemen to whom such an appointment might be acceptable, the matter was mentioned to Mr. Lawson, the Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford, as being likely to be able to suggest some University man, whose capacity for the appointment might be found sufficient. After some consideration, Professor Lawson volunteered his own services. After carefully considering the proposal, Sir Joseph Hooker has arrived at the conviction that his appointment would be likely to meet the requirements of the Madras Government in the best possible way.

Professor Lawson is unmarried, and about forty years of age. He is of remarkably robust constitution and energetic habits. He is an excellent botanist, and has elaborated under Sir Joseph Hooker's eye some portion of the "Flora of British India." He is, of course, well versed in the scientific details of structural and physiological botany, and, having been for some years Professor of Botany at Oxford (where he is extremely popular), is acquainted with the horticultural details and administration of a garden. Some surprise may be felt at Professor Lawson's disposition to abandon a post at Oxford for one in India. But it may be proper to mention that in so doing he has been undoubtedly influenced by the example of his personal friends, Mr. Duthie, Superintendent of the Government Garden, Saharunpore, and Dr. Trimen, Director of the Royal Botanic Garden, Ceylon. The latter gentleman is almost exactly of the same age and standing as Professor Lawson, and his administration in Ceylon has given the Government of that Colony unqualified satisfaction, as he has brought to bear upon the botanical enterprise of the Island precisely those qualifications which the Government of Madras have, for some time, felt the need of in their Presidency.

13. Should the Secretary of State be pleased to appoint Professor Lawson, Sir Joseph Hooker anticipates that great benefits will ensue from the mutual co-operation of that gentleman and Dr. Trimen. The physical conditions of Ceylon and Southern India are so closely similar that it is in every way desirable that their economico-botanical development should follow similar paths. Sir Joseph Hooker has every reason to believe that Professor Lawson would not merely prove an efficient administrator of the Chinchona Plantations, but would also be able to give a considerable impulse to other branches of botanical administration in the Presidency which are by no means in as active a condition as is desirable.

ORDER—dated 14th October 1882, No. 1116, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Recorded, with reference to the following telegram sent to the Secretary of State, on the 11th October 1882:—

"We agree to the appointment of Professor Lawson on the terms detailed in your Revenue Despatch, No. 32, dated 14th September this year."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

" Conservator of Forests.
" Collector of Nilgiris.
" Honorary Secretary, Agri-Horticultural Society.

Exd. W. H. French.

80 Copies.

589
4

Govt of (1882) Madras.
REVENUE.

16/10/82

Order, dated 14th October 1882, No. 1116.

Superintendent for the Government Chinchona
Plantations — Nilgiris.—Despatch from Secre-
tary of State requesting to be informed whether
the appointment of — may be given to Professor
Lawson, recorded with reference to a telegram
sent to England.



589

Chesnut
9th February 184.

REVENUE (1884) DEPARTMENT.

No. 933.

From *The Supper: Engineer,
Fourth Class.*

Dated 7th
Recd. 8th } February 1881
Recd. 9th
Recd. 11th
Recd. 22

No. 113.

Mis. Ac 730.

Retransferred to the
P.W. Dept. with the remark
that under para: 3 of the
"October" Secretary of States
1882, to wit: } September 14, 32.
dated 14th September 1882, Mr.
Larsson is entitled to free
quarters.

H. Croker

4
Fort Smith George, }
18 February 1884. }

To The Public Works Dept.
with a copy of L.O. 72-1116/82.

no. 589 W of 4th March/88

SUBJECT.

Crinchoia Villa.

of opinion copy of a letter from
the Executive Engineer, Nilgiri
Division requiring what amount
is to be charged for—

Referred.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

N^o. 589H

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 4th March/84

READ the following

Endorsement of the Supltg.
Engr. IV. circle -

Memo^m to the Rev. Sept

Endorsement thereon by the
Revenue Sept

H. E. No. $\frac{63}{6W}$ of 7 Febry/84

— " — 307 Cas 9 July 1864

730 a / 18 July / 84

Free quarters having
been guaranteed to
Mr. Lawson, - no rent
will be collected on
Cinchona Villa while
in ^{his} occupation. ~~of~~
~~that gentleman.~~ 111

S. E. IV. circle
Ex. F. W. acct
Rev. Sept.

Cy.
13-2-81

3-3-82

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589
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3-11-58

B II

1655

Govt. of Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

(7)

Press 5/10/58

4th March 1858

Cinchona Villa

Thinking that no
rent be collected
as - while in the
occupation of
Proprietor Lawson
who is entitled
to free quarters.

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ERC

H5

th

Subm Recd Regd