

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1911	Press Mis.
	326-327	
Dated	19 - 10 -	1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th October 1860.*

No. 326. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 8th October 1860, No. 55:—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government No. 1,685 of the 21st ultimo, and Nos. 1, 2, 3 of Mr. Rae's proposals,* before making over the 40 acres of forest to Mr. Rae, (he writes me on the 19th ultimo, he has already "taken possession," without reference to me, of the 200 acres grass land), I would beg to point out for Government consideration, ere it be too late, (and adverting to Mr. James Melvor's case) the tenor of Mr. Rae's proposal No. 3.

2. It seems to me to point out the probability of the relinquishment of the Tea experiment within seven years, when, properly, it would only be coming into fair operation, 40 acres of fine forest† will then have been levelled and lost, seven years' cowle will have been enjoyed, and the whole 240 acres‡ may then be turned to Coffee or ordinary farming. I have no desire to doubt Mr. Rae's means or intentions, but it is my plain duty to guard Government interests, and I cannot see the object of the 3rd proposal unless to *relinquish* the Tea experiment.

3. Perhaps Government may think it right to *inquire* what Tea seed, or plants, Mr. Rae has now, or expects shortly, to have at his command.

4. I must say I grudge the fine forest,§ and cannot think 40 acres *necessary* as seed beds, for 200 acres of Tea. An acre of Coffee nursery holds about 300,000 young plants or *more*, 6 inches apart, and an acre of Tea not very much less. The Tea seedlings are so planted in Captain Mann's Tea nursery at Coonoor. If Mr. Rae, at the expiration of seven years, asks to throw the whole up, or all but the 40 acres felled, (rich forest soil) what is to be done? I would suggest *some* provision, whatever Government think right should be made for these possible contingencies by the Government Solicitor. I am not aware how a few days, or a few weeks, could possibly be so urgent in Mr. Rae's case. I believe a very few acres would hold all the plants he *now* has ready, and really to carry out his experiment would, I think, require a capital of at least 50,000 Rupees.

5. While Captain Godfrey, Colonel Woodfall and others, are asking for land on usual terms, it is but fair and just to *them*, to learn the grounds on which Mr. Rae is especially favored, as his grant may probably be made a precedent, when known, for similar applications. The statistics I give are derived from careful inquiry, and if correct, deserve consideration, they perhaps escaped Dr. Cleghorn.

No. 327. ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1860, No. 1,911.

The terms conceded to Mr. Rae cannot now be altered; and the Government see no reason for desiring to alter them. The Collector will act on the order of the 21st September without further delay.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

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The Collector
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Dear Mr. C. M. 25 June 1860

From the Rev. Dr. J. H. Davis 220

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