MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1685 Press ~~Mis.~~

A04 A05

Dated 21 9 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st September 1860.

No. 404. Read the following letter from H. D. RAE, Esq., to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 11th September 1860 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government, (No. 1,422) dated 23rd ultimo, regarding an application from me for a grant of land for the cultivation of Tea, I hope to be excused addressing Government direct on the subject, for there is now such emergency—from the advanced period of the season, and this being the latest month in which a seed nursery can be formed—that, unless an immediate decision can be come to, this year will be altogether lost, and I risk being wholly precluded from the experiment of Tea planting.

2. My request, through Dr. Cleghorn, to the Board of Revenue, was to have 40 acres of forest and 200 of grass land; thus making about 200 cawnies, the amount of my original application through the Collector. The reason for such quantities being required is that 40 acres of forest would be *requisite* (see Memorandum appended herewith), to raise sufficient plants to cover the 200 acres of grass land, and I trust the Government will still sanction this amount being granted. The forests in the neighborhood of Sholoor are so extensive (some 2,000 acres) that they would not be affected by the diminution consequent on making over 40 acres to me. Further, the distance away of the locality from this, considered to be 12 miles, and the absence over half of it of even a footpath practicable by a laden pack bullock render the brushwood of the place valueless. I would be quite willing to agree to the proposition of Government, that the Forester should remove the brushwood and fallen timber of the locality ere I am granted possession, as this would save me the expenses of clearing, and entail on the State the making of a wheel track to the Estate over six miles across hill country ; but time presses, therefore, in foregoing the really liberal offers of Government on this head, I beg to ask for freedom of action in the 40 acres of forest, not as a mere *quid pro quo* for resigning these great advantages, but because I am obliged to crave for *immediate* possession.

3. With the *necessity* that exists for raising my own seed to plant out the proposed holding it is impossible for a general crop to be had from the plantation in less than seven years. My exemption from taxation for that term would then practically put me on no better footing than in the cultivation of Coffee, as shown in the Memorandum herewith attached.

4. Seeing that the terms actually laid down by Government would some of them involve me in considerable difficulty, while others are undefined, and inasmuch as every day's delay is now of vital consequence, I would beg to be allowed to enter upon the land I have asked to take up simply on the above terms, viz., to pay full assessment after seven years, and without any other restriction than my engagement to devote the land exclusively to purposes connected with Tea cultivation during that term. Such land being made over to me at once without being put up to auction.

5. It will be apparent to the Honorable the Governor in Council that I here ask no more than what, in both principle and practice, has been conceded to Coffee cultivation ; while mine is an experiment of no certain success, and which must involve all the extra labor and difficulty that attend an experiment.

6. May I take the liberty of asking for a reply by telegraph, as there is not a day to be lost in putting down seed to give them a prospect of success.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st September 1860.

MEMORANDUM.

Coffee.

1. Land for this cultivation was freely accorded, prior to the freehold tenure rules, at an exemption from assessment for the first five years; and thenceforward at the waste land rate of one Rupee per acre. In effect this same rate still exists.

In this cultivation, seed for forming a plantation can generally be had in any quantity, and therefore it is supposed that (labor being present) a holder *might* cultivate his whole tract from the beginning of his tenure; but he is not taxed till his Coffee cultivation comes into full bearing, for which a liberal allowance is made.

Tea.

Sufficient seed for a Tea plantation cannot be obtained on the spot. For this purpose a certain quantity of forest land is necessary, and seed can only be picked from the trees, to be now planted, on their 4th year. Using this for the general purposes of the grant, three years more must elapse before a general crop of leaves can be taken from the Estate. In consequence it will require an exemption from taxation for seven years to put Tea—a new and experimental cultivation—on a footing of simple equality with what has already been conceded to Coffee, which is an established one.

2. An acre of Tea plants on the 4th year should yield 250 lbs. of seed with their capsules on, so 40 acres will yield 10,000 lbs. Exactly one hundred seeds with capsules on weigh one pound, therefore 10,000 lbs. = 1,000,000 seeds.

3. Dr. Jameson, at p. 55 of the Selections from the Records of the Government of India (No. 23), states* that 5,000 *seedlings* must be estimated as required by each acre to allow of casualties in transplanting: I will take this same figure as required *both* by the casualties resulting from the above cause and from the seed not germinating; (the exceedingly precarious vitality of the seed has been fully dwelt on in my letter to Dr. Cleghorn);—so 200 acres at 5,000 *seeds* per acre require 1,000,000 seeds, which, as I have already shown, can alone be guided by 40 acres.

* *The only estimate on record.*

Ootacamund, 11*th September* 1860. (Signed) H. D. RAE.

No. 405. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1860, No. 1,685.

1. In the Order of August 23rd, No. 1,422, the Government granted to Mr. Rae a certain extent of land on the Nílgiri Hills for the purpose of trying the planting of Tea, on certain conditions recommended by the Board of Revenue. In this letter, Mr. Rae solicits some relaxation of those terms on three points:—

(1.) He asks for 40 acres of forest instead of 25.

(2.) He asks to be allowed to take immediate possession, instead of waiting till the Government clear the land; and

(3.) He asks that the term for which he is to be bound to devote the land to Tea planting, may be only the seven years of exemption from taxation.

2. The Government fully believe that Mr. Rae is a *bonâ fide* applicant and intends to make the trial fairly; they therefore adopt the conditions now proposed by him, in modification of those prescribed in the order of August 23. The Board will cause the necessary deed to be prepared and executed.

3. Ordered that the following Telegram be despatched to Mr. Rae.

"Your letter has been received and the Government agree to the terms."

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

Proceedings of the Madras prepared and
under date the
Read the following
letter from Mr H. D.
Rae.

With reference to his application for land for the cultivation of tea states that unless an immediate decision can be come to this year will be altogether lost. States reasons for applying for 40 acres of forest and requests a reply by Telegraph.

Recd at Ootacamund 11 Sept 60

In the order of
August 23rd 1860 No 1422, the
Govt granted to Mr
Rae a certain extent
of land on the Nilgiri
Hills for the purpose
of trying the planting
of tea, on certain con
ditions recommended by
the Board of Revenue.
In this letter Mr Rae
solicits some relaxa

[illegible] asks to be allowed to
take immediate possession
instead of waiting
till the Govt clear the
land; and 3ly he asks
that the term for which
he is to be bound to
devote the land to tea
planting, may be
only the seven years
of exemption from
taxation.

The Govt fully
believe that Mr Rae
is a bona fide applt
and intends to
make the trial
fairly; and they ac-
cede to his request.

the necessary deed
to be prepared and
executed

3. Ordered that
the following Telegr.
be dispatched to
Rae.

"Your letter has
been received and the
Government agree
to the terms".

12 Copies
Board of Rev Dispt 22
4 Cons: of Forests Dr
1 " H. D. Rae Esqre "

...nt 1860 Pt. 284-285.

...ia Letter to Govt.
...th Act. 1/60. Pt. 108.

...Nos 404 & 405.

Revenue 1860 Sept.r
Pro: of Govt for Septr.

No: 1685.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 21st September 1860.

Further Pro: 19th October 1860 No 1911

From H.B. Rae Esq.r 16 Nov.r 1860 (No 2678)
From Govt of Mad.s 29 Nov.r 1860 Ch 1309
Fm Govt of Mad.s 2 Sept.r 1861 Ch 2234

Adopting the conditions proposed by Mr Rae, in modification of those prescribed in the order granting him land on the Nilgeri Hills for the purpose of trying the planting of Tea.—

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