M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1836	Press ~~Mis.~~
178-179	
Dated 17-9-	18 61.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 17th September 1861.

No. 178. Read the following letter from D. MACPHERSON, Esq., M. D., Inspector General of Hospitals, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated (on the tour of Inspection) Rangoon, 24th July 1861, No. 46 :—

SIR,

1. Consequent on the nature of my duties within these Provinces during the past four months, copies of Captain Morgan's and Mr. McIvor's letters and the Government order thereon, bearing on my report to you, dated 5th February, No. 7, only reached me a few days since.

2. With regard to his (Captain Morgan's) remarks and criticisms on my public reports to Government in matters relating to the introduction of Cinchona into India, I feel it incumbent on me to reply as follows.

3. In the first paragraph of his letter dated 28th March last, No. 418, Captain Morgan asserts "that the existence of certain discrepancies between my first and second reports invalidates the whole of my remarks, and render my information of no value." On this he proceeds to show,

The first "discrepancy," which relates to the subject of "elevation" for the growth of Cinchona trees, asserting that in my letter No. 1, I condemn what I recommend in letter No. 8. Had Captain Morgan quoted correctly, he should have said that in the former I stated nothing from my own knowledge. I merely reported the result of experiments made in Java, specially observing in the same paragraph from which he quotes, "but the best elevations have yet to be ascertained." In the latter I gave my opinion as directed, on what appeared to me to be the best plan to pursue in our experiments ; an opinion, as far as relates to the Dodabett and Coorg sites, I still maintain to be correct.

The second instance of "discrepancy" relates to the "southern decline" of the hill being recommended in my Java report, whereas in my Neilgherri letter I state "that the northern is the best." Captain Morgan is correct ; and I am indebted to Mr. McIvor's superior knowledge in Horticulture, as graphically described in paragraph 8 of his letter, for "bringing conviction to my mind by his unanswerable arguments."

4. Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of Captain Morgan's letter call for no observations.

5. Captain Morgan states in paragraph 7 of his letter, that I incorrectly describe the Dodabett site, as consisting of "*disintegrated granite* or masses of *trap* protruding on the surface." The rock he says "is *gneiss*, the superstratum is decomposed *Felspar* and *Hornblende*, "the former yielding 11 per cent. of potash, a most valuable ingredient for forming alkali" (what is potash but an alkali), "and the latter supplies 13 per cent. of lime." Now as *gneiss* "is a slaty or secondary granite, as when granite passes by several perceptible gradations into "gneiss" (*Vide* Humble's Dictionary of Geology), and as "*Trappean* rocks are composed of two "minerals, *Felspar* and *Hornblende*" (*Vide* Lyall's Geology, page 463), Captain Morgan's assertion is only opposed to mine in terms dissimilar, but of corresponding signification. Such being the case, in Captain Morgan's own words the Dodabett site "is a very indifferent situation."

6. Captain Morgan, in observing on the word "*marl*" used by me in my Neilgherri letter, says, "now marl is a compound of clay and lime of which we have none on these hills." He forgets that in four lines above this remark, he alludes to the presence of 13 per cent. of lime in the composition of the substratum, on the Dodabett site. Lyall, at page 13, states that the "word marl is used ambiguously and is applied to substances in which there is no lime, as to "the red loam, usually called red marl in certain parts of England. Agriculturists are in the "habit of calling any soil marl which falls to pieces readily on exposure to the air." It was in its agricultural signification that I applied the term, the construction alone which a practical gardener like Mr. Weir or Mr. Spruce employed it.

7. Captain Morgan discovers other "discrepancies" in my statements, which are as easily demolished as the above have been. But I have more important duty on hand than to waste time in confuting assertions by one, who criticises my official acts in the style which pervades

his letter; nor indeed would I have taken the trouble to do what I have done, had it not been for the endorsement on the Government order of the 16th April 1861, No. 855, which induces me to solicit that the same publicity which was given to the documents under reply, may also be accorded to this.

No. 179. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1861, No. 1,836.

1. In this letter Dr. Macpherson makes certain observations on the correspondence relating to the Cinchona experiment, recorded in G. O. 16th April 1861, No. 855.

2. Dr. Macpherson's request that the same publicity which was given to the letters from Captain Morgan and Mr. McIvor, may be accorded to his own, will be complied with (certain expressions not material to his explanations being omitted), and the present paper laid on the Editor's table.

3. The Government must further express their regret that the discussion of an important public subject should have taken a course which has been tinged, however slightly, with personal reflections.

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

No. 46.

From Inspector General
of Hospitals
Dr. Macpherson
To The Secretary to Govern.t
Revenue Dep.t

D.o (on tour of Inspection) Rangoon
24.th July 1861.

Sir,

Consequent on the nature of my duties within these Provinces during the past four months, copies of Captains Morgan's and Mr. MacIvor's letters and the Gov.t order thereon, bearing on my report to you dated 5.th Feb.y No. 1, only reached me a few days since.

Captain Morgan's offensive observations personal to me are beneath notice. But it is otherwise with regard to his remarks and criticisms on my public reports to Government in matters relating to

to the introduction of Cinchona into India. To these I feel it incumbent on me to reply as follows:—

1st. — In the 1st para of his letter dated 28th March last — p. 418, Captain Morgan asserts "that the existence of certain discrepancies between my 1st and 2nd reports invalidates the whole of my remarks and renders my information of no value." On this he proceeds to show,

The first "discrepancy", which relates to the subject of "elevation" for the growth of Cinchona trees — asserting that in my letter No 1 I condemn what I recommend in letter No 8. Had Captain Morgan quoted correctly, he should have said that in the former I stated nothing from my own knowledge. I merely repeated the result of experiments made in Java, specially observing in the same para from which he quotes, "but the best elevations have yet to be ascertained". In the latter I gave my opinion as directed, on what appeared to me to be the best plan to pursue in our experiments; an opinion as far as relates to the Dodabett and Coorg sides I still maintain to be correct. —

The second instance of "discrepancy" relates to the "Southern decline" of the hill being recommended in my Java report, whereas in my Nelgeri letter I state "that the Northern is the best". Captain Morgan is correct; and I am indebted to Mr Mac-Ivor's superior knowledge in horticulture, as graphically described in para 8 of his letter, for "bringing conviction to my mind by

by his unanswerable arguments."

6 Paras 4-5 and 6 of Captain Morgan's letter calls for no observations.—

7 Captain Morgan states in para 7 of his letter, that I incorrectly describe the Dodabett site, as consisting of "disintegrated granite or masses of trap protruding on the surface". The rock he says "is gneiss, the superstratum is decomposed Felspar and hornblend, the former yielding 11 per cent of Potash, a most valuable ingredient for forming alkali" (what is Potash but an alkali) "and the latter supplies 13 per cent of Lime". Now as Gneiss "is a slaty or secondary granite, as when granite passes by several perceptible gradations into gneiss" (vide Humble's dictionary of Geology) and as "Trappean rocks are composed of two minerals, Felspar and Hornblende" (vide Lyall's Geology page 463) Captain Morgan's assertion is only opposed to mine in terms dissimilar, but of corresponding signification. Such being the case in Captain Morgan's own words the Dodabett side "is a very indifferent situation".

8 Captain Morgan in (star) (particularly) observing on the word "marl" used by me in my Nelgeri letter says "now marl is a compound of clay and lime of which we have none on these hills". He forgets that in four lines above this remark, he alludes to the presence of 13 per cent of lime in the composition of the substratum on the Dodabett side. Lyall at page 13 states that the "word marl is used ambiguously and is applied

applied to substances in which there is no lime, as to the red Loam, usually called red marl in certain parts of England - Agriculturists are in the habit of calling any soil marl which falls to pieces readily on exposure to the air" - It was in its agricultural signification that I applied the term, the construction alone which a practical Gardener like Mr. Weir or Mr. Spruce employed it. ——

Captain Morgan discovers other "discrepancies" in my statements which are as easily demolished as the above have been. But I have more important duty on hand than to waste time in confuting assertions by one, who criticises my official acts in the unbecoming style which pervades his letter nor indeed would I have taken the trouble to do what I have done

Note. This is Dr Mc Pherson's reply to the Strictures of Capt Morgan's & Mr Mc Leod's letters on his Cinchona Reports. The experiment has just been placed in a satisfactory footing & is now in a promising condition - there is nothing in this letter to induce the slightest change -

Dr Mac Pherson requests that the same publicity may be given to this letter as has been given to Capt Morgan's - which was placed on the Editor's table - I see no objection to this with the exception of the first part of para 2 - I think that Dr Mc - may be told that his request will be complied with - certain expressions used by him being omitted &

that I applied the term, the construction alone which a practical gardener like Mr. Wain or Mr. Spruce employed it.

8. Captain Keyser discovers often "discrepancies" in my statements, which are as easily demolished as the above hasty lines. But I have more important duty on hand than to waste time in confuting assertions by one, who criticises my official acts in the unbecoming style, which degrades his

the trouble to do what I have done, had it not been for the Endorsement No. on the Government order of the 16th April 1864 No. 855. which induces me to solicit that the same publicity, which was given to the documents under reply, may also be accorded to this.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servant

Chas. Mac Cormac
Supt. Gen. of Hospitals

R. 9th March/61 No 170 to 174

R-16 April/61 — 265 to 271

Had this Receiver
from Assistant Surgeon
Have taken a course which
Should the Govt
Lieut King and Lieut Hay LLG
Recommended a station
for Bolan

Sd/ [illegible]

Rec'd 1861 Department
No 2027

From Asst Surgeon & Hospital
Dr. D. MacPherson Rangoon

To The Secretary to Government
Medical Department

In reply to the Criticisms of
Capt. Morgan & Commandant
of Cachar on my report to Govt
on the introduction of Cinchona
into India

Dated Rangoon 2nd July No 46

Received 22nd August/61

To be sent to
Dr Mastes
Wilson & Co

Sd/ [illegible]

7

done, had it not been for the endorsement of the Govt. on the Govt. order of the 16th April 1861 No 855, which induces me to solicit that the same publicity which was given to the documents under reply, may also be accorded to this.

I have &c

(Sd/) Duncan Macpherson
Asst. Surg. & Hospitals

To
Col. H. R. Doll
Secy

Copy in a Letter to Engd
dated 23d Octr 1750/62

Recd 1861 Depr of Agriculture
Pros of Govt for Sept 2027
from

Inspr Genl of Hospitals
Dr D. Macpherson
Rangoon

To

The Sect to Govt
Revenue Dept Madras

Dated Rangoon 24th July 61
No 46

Received 22nd August 61

Encl under Cover

In reply to the criti-
cisms by Capt Morgan
Actg Conservator of Forests
on my reports to Govt on
the introduction of
Cinchona into India.

Read but not recorded

No 1836. 17th Sept
With an Order

No 1784/79.

No 1836 1536

1. In this letter Dr Macpherson makes certain observations on the correspondence relating to the Cinchona experiment recorded in G.O. 16th April 1861 No 1853.

2. Dr Macpherson's request that the same publicity which was given to the letters from Captain Morgan and Mr McIvor, may be accorded to his own, will be complied with (certain expressions ~~which might be objected to~~ being omitted) and the present paper laid on the Editor's table.

3. The Govt must further express their regret that the discussion of an important public subject should have taken a course which has been tinged, however slightly, with personal reflections.

Fort St George
17th Sept 1861

J N

Copy sent to Capt Morgan
Conservator of Forests
Neilgherries
18 Sept 1861