M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1166 Press
Mis.

676-677

Dated 26-5-1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th May 1862.

No. 476. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th April 1862, No. 2,215:—

Read Government Proceedings, Revenue Department, No. 541, dated 12th March 1862, calling the early attention of the Board to paragraph 2 of the Government Order, dated 5th January 1861, requiring a Report on the subject of any assistance being rendered by Government in procuring persons skilled in the manufacture of Tea to teach the art to those engaged or wishing to engage in the culture of the plant, and to decide whether Tea of a marketable quality could be made from plants grown on the Hills.

Read also the following Abstract of the Replies to the Board's Proceedings, No. 329, dated 18th January 1861, communicating the G. O. of 5th January 1861, to the Collector of Coimbatore and other gentlemen on the Hills, for their opinion on the question mooted in it.

1. Captain H. R. Morgan, Acting Conservator of Forests, states that it is of the utmost importance to test the value of the Tea-leaf grown on Captain Mann's and Mr. Rae's plantations on the Nilgiris as further private enterprise depends on the successful issue of the experiment. He is of opinion that Tea equal if not superior to that of Assam, which sells for 2 Rupees per lb. in the market, can be produced on the Nilgiris, but that the soil and climate of the Shervaroys are unfit for the culture; a few Tea-plants seen by him in January 1861, in Mr. Richardson's Coffee plantation, were quite unfit for the experiment.

From Acting Conservator of Forests, No. 352, dated 1st, in Cons. 6th February 1861, No. 772.

2. The Ootacamund Improvement Committee and Colonel Woodfall are in favor of the proposition that a few skilled manufacturers should be obtained from the North West Provinces in order to test the merchantable character of the Tea grown on the Hills. Colonel Woodfall adds, "The leaves on the "plants in the small experimental plantation belonging to Captain Mann will, I believe, be in a "fit stage for picking within the ensuing two or three months, so that if it be practicable to "have the manufacturers here during the present season, the question might be shortly settled; "and if favorably many may be encouraged to enter upon the cultivation. Whilst on the other "hand, it will be three or four years at least before the plants on Mr. Rae's estate can have "attained sufficient maturity for the experiment; and as Captain Mann has devoted the whole "of his capital and energies to the cultivation of Coffee to a large extent in Coorg, it is not "probable that he will now carry out his original intention of procuring skilled manufacturers "either from China or the North West Provinces at his own expense."

From Secretary Ootacamund Improvement Committee, dated 1st, in Cons. 5th February 1861, No. 749.
Colonel Woodfall, 12th February, in Cons. 14th March 1861, No. 1,616.
Do. 14th, in Cons. 18th March 1861, No. 1,682.

3. Mr. Ouchterlony observes that the experiments hitherto tried, have fully established the fact that Tea will grow fairly and bear seed in various parts of the Presidency, and more especially on the Nilgiris, and that the only thing remaining to give local private enterprise an impetus in this branch of agriculture, is to establish the market value of the article as there produced about which there is some doubt which can only be cleared by subjecting the leaf to skillful manipulation for which there has been no opportunity hitherto, nor will there be any unless Government undertake to afford it, as there are no plantations properly so called and no cultivation of an extent that would make it worth the owner's while presently or prospectively, to incur the heavy expense. There are, Mr. Ouchterlony states, very probably no plants at present of the age (from three to five years) believed to yield the best Tea, yet an experiment with such as are of a more advanced age and now available will still decide whether the leaf, when taken at the proper time and prepared as it ought to be, will be a merchantable article or not.

J. Ouchterlony, Esq., dated 19th, in Cons. 25th March 1861, No. 1,881.

4. Mr. Rae has entered somewhat fully into the subject of Tea cultivation, in his reply; but it appears sufficient for the present purpose to make only such quotations from it as bear upon the question of sending for manipulators from the North West Provinces, and they are accordingly as follows:—

F. H. D. Rae, Esq., dated 9th, in Cons. 14th February 1861, No. 931.

Paragraph 2. "His Excellency the late Governor Sir Charles Trevelyan sent me a message "through the Conservator of Forests that if I would take up the cultivation of Tea he would "procure manufacturers for me and bear half the entire cost (1) of their coming to and returning "from this; and (2) of their pay during the period of their Contract service as proposed by "Dr. Jameson. Though intending to do so I have not yet brought this matter to the notice of "the present Government."

Paragraph 4. * * * * *

"I beg to state my firm conviction that not a single plant now exists within this Presidency "*fit to pick.* Without a study of our subject and a knowledge of all that is required of us, I "must say, I view the proposition to procure '*Native Tea-makers,*' to '*to test the leaf as at* "*present existing in this Presidency,*' with feelings of great alarm, and would rather that my "efforts on grass land be left to my own resources than that the aid of Government should by "any unwitting misdirection tend to retard the extension of this cultivation. Bengal was years "in shaking off its bad name, which but for the acts and great liberality of the Government of "India, would now have clung to it even as it still does to Paragnay. The failure by this "Government on Forest soil would be a dire blow to private enterprise on grass land, but a "successful issue here would lead to similar attempts being made by the Bombay, Ceylon, and "Cape Governments."

Paragraph 6. * * * *

"We require (1) the appliances of the art of manufacture from Calcutta, as suggested by "Dr. Jameson (2) *skilled* manipulators of a stamp *not* proposed by Dr. Jameson; (3) we require "to be taught how to make the plant 'flush;' (4) we require gatherers to be instructed in the "art of picking on the mode of conducting which Mr. Fortune and others declare depends both "on the health of the plant and quality of the Tea; (5) we require intelligent Madrassees to be "instructed in the manufacture to render us permanently independent of Bengal, for 'the nicety "of the art is not to be acquired by description, many Chinese do not possess it, and some never;' "and finally in our untried soil, altitude, latitude and climate, we require (6) manipulators "competent to overcome any unfavorable or to them new circumstances, for Tea '*produced under* "'*any unfavorable circumstances of soil climate, state of the weather, or leaf cannot by any* "'*manipulation be rendered of superior quality.*'"

Paragraph 10. * * * *

"I have a large number of plants including some of the Assam variety, which date their "age from last monsoon; also a considerable number, ageing from 1859, were contributed to- "wards my experiment by Dr. Cleghorn. These latter were mostly planted out permanently on "a piece of rich grass land at Kulhutty, and they are now in such vigorous growth that I almost "fear the altitude of Kulhutty (some 5,000 feet) may possibly be too low to produce the very "finest leaf: while, however, Tea can be successfully produced in Assam at extremely low "elevations, and bearing in mind the great range of the Tea plant, I think we have strong "grounds to go on in Kulhutty having already given as the first essential, *viz.*, unbounded high "health, much more vigorous than Coonoor. Well-formed plants speedily produced are a "great desideratum, and I can only reach the results attained at Kulhutty by a resort to glass "and bottom heat. Major Thelwall of Bengal has lately produced, under high culture, plants "fit to pick that were only seventeen months old; and, as I am pursuing a strictly garden cul- "ture in a few acres of the grass land at Sholoor (more humid than Coonoor, but elevation the "same), I of course *hope* for the best. The manipulators will take a long time to reach this, as "proposed, from the Deyrah Dhoon; and at Kulhutty if, not also at Sholoor, there will be "a few thousands of plants at the perfection of age for quality, and otherwise, I trust, fit to "pick, in the spring of 1862; *about twelve months hence.*"

Paragraph 11. "I would further remark on the nature of Dr. Jameson's proposal as bearing "on the *essential nature* of the aid I now beg to seek through the Board from Government. "His proposal is to send us '*four Native* Tea-makers for *two* years.' These men are now "producing many thousands of pounds of Tea annually, an amount utterly beyond the attain-

"ment of this Presidency certainly within the period mentioned. Mr. Fortune sets down "four men as sufficient for an area under full and mature bearing of 1,800 picking acres! "I would beg, therefore, to propose that *two* men for *four* years, or even longer, would better "suit the requirements of this Presidency. A factory is not essential to every estate; the "practice of selling raw leaves too, or having them manufactured at, central factories obtains "in Bengal, and largely so in China, Japan, and Java. But it is clear that the first Estate "fairly started requires a factory as a *sine qua non.* I would be glad if one of the two mani- "pulators I have proposed were to be permanently made over to my plantation from the "outset; while the other might, if thought desirable, be sent to all parts of the Presidency "to 'test' as proposed, and be finally made over to any one, other than myself, who may need "him, failing which I shall be happy to receive him also; for in paragraph 6, I have detailed "three requirements which will afford abundant occupation even though I have but few plants "ready from which to manufacture. I have finally to remark on Dr. Jameson's proposal that "*Natives of Bengal* are offered us."

Paragraph 12. "The first essay at Tea-making by Chinamen imported by Mr. Fortune, in "the Himalayas was a dead failure, having 'the objectionable Ankoy flavour.' No Tea is "exactly unmerchantable in the presence of a market, for the worst is still good for adulterating "purposes; but the Ankoy from near Amoy is merely the worst known variety, the worst among "bad, for the Tea we Englishmen drink is a stringency itself, and little better than the adulte- "rated refuse of China. 'All the most exquisite kinds are kept for the epicures of the Province,' "says a late writer; 'the pick of Japan is the property of its king;' there, and in China, this "beverage is served up *frothing*, and without milk or sugar; with the Teas we consume we "could neither behold it thus nor drink it thus. On the above failure in Bengal, Mr. Fortune "was thereupon sent out again to China at immense cost and after some years' patient waiting, "*a few* of the *next* Chinamen imported produced a Tea 'equal to the kind generally sent in "presents, and better for the most part than the Black Teas of commerce.' Darjeeling Tea is "now selling in London nine pence in advance of the very best China. Indian Teas (not Assam) "are now bought up at Home by private contract to mix with and improve the China product, "which is the reason why these imports do not appear in the English Price Lists. *The contiguous* "*Chinese dominions are now largely importing Tea from India!* The high character of the Teas "of the Himalayas is now fully established, but can a private individual afford to risk such a "mishap as the one *the Government of India* so bravely and fairly surmounted? Dr. Jameson, "however, offers us *Natives*, and says that 'no Chinese Tea-makers are available for the "Nilgiris;' I, however, desire most ardently to *benefit from the very experience* of Bengal. I "need not recount our untried circumstances of altitude, latitude, climate, and grass land, but "simply trust I have now shown sufficient cause to be excused asking through the Board for the "aid of Government in order to procure manipulators who shall be, if not two of the very men "who removed the objectionable Ankoy flavour, at least two who shall be *the very pick* of that "Presidency, be they Chinese or Native, available or 'not available;' and this, without the aid "of Government, is wholly without my reach. My *personal* request I limit to one of these "two men."

Mr. Lascelles is of opinion that as a very considerable capital of about 400 Rupees per acre is required for Tea cultivation, and a much longer period must elapse in the speculation than in Coffee or any other before it becomes remunerative, some indulgence should be shown by a relaxation of the terms usually granted for occupation of waste land, and that any interference of Government beyond this is undesirable. It appears that if every Tea-leaf on Captain Mann's and Mr. Rae's plantations were picked, it would not employ two manipulators for six months at the rate at which manipulation is practised in Assam, viz., 2 lbs. per diem per man, and Mr. Lascelles, therefore, doubts the expediency of bringing such artizans so great a distance at the present stage of the experiment.

A. R. Lascelles, Esq., 26th February, in Cons. 1st March 1861, No. 1,326.

Mr. Fischer is in favor of the proposition and suggests that the persons to be obtained should be qualified to determine whether the localities in this Presidency in which the cultivation has been tried, are such as are best adapted for the successful growth of the plant. He has about 300 plants on the Shevaroys which were sent to him by Dr. Wallich at two different times about 25 years ago. "They "appear," Mr. Fischer states, "to have succeeded remarkably well inasmuch as they have "attained the height of upwards of 20 feet, and have regularly fructified every year after the "first five years. The seeds as they fall grow up under the trees and are rooted up and thrown "away every year with the weeds, but this year I have collected them and given them to two or "three parties who had written for them, and I shall be glad to supply the remainder to any "one who may want it."

W. Fischer, Esq., dated 16th, in Cons. 18th May 1862, No. 3,044.

"If the people to be obtained from the North West report favorably of the Shevaroys for "the growth of Tea, I would give it a trial on an extensive scale, if Government were to give "me lands on the same terms as they have done to Mr. Rae.

Mr. Richardson is in favor of the proposition as, from ignorance in the preparation of the leaf, the plants have hitherto been allowed to grow up into large trees on the Shevaroys.

Mr. H. Richardson, Deputy Collector Wainád, dated 4th, in Cons. 9th April 1861, No. 2,195.

He is not sure that the climate and soil of every part of Wainád are suited for Tea cultivation, but he was about to try the experiment in a locality nearly 1,500 feet lower than the Shevaroys, and Colonel Wooldridge (a Coffee Planter) was also disposed to try it on the Bramagheri range, which is about 5,800 feet above the level of the sea, comprising an area of about ten square miles, if Government would give him 500 Cawnies on the same terms as they did to Mr. Rae on the Nilgiris.

Mr. Thomas is of opinion that it would be premature to send out for any manufacturers now, as there is as yet no Tea to manipulate, except a little on Captain Mann's plantation, and that gentleman has not, he believes, asked for such assistance, and probably from his connection with China, knows the process well himself. Mr. Thomas adds "I have tasted fair Tea from Captain Mann's plantation three years "ago; Mr. Rae can have no Tea fit to manipulate for at least five years, his plants being now "seedlings."

E. B. Thomas, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, No. 77, dated 19th, in Cons. 23rd April 1861, No. 2,525.

Resolved that as Captain Mann does not appear inclined to favor the Board with a reply to their application to him on this subject, the above papers be forwarded for the consideration and orders of Government, with reference to their Proceedings in the Revenue Department, No. 17, dated 5th January 1861.

From the above Abstract, it appears that there is but very little if any Tea plants at the present time in this Presidency sufficiently advanced, or not too much neglected to produce leaves fit for manipulating with any prospect of favorable results, and as that little could only be obtained from Captain Mann who has not yet replied to the Board's reference on the subject, which will account for the delay in submitting this Report, the Board consider that it would be premature to send for any skilled manufacturers yet at the Government expense, but that the subject may be again taken into consideration at some future date. The recent Resolution of the Supreme Government on the subject of waste lands has removed all difficulties in that direction.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL, *Sub-Secretary.*

No. 477. ORDER THEREON, 26th May 1862, No. 1,166.

1. The Governor in Council observes that there are only two Tea plantations on the Neilgherries, viz., those of Mr. Rae and Captain Mann. The latter gentleman has not responded to the Board's communication regarding the advisability of procuring skilled manipulators from Bengal to test the Tea grown on the Hills, and the former objects very strongly to any attempt to "test the leaf as at present existing in this Presidency."

2. There can be no doubt that the Tea shrub grows well on the Neilgherries, but it seems generally admitted that there are few plants in a fit state to furnish leaves suited for the manufacture of superior Tea. The quality of Tea of course depends greatly on manipulation, but no manipulation however skilful can be expected to produce good Tea from inferior leaves, and the most probable result of now testing the Tea grown on the Hills would be, as Mr. Rae evidently fears, to bring it into discredit in the English market.

3. For these reasons the Government agree with the Board of Revenue that it would be premature at present to procure any skilled manufacturers from Bengal.

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

It appears from these Memos.
is at present no opening for
such persons. There are only two
Plantations at present in the Colonies
Open to the introduction of such persons
has made no reply to the reference
I am disposed to agree with Mr Cox
and to think that the experiment
had better be left in his hands
he has already produced some
Tea which sold well (2 shillings)
at Bombay. This success
will soon bring others into the
field - but it must be recollected
that from 4 to 6 years are required
to bring the Plant to maturity
Therefore we should be paying
wages to manipulators who
had nothing to manipulate

WM

GO 21 Sept 59
No 1272

G.O 5 Jan 7 61.
See despatch No 66 of
1861 Sir C. Wood calls
this a "sanction" - v.
GO 12 March 1862.

In 1859 and again
in 1860 Dr Cleghorn re-
commended that Govt
should procure a few
skilled manipulators of
Tea with the necessary ap-
pliances from the Govt
factories in Bengal to test
the tea grown on the Neil-
gherries -

The Govt considered that this had better be left to private enterprise but Sir C. Wood stated that he would not object to Govt acting on Dr Cleghorn's Suggestion if it should appear that there was little chance of the matter being taken up by private individuals -

Intermediately the

the Govt had granted land to Mr. Rae for Tea culture and thought that "the advantage of their now affording assistance in this important experiment might be lessened by the fact of its having been thus undertaken by a private individual." The Board however were instructed to consult the Collector of Coimbatore and some of the residents on the Hills on the subject.—

This was reported to the Secretary of State who remarks in a late despatch that if the necessity for instruction in the manufacture was as great as was represented to him before, it would not be diminished by Mr. Rae's experiment as it will be some years before his plants are old enough to furnish leaves.—

The Board upon receiving this were called upon for the report previously desired, which is now submitted.— The Board give an abstract of the replies they have received from the different persons they have consulted— All are in favor of getting manipulators except the Collector of Coimbatore— Mr. Sconces— and, to a certain extent— Mr. Rae— The Board themselves consider the measure premature—

There can be no question that the Tea shrub grows luxuriantly on the Neilgherries as well as on some other of the Hill ranges of this Presidency and Mr. Rae, who has obtained a patent for its culture has recently informed Govt that some Tea made from the leaves of Neilgherry plants has been very

GO 12 March 1862
No 541.

very favorably reported upon by a competent person in Bombay - Many persons are however believed to be unwilling to embark their capital in this enterprise because the commercial value of the article has not been tested and established - The object however can only be attained by sending to England sufficient samples properly prepared by skilled manufacturers and such persons cannot be procured by private individuals without considerable expense and difficulty - It is on that ground that the aid of Govt is sought -

It seems to me that under such circumstances as these Govt may with propriety and advantage interpose and afford to private enterprise that encouragement and assistance which has been

been rendered in a far greater degree in Bengal and which the Secretary of State has "sanctioned" for this Presidency -

If the Govt are disposed to view the matter in this light, the main point for consideration is how the assistance can most effectually be rendered -

The gentlemen consulted by the Board generally recommend that samples should be manufactured from leaves now procurable on the Hills and the market value of the article be thus tested - It is admitted however that these are few if any plants on the Neilgherries in a fit state to yield leaves likely to produce the finest tea - Skilful manipulation must doubtless greatly influence the quality of tea but it cannot

cannot be expected to produce good teas from bad leaves and the probable result of such testing as is proposed would be the condemnation of the article. Mr. Rae dwells strongly on this, and his arguments seem to me conclusive. The Govt have no Tea plantations on the Hills and cannot therefore establish a factory at which the experiment could be tried and instruction afforded to those desirous of learning the Art.

Under these circumstances the most promising course seems to be to offer to procure skilled manufacturers for Mr. Rae and for a few gentlemen of known means, if they will on their part give Tea cultivation a fair trial. - From Sir J. Johnston's letter to Sir J. Colhoun it appears that trained manipulators can be procured for 12 and 16 Rupees monthly besides their travelling charges. I should doubt however whether really intelligent and skilful persons could be obtained for such salaries but it may be inferred that the expence would be very great. Dr. Colhoun who is now in Calcutta could arrange all this.

A portion of the expence might be recovered from the gentlemen for whom the manipulators are procured. A grant of 4,000 or 5,000 Rs annually for 3 years would probably amply suffice. If the Govt are to aid at all, the sooner it is done the better, for there must be secrets in the culture as well as the manufacture and the plant does not produce good

G.O 24 Augt 1860
No 1425. D

At such moderate rates of remuneration as these it must be the difficulty of finding proper skilled manipulators rather than the expence which discourages the Planters from obtaining men for themselves &c

Govt seems expected under all the circumstances to afford some aid. I concur in these suggestions

&c

Memo.

poor leaves for some years—

On Tea cultivation on the Neilgherries—

For Order

I & S

Rec Depart.

1166

No. 1166.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 26th May 1862.

Read the following Rpo.

of the Board of Revenue

Forwarding for orders papers regarding the subject of Govt procuring persons skilled in the practice of Tea to teach the art to those engaged in the culture of the plant with the Boards observations thereon.

(Were entered 16 April 162 No 2215)

The Governor in Council observes that there are only 2 Tea plantations on the Neilgherries viz. those of the Rae and Captain Mann. The latter gentleman has not responded to the Boards communication regarding the advisability of procuring skilled manipulators from

from Bengal to test the
tea grown on the Hills.
and the former objects
very strongly to any
attempt to test the teas
as at present existing
in this Presidency.

There can be no doubt
that the Tea shrub
grows well on the Neil
-gherries but it seems
generally admitted that
there are few plants
in a fit state to fur-
-nish leaves suited for
the manufacture of
superior Tea. The qua
-lity of Tea ~~Bancha~~ Coarse
depends greatly on
manipulation but no
manipulation however
skilful can be expected
to produce good Tea from
inferior leaves and the
most

most probable result
of now testing the Tea
grown on the Hills
would be, as Mr Rae
evidently fears, to bring
it into discredit in the
English market.

For these reasons
the Government agree
with the Board of
Revenue that it would
be premature at pre-
-sent to procure any
skilled manufactu-
-rers from Bengal.

I. D. S

The Chief to the Sec. of Rev. Dept.

Revenue 1862 Depts.
Pro: of Govt. for May.

No 1166.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 26: May/62.

Forwd. 23d June/62
No 1828

Copy in a Letter to England
Dy 26th May No 37 of 1862

On Tea cultivation
the Neilgherries -

Passing orders on
Boards' Proceedings for
papers regarding the
subject of Govt procuring
persons skilled in
the manufacture of
Tea to teach the art to
those engaged in the
Culture of the plant.

No 476 & 477 -