M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1296 Press ~~Mis.~~

127-128

Dated 12 - 6 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 12th June 1862.

No. 177. Read the following letter from W. G. McIVOR, Esq., Superintendent Government Gardens, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 15th May 1862, No. 4:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government, dated 6th May 1862, No. 987, accompanied by a letter from J. Ouchterlony, Esq., on the subject of the cultivation of the Neilgherry Nettle.

2. The experimental cultivation of the Nettle was tried in the Government Gardens as early as June 1848, and continued until the end of 1853. The produce was forwarded to the late Dr. Royle, Naturalist to the Honorable East India Company, for report, this gentleman submitted it to the Dundee Manufacturers, who reported it "a very good fibre, but rather dry." It was subsequently submitted in 1851 to Mr. Dickson, who "having passed it through his "machine and liquid, has reduced it like a beautiful, soft, silky kind of flax, and calls it a "wonderful fibre, of which the tow would be useful for mixing with wool, as has been done "with the China-grass, and the fibre used for the finest purposes." I received no further report on the fibre from Dr. Royle, although I am aware he also submitted it to the Leed's Manufacturers in order to ascertain its value and capabilities of forming a mixture with woollen material.

3. I have lately forwarded, through the Collector of Coimbatore, samples of this fibre for the International Exhibition of 1862, and I would respectfully suggest that the experiment the Government now recommend to be conducted in the Government Gardens may be delayed until we receive the report of the Jurors.

No. 178. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1862, No. 1,296.

1. In this letter Mr. McIvor reports that he has already tried the cultivation of the Neilgherry Nettle, and that his experiments extended over a period of five years. The produce has been submitted to Dr. Royle, and Mr. Dickson, in England, and has received favorable mention. Samples of the fibre have also been forwarded to the International Exhibition of 1862.

2. Under these circumstances Government do not see the necessity of troubling Mr. McIvor with any further experiments, but he will be requested to draw up for the information of the public a brief account of the mode of culture adopted by him, the soil and treatment required by the plant, &c.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

that the Experiments the Government now recommend to be conducted in the Government Gardens may be delayed until we receive the Report of the Jurors.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
W. M. Fox
Superintendent Govt. Gardens.

Rec'd 6th May 1862 with Mr Pole's letter of the 12th inst. No 1296

Read the following letter from W. G. McIvor Esqr.

Superintendent Botanic Gardens, to Secretary

Botanic Gardens
6th May 1862

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of the Government that the Sansevieria Zeylanica, Bowstring Hemp, or Mauritius Hemp, which was planted in the Botanic Gardens in June 1848, has produced a crop of fibre every year since that time, and that the plants are now in a very flourishing condition.

I have also the honor to report that I have received from Mr Pole, Superintendent of Convicts, a sample of fibre prepared from the leaves of the plant, and that I have forwarded it to Dr Royle, Superintendent of the Museum of Economic Botany, India Office, London, for examination and report.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
(Signed) W. G. McIvor
Superintendent Botanic Gardens

To the Colonial Secretary
Melbourne

Rec'd 6th May 1862 Nº 1460 for Answer.

From W. G. McIvor Esqre
Supt. Govt Gardens

To J. D. Ellis Esqre
Secy. to Government
Revenue Dept.

Dated 15th May 1862.
Received
S. O. Nº 1296 Nº 49 12 June
Subject.

Informs Government with reference to their Order, dated 6th May 1862, Nº 987, that the experimental cultivation of the Sansevieria Zeylanica was carried on in the Govt Gardens at Cotte from June 1848 to the end of 1853. That the produce was submitted to Dr Royle on its quality favorably reported by the Home Manufacturers. Specimens of the fibre being sent to the International Exhibition suggests that any further experiments of cultivation may be delayed until the Receipt of the report of the Jurors

Rec'd 6th May 62 Nº 115-116

Copy sent to Dr L & E
25th July 1862 Nº 46

Nº 177

Mr McIvor's report seems good. It seems true that if he were to draw up a brief account of his experimental culture for the use of the public there would be no need for taking up his time with any further experiment. The jury at home will doubtless rate the value of the fibre & ask the public need is information how best to grow it which Mr his experiment will enable him to give

J D S.

~~it may be made most productive~~

28 May 62

Copy

1. Mr McIvor Dispatch
2. Mr Auchterlony "
3. Board of Revenue "

10-6-

Rec.d 6th May 62 R.- 115 & 116

Copy in a Dr. to Ex.
of 25th July 1862 No 46.

Revenue 1862 Dep.t
Pro.s of Gov.t for June

No. 1296.

Pro.s of the Madras Gov.t
Dy 12th June 1862.

From the Supt. Gov.t Chinchona Plantation. Dy 20 June 62
Rec.d No. 1863 - ein.

Passing orders on letter from Mr. McIvor reporting that he has already tried the Cultivation of the Neilgherry Nettle, and that his experiments extended over a period of five years.

No 177 & 178.

L.