

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2505	Press
		Mis.
	354.355	
Dated	28-11-1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th November 1862.*

No. 354. Read the following letter from W. G. McIVOR, Esq., Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 22nd November 1862, No. 64:—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Order of Government No. 2,383, dated 11th instant, and the accompanying correspondence, I have the honor to inform you, that two Wardian cases are in course of preparation for transmission to Professor Lees, Calcutta.

2. The plants which I had the honor to forward to Mr. Lees, under the Order of Government, dated 24th May 1862, were in excellent condition when despatched from this, and they seem to have reached Calcutta in the same good order; when had they been despatched at once to their destination, in the Rangra Valley, and without being opened, I am convinced that notwithstanding the great heat of the season, that most of the plants would have reached their destination in safety.

3. It appears to me to be a most erroneous opinion to consider excess of water necessary for Chinchona plants, as so far as our experience teaches the reverse is certainly the case, as no plant is more impatient of an excess of moisture than the valuable species of Chinchona; especially when confined in Wardian cases. The reason of this is plain, because, in a Wardian case, there is comparatively neither evaporation or radiation from the surface of the leaves, hence the water in the soil can neither be drawn up, or thrown off by the plants, and must necessarily become stagnant and rot the roots; moreover, the Chinchonas are sub-Alpine plants, inhabiting mountainous countries, where any excessive fall of rain is rapidly drained off. The proper degree of moisture to be preserved in the soil at the roots of Chinchona plants in Wardian cases is one of the most difficult subject with which a gardener has to treat, and it appears to me that to insure success in this respect the soil should be watered sufficient to make it moist, but only to that degree of moisture that the particles will not adhere together when pressed with the hand, that is, the earth on being thrown down should be sufficiently dry to break and fall into its usual form. It is a good plan to open Wardian cases every morning and evening for about an hour, as giving the plants fresh air, contributes much to their health, but generally where there is not an experienced gardener to take charge of the plants, it is safest not to open the cases at all, but to forward them as quickly as possible to their destination.

No. 355.

ORDER THEREON, 28th November 1862, No. 2,505.

Communicated to Professor Lees.

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

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I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

J. M. Lee
Supt. Govt. Chin. Plantations

No. 2505

Com. to the Hon. Sec. of War

Wm. J. R.

Wm. J. R.

John W. George

280-2nd Ave. N. Dec. 1862

1862 To the Right Honorable Secretary of War

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