M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

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| G.O. No. 997 | Press ~~Mis.~~ |
| 135 - 136 | |
| Dated 7. 5. 1862. | |

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th May* 1862.

No. 135. Read the following letter from Mr. W. G. McIVOR, Superintendent Government Cinchona Plantations, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Deputy Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 16th April 1862, No. 125 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from G. Ouchterlony, Esq., addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 28th March 1862, and submitted to me for report by Order of Government under date the 9th April 1862, No. 788.

2. In reply, I beg to inform the Government that no increase of pay whatever has been made to the "ordinary laborers" on the Neddivuttum Plantation, and therefore Mr. Ouchterlony must have either misunderstood or must have been misinformed by the person who seemed to him to be "in some sort of charge of the plantations," the only increase made by me has been to men who perform a certain quantity of felling per diem, and those who are able to perform this task have had their pay increased from 4 Annas to 4½. This arrangement has produced the best results as the increase of pay given is less in proportion than the increase in the task; and while we thus stimulate our workmen to exertion we perform the work sooner, and cheaper, than on the old rate of pay. I may mention that at first a few of the strongest of our ordinary laborers endeavoured to perform this task; but could not accomplish it, about 30 Coorumbers only continuing daily to perform the allotted task, and these are the only men receiving an increase of pay.

3. In paragraph 1 of the letter under report Mr. Ouchterlony sets forth his knowledge of the sources from which correct information could have been obtained on the subject of his complaints, and that gentleman having elected to draw the information he lays before Government from a doubtful source, can only have arisen from the knowledge that no complaint whatever could have been founded on the facts of the case.

4. The main charge seems to lie in my "threatening to raise these" the wages "to any "amount necessary to secure labor for the Government work," but this it was either necessary to do, or to abandon the undertaking altogether; as it is obvious, work could not be performed without laborers. The subject of labor is one of a very delicate nature with all Coffee Planters; as the supply of this has for many years been far short of the demand; hence the commencement of any work in the neighbourhood of Coffee Plantations has been viewed with mingled jealousy and hatred; this feeling I knew we would have to encounter; and while I used every legitimate means and exertion in my power to obtain the necessary quantity of labor for our plantations, and exacted also from every Overseer and Maistry under me the same exertions to obtain this end, I expressly prohibited any attempt to draw laborers from any one; and towards Mr. Ouchterlony I have shown great consideration in this respect; and only recently two Maistries came from that gentleman's plantations offering to bring about ninety workmen, whom they stated were anxious to leave Mr. Ouchterlony as they had not received pay for more than three months; I directed Mr. Patmore the Head Overseer not to engage them unless really discharged by Mr. Ouchterlony.

5. In order that the Government may have some idea of the opposition offered by Coffee Planters in the neighbourhood, I may mention that Arthur Lascelles, Esq., both personally, and by agents deputed from his estate, threatened to set the lines of our Coorumbers on fire, and by other threats so intimidated a portion of the men as to cause them to run away. Major Scott also a Coffee Planter in the neighbourhood instigated a complaint against one of our Sub-Overseers, got him seized and imprisoned for three days; the Police authorities refusing to admit his friends to see him to arrange for bail, the case was investigated before the Sub-Magistrate of this Station when not a vestage of evidence could be adduced to establish the charge, the Overseer was told that he was acquitted, but no indemnification or apology was offered for the three days' rigorous and false imprisonment he was subjected to on a random charge. I do not mention these subjects as complaints, I know such actions cannot materially retard our operations; as by making judicious advances, and the equitable manner in which our

laborers are treated, combined with the punctuality with which they are paid; will in a short time overcome all obstacles that can be put in our way with reference to obtaining labor.

6. At present I am working the Dodabetta Plantation by laborers paid ½ Anna per diem less than the current rates prevailing in Ootacamund; and that the increase of labor has been in no way affected by the Cinchona cultivation is made quite apparent by reference to the Advertisements inserted as far back as nearly two years ago in our local papers (Ootacamund and Cochin papers) where 5 Annas per diem is offered to ordinary laborers to accept employment in the Coffee Estates on the Western Ghâts. A rate of pay much in excess of anything we have ever paid, or contemplate paying.

7. I have made inquiries with reference to the rates of pay prevailing on Mr. Ouchterlony's estates, and I am informed that for years, the pay given to ordinary laboring men varies from 5 to 7 Rupees per mensem, thus considerably in excess of the pay we give, that his contract rates for gathering crop are such, that an active and expert man can earn from 7 to 10 Annas per day, it would therefore appear, if labor has been raised in the neighbourhood of Goodaloor, "beyond their general and fair rate" the cause of such increase appears to be attachable to the Planters themselves.

No. 136. ORDER THEREON, 7th May 1862, No. 997.

1. In March last Mr. Ouchterlony complained to Government that serious injury was being inflicted upon the planting interests in the neighbourhood of Goodaloor, by the wanton manner in which the wages of labor were being raised beyond their general and fair rate upon the Cinchona plantation of Government, and by the seduction of coolies from private estates.

2. Mr. McIvor, to whom Mr. Ouchterlony's letter was forwarded for report, informs the Government that "no increase of pay whatever has been made to the *ordinary* laborers on the "Neddiwuttum plantation," that "the only increase made by" him "has been to men who perform "a certain quantity of felling per diem," and that "those who are able to perform this task have "had their pay increased from 4 Annas to 4½." He adds that only about 30 Coorumbers continue "daily to perform the allotted task, and these are the only men receiving an increase of pay."

3. As regards the other subject of complaint, Mr. McIvor assures the Government that he has "expressly prohibited any attempt to draw laborers from any one."

4. The Government are satisfied with Mr. McIvor's explanation on both points

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

strate of this Station when not a vestage of evidence could be adduced to establish the charge, the Overseer was told that he was acquitted but no indemnification or apology was offered for the three days rigorous and false imprisonment he was subjected to on a random charge. I do not mention these subjects as complaints, I know such actions cannot materially retard our operations; as by making judicious advances, and the equitable manner in which our laborers are treated, combined with the punctuality with which they are paid; will, in a short time overcome all obstacles that can be put in our way with reference to obtaining labor.

6. At present I am working the Dodabetta Plantation by laborers paid ½ Anna per diem less than the current rates prevailing in Ootacamund; and that the increase of labor has been in no way effected by the Cinchona cultivation is made quite apparent by reference to the Advertisements inserted as far back as nearly 2 years ago in our Local papers (Ootacamund and Cochin papers) where 5 Annas per diem is offered to ordinary laborers to accept employment in the Coffee Estates on the Western Ghauts. A rate of pay much in excess of anything we have ever paid, or contemplate paying.

7. I have made enquiries with reference to the rates of pay prevailing on Mr. Ouchterlony's Estates and I am informed that for years, the pay given to ordinary laboring men varies from 5 to 7 Rupees per mensem, thus considerably in excess of the pay we give, that his contract rates for gathering crop are such, that an active and expert man can earn from 7 to 10 Annas per day, it would therefore appear, if labor has been raised in the neighbourhood of Goodaloor "beyond their general & fair rate" the cause of such increase appears to be attachable to the Planters themselves.

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

J. McIvor

Supt. Govt. Cinchona Plantation

Revenue Departt.

No 997-

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 7th May 1862.

Read the following
letter from Mr W. G
McIvor Superintendent
Government Cinchona
Plantations -

Reports on Mr Quatterlonys
letter to Government complain-
ing of the high wages paid (Here enter 15 April 62)
by him to ordinary laborers
on working the Cinchona
Plantations -

In March last
Mr Quatterlony complained
to Government that serious
injury was being inflict-
ed upon the planting
interests in the neighbour-
hood of Goodalore by the
wanton manner in
which the wages of
labor were being raised
beyond their general
and fair rate upon
the Cinchona plantation
of

of Government and by the reduction of coolies from private Estates.

Mr McIvor to whom the Cricketers letter was forwarded for report, upon the Govt that "no increase of pay" whatever has been made to the ordinary laborers on the Estate" that "the only increase made by "him "has been to men who perform a certain quantity of felling per diem" and that "those who are able to perform this task have had their pay increased from 4 annas to 4½".

He adds that only about 30 Coorumbers continue "daily to perform the allotted task and these are the only men receiving an increase of pay."

As regards the other subject of complaint Mr McIvor avers the Government that he has "strictly prohibited any attempt to draw labourers from any one"

The Government are satisfied with Mr McIvors explanation on both points.

J. D.

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Copy to Mr Cricketers Dispt 8
" Sup. Tavoy Tenasserim Plantations

Mr McIvor's explanation
regarding high wages.

Received 1862 Dec 4th
Pro: of Govt for 6 days
1799

Pro: of Hudsons Bay Govt
Dated 6 day 1862

Relating orders on
Letter from Mr Mc Ivor
regarding his alleged
Letter complaining of the
high wages paid by the
Hudsons Bay Co to
workmen the Cariboo
Road Contractors

No 1357 / 36.

6-5/62