

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| G.O. No. <i>Ue 2</i> | <u>Press</u><br><u>Mis.</u> |
| <i>15</i>            |                             |
| Dated                | 3 . 8 . 19 <i>1863</i>      |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
3rd August 1863.*

No. 15. Read the following letter from W. G. McIVOR, Esq., Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations, Ootacamund, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 27th July 1863, No. 60:—

SIR,

1. In obedience to the Order of Government of the 21st July 1863, No. 1,351, I have the honor to report that I am unable to perceive any advantage likely to be derived by Government or the community by limiting the planting of Chinchonas to 50 Acres per annum instead of 150, especially at this moment when we are in a position to urge forward our operations not only with a certainty of success, but with the certainty of conferring great public benefit, by shortly placing in the market a supply of a medicine unequalled in its curative properties, at a time when the supply from South America is greatly decreasing. Moreover, we have now gained experience and a knowledge of the cultivation of the plants, and with this advantage to hand over the greater number of our plants to the management of an inexperienced public, could not conduce to the progress of the cultivation, but the reverse.

2. The Government have already very liberally met the wishes of the public to a great extent, and at a considerable sacrifice to the progress of our Chinchona cultivation. In compliance with the G.O. dated 16th April 1861, No. 855, fully one-half of the seeds we received were distributed to Coffee planters and others, who wished to "try and rear them." Not a single plant was reared from these seeds; whereas had they been retained here the plants produced from them and increased by propagation would nearly have doubled our present stock.

3. In addition upwards of 3,000 plants have already been distributed to the public, and nearly two-thirds of these have been lost; and we would not be justified in expecting a better result until the public acquire a knowledge of the treatment of the plants; this they will be some time in gaining as there is a tendency to attribute each failure to the plants "being unhealthy" or to "something in the climate," instead of to the generally true cause, viz., a want of knowledge of their management. We have placed the public in possession of all the knowledge we have attained in this respect; yet they have the practice to learn, and before this is accomplished there will be many disappointments and failures. Applications have been registered for 100,000 plants, which I trust to be able to supply in 1864-65, and this number with those already issued is certainly sufficient to enable the public to gain experience, when it is considered that we commenced on the 9th May 1861 with only 1,128 plants.

4. The propagation of the plants has always received our greatest attention, being from the first pushed to the greatest extent practicable, but the multiplication of these plants by propagation entirely depends upon the increase of our stock of plants, as there is always a limit to the supply of wood from which to make cuttings; and each plant which is added to our stock consequently adds to the production of wood and to our means of propagation; while, on the contrary, the moment we begin to issue plants extensively to the public our means of propagation are decreased, as the cuttings produced by the plants issued are lost to us; it is therefore impracticable to increase our propagation and at the same time extensively distribute our plants to the public.

No. 16. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1863, No. 1,442.

1. The Government resolve to make no change in the extent of land ordered to be annually planted.

2. They resolve also to bring under the consideration of the Home Government the advisability of making arrangements for the manufacture of Quinine in this country.

(True Extract.)

*Secretary to Government.*

To the Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2  
plants have already been distributed to the  
public, and nearly two thirds of these have  
been lost; and we would not be justified  
in expecting a better result, until the  
public acquire a knowledge of the treat-  
-ment of the plants; thus, they will be  
some time in gaining as there is a ten-  
-dency to attribute each failure to the  
plants "being unhealthy" or to "something in  
the climate" instead of to the generally  
true cause, namely a want of knowledge  
of their management. We have placed  
the public in possession of all the knowledge  
we have attained in this respect, yet they  
have the practice to learn, and before this  
is accomplished there will be many  
disappointments and failures. Applications  
have been registered for 100,000 plants  
which I trust to be able to supply  
in 1864 '65. and this number with  
those already issued is certainly suffi-  
-cient to enable the public to gain ex-  
-perience, when it is considered that  
we

we commenced on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1851 with  
only 1128 plants.

4. The propagation of the plants  
has always received our greatest attention,  
being from the first pushed to the great-  
est extent practicable, but, the immen-  
se multiplication of these plants in propagation  
entirely depends upon the increase of  
our stock of plants, as there is always  
a limit to the supply of wood from which  
to make cuttings, and each plant when  
it is added to our stock consequently adds  
to the production of wood and to our means  
of propagation, while, on the contrary  
the moment we begin to issue plants  
extensively to the public our means of  
propagation are decreased, as the cuttings  
produced by the plants issued are lost to  
us, it is therefore impracticable to increase  
our propagation and at the same time  
extensively distribute our plants to  
the public.

This is I think evidence  
of the reduction of  
Plantations - I think also  
that we may have well as  
the foundation of the  
other, except the means  
of the plantation.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obedient servant

R. M. L.

Superintendent Govt  
Colonial Plantations

