M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1522 Press ~~Mis.~~

178-179

Dated 18-8-~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th August 1863.

No. 178. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department:—

Passing orders on a letter from the Government of India, relative to the expediency of encouraging the cultivation of the Bêl tree in this Presidency. } (Here enter 12th August 1863, No. 2,597.)

No. 179. ORDER THEREON, 18th August 1863, No. 1,522.

Referred to the Officiating Conservator of Forests who will submit at an early date a report of the nature alluded to in paragraph 3 of the foregoing Order of Government.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests with G. O. Military Department, 9th August. No 2597.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters:—

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 17th July 1863, *No.* 467; *to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.*

With reference to letter from this Office, No. 1086, dated 30th November 1859, I am directed to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, copy of my letter of this date, No. 466, to Lieutenant Pogson, Bengal Invalid Establishment, informing him that the Government of India does not consider it necessary to take any steps towards the introduction of the Bêl Powder prepared by him into Military Hospitals.

2. I am at the same time to transmit copy of a letter, No. 188, dated 3rd ultimo, from the Officiating Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, relative to the expediency of encouraging the cultivation of the Bêl tree in the Madras Presidency, and to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council may be moved to take the subject into consideration, should it not already have been considered by the Government of Fort Saint George.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Fort William, 17th July 1862, *No.* 466; *to Lieutenant Pogson.*

Having submitted to Government your letter, dated 16th May last, I am directed to acquaint you, that the Honorable the President in Council considers that any further trial of the Compound Bêl Powder prepared by you, or its introduction into Military Hospitals, is unnecessary; the Medical Authorities consulted being of opinion that greater benefit is derived from the fresh fruit than from the powder, and quite as much from the fruit simply dried, whilst the latter, it has been found, quickly becomes mouldy.

2. I am further to intimate that this decision must be considered final.

From the Officiating Principal Inspector General Medical Department, Fort William, 3rd June 1863, *No.* 188; *to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department.*

Letter dated 16th May 1863, *from Lieutenant Pogson, Her Majesty's Bengal European Invalid Battalion, with enclosures.*

With reference to your Office Docket, No. 624, dated 1st instant, forwarding, for my opinion, the documents marginally noted, on the subject of giving Lieutenant Pogson's Compound Bêl Powder a fair and impartial trial, on the plan originated by the Medical Officers of the Madras Presidency, I beg very respectfully to submit, for the consideration of the Honorable the President in Council, that there can be no question of the useful effects of Bêl in correcting derangements of the stomach and bowels. But the fresh pulp is better, than any preparation that can be made of it, because in preparing it, the essential oil, on which its properties depend, is more or less dissipated.

2. In this Presidency, the fruit fortunately lasts throughout the season of the year when Diarrhœa most prevails, and therefore there is less necessity for the preserved Bêl. But, if it is to be preserved, slicing and drying the fruit is all that is necessary, and this can be done by Hospital servants.

3. Lieutenant Pogson's Compound Powder is unquestionably useful, but it does not keep well, nor is it better, in my opinion, than the fresh or the sliced fruit dried.

4. The Principal Medical Store-keeper to Government informs me that he last year sent to Lieutenant Pogson's Agent for a quantity, in order to supply an Indent made upon his Department from Madras, but every tin was bad and mouldy, and had to be returned. Under these circumstances, I do not recommend to Government to incur the expense which would be entailed by its supply to European Hospitals generally in Bengal.

5. If provision is to be made for Troops, the best way would be to plant orchards of Bêl in suitable localities in the vicinity of European Cantonments and Native Cities where it is not at present found, and I may observe that this has been privately suggested to Mr. Forsyth, Commissioner of Lahore, and the suggestion may have already been partly acted upon.

6. In the Madras Presidency, where the fresh Bêl is not procurable, its cultivation should be carefully attended to, and in the meanwhile the powder or sliced fruit is no doubt of more value than it is here.

The documents are herewith returned as requested.

ORDER, No. 2597, 12*th August* 1863.

Communicated to the Principal Inspector General Medical Department, also to the Quarter Master General, with reference to paragraph 3 of Order of Government, No. 2094, dated 29th June 1863.

2. The Governor in Council observes that the statement in paragraph 6 of Dr. McClelland's letter that the fresh Bêl is not procurable in this Presidency, is not altogether correct, the tree being found in Mysore, and also in other Districts under this Government.

Vide Drury's useful Plants of India, page 17.

3. The Conservator of Forests will, however, be requested, through the Revenue Department, to report on this subject and to suggest such measures for the distribution of plants and the culture of the trees in Military Stations as may appear to be necessary.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Principal Inspector General Medical Department.
" Quarter Master General.
" Revenue Department. With 30 spare Copies
" Controller of Military Finance, for information.

Exd. R. Stephenson.

35 8:70

Received 1863 Oct.
Pro: of Govt for Augt.
No. 1924.

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt in the
Judicial Dept.

Dated 12th August
Received 15th Sept 1863.

No. 259.

From the Offg Conservator of
Forests dated 8th September 1863
No. 2156 – with Pro.

Passing orders on a
letter from the Government of
India, relative to the expediency
of encouraging the cultivation
of the Date tree in this Presidency.

No. 1784/79.

No. 1522.

Referred to the Officiating Conservator of Forests who will submit at an early date a report of the nature alluded to in para 3 of the foregoing order of Govt.

Fort St. George
18th August 1863.

No. 1522 dated 8th August
With an order

No. 1522.

4 Copies to the Offg Conservator of Forests with G.O.M. Dated 12th August 1863.