M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2074 Press ~~Mis.~~

927.228

Dated 19—11—~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th November 1863.

No. 227. Read the following letter from J. FISCHER, Esq., to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Salem, 12th November 1863:—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Minutes by the Members of Government "on Native agriculture," and the Order of Government thereon, dated 6th instant, No. 1,994, published in the "Madras Times" of the 9th idem, I have the honor respectfully to submit the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. The subject of encouraging the growth of firewood on waste lands is of sufficient importance to receive the *earnest* attention of Government. Before the organization of the Conservancy Department, such extensive devastations of forest had taken place that, considering the influence of trees on a climate, it is not a matter of surprise there has been so sad a diminution in the fall of rain, with its attendant evils.

3. Though Government have now prevented the wholesale destruction of forest, I am not aware that they have adopted any means for planting trees of all kinds, *on an extensive scale, wherever* clearings have taken place, and on waste lands.

4. The Officers of the Forest and Public Works Department might, I think, be entrusted with the duty of planting trees, not only *wherever* forest has been cleared, but on *all* waste lands; especially near villages, on the side of rivers, streams, irrigation channels, &c., on the bunds of tanks, in the compounds attached to public buildings, &c., following the plan so successfully carried out by Mr. E. B. Thomas, late Collector of Coimbatore.

5. And there can be little doubt that all the Officers abovenamed would cheerfully carry out the instructions of Government and plant trees in the localities I have suggested, if they could but be provided with the requisite number of plants for the purpose. The question then arrises, how are the plants to be provided?

6. The Agri-Horticultural Society might be instructed to form extensive nurseries of plants for distribution, gratis; nurseries might also be formed in each Talook, under the superintendence of the Tahsildars, and the plants distributed by them to *bonâ fide* cultivators, and it would also be desirable to establish nurseries in localities garrisoned by European troops, and at stations occupied by detachments of Sappers and Miners.

7. *Especially at all hill stations throughout the Presidency* should, I respectfully submit, the *extensive* planting of trees engage the most serious attention of Government.

8. Government might also, I respectfully submit, provide European and Native merchants, Zemindars, and other landed proprietors, with seeds of timber and ornamental trees, or young plants in furtherance of their wishes.

9. If Government will be pleased to act upon this last suggestion, and will direct that supplies of seeds of useful timber and ornamental trees be sent to me occasionally, I shall be happy to sow them and to plant the trees *wherever* I possibly can, or given them to *bonâ fide* cultivators.

10. The Australian Acacia might with great advantage be planted extensively on the Shevaroy Hills, and the Casuarina in the low country.

11. My object in submitting these remarks for the consideration of Government is, if possible, to further the liberal views and intentions expressed by them in paragraph 2 of the Order above quoted.

No. 228. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1863, No. 2,074.

1. Forwarded to the Board of Revenue, who will procure seeds and young plants of trees adapted for firewood for Mr. Fischer.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th November 1863.

2. Mr. McIvor will be requested to forward a supply of seeds of the Australian Acacias to the Collector of Salem for distribution to Mr. Fischer and others.

3. The Government will be prepared to sanction the establishment of nurseries in the Districts, and the Board will communicate with Collectors on the subject.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Superintendent Government Gardens, Ootacamund.
To J. Fischer, Esq.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Bo Brown/63 h:63 c:86.

Ref:- 2074. Recd 18th Sept 1863

Forwarded Encl: of Portsmouth No 2765

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from

Mr. Jn. Fischer

Salem

dated 12th Nov: 1863.

Recd 16th " "

Encl: one

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