M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 168	Press ~~Mis.~~
287.288	
Dated 28 - 1 - ~~19~~ 1864	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th January 1864.

No. 287. Read the following letter from H. D. RAE, Esq., to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 14th January 1864:—

SIR,

1. I have just heard with the deepest regret that it is the intention of Government to start a Tea Plantation here for the purpose of supplying the public with seeds and seedlings gratis.

2. An article in the last received number of the "Neilgherry Excelsior" I herewith beg to annex, as it contains views on this subject which I earnestly trust will be adopted on a re-consideration of the case. I need hardly remark that the article in question was not written or in any way suggested by me.

3. I have the honor herewith also to annex two advertisements in late issues of the above-mentioned newspaper (which appeared, the first of them, nearly two months back), from which it will be observed that persons entering into the cultivation of Tea are offered the opportunity of so doing by the purchase from me of plants of all ages and varieties "*sufficient to stock several Estates*," and that too at rates far cheaper than Chinchonas are being offered to the public, for whereas Mr. McIvor sells his Chinchona *cuttings* and his Tea *cuttings* at 4 Annas each (which is twelve times my price for the latter), yet he is quite unable to offer *seedlings* of either at all. But, apart from this comparative question, I beg most humbly and earnestly to point out that I have spent a large fortune and got together an Estate three years and a few months old, containing nearly three lacs of Tea plants, nearly all of which, covering an area of seventy acres, has just come into bearing. All this I have done during about the last three and half years, and I voluntarily and with the knowledge of Government have faced the grave risk of the experiment not proving successful, that my reward (if successful) might be proportioned to the merit and risk of my enterprize: it is, therefore, with indiscribable grief and the greatest alarm that I now learn that the result of my success is to bring the Government into the field for the avowed purpose of doing away with nearly the whole of my profits.

4. Had the proposition been that the Government desired to purchase my Estate of me* *pro bono publico* no one would then have any cause of complaint, for then the Government plantation would be so very far ahead of private enterprize that all parties could be aided equally and from the outset, whereas by Government commencing operations now *ab initio* it would take *four years* before seeds and seedlings could be distributed from it. Further, there are now *seven* Tea plantations just begun and already exclusively devoted to this cultivation; and I am acquainted with upwards of thirty gentlemen who have placed themselves in communication with me with a view to prosecuting this cultivation. Thus ere these four years terminate there is the prospect of there being quite as many Tea plantations on the Neilgherries as there are Coffee estates round about. Therefore also in this point of view, it is very questionable whether the aid of Government will then be needed for this cultivation, any more than it is now, when people can buy plants on the spot at rates much cheaper than the Chinchonas, or can please themselves by purchasing seed from Assam as I have done; and I humbly submit that I perceive no hardship in persons procuring seeds from Assam (a week's journey from this) at the same price that people on the spot have to pay for it.

* I would sell it for one lac of Rupees. I have refused Rupees 80,000 for it.

5. Where it to become generally known that the Government have now started a Tea plantation *ab initio* for the avowed purpose of distributing seeds and seedlings gratis to all applicants from and after 1868, I question very seriously whether this announcement would not tend most materially to retard the cultivation till then, if not after it also. Firstly, those who are about to enter into the cultivation, but have not yet done so, would, on hearing the above announcement, naturally wait till they can get their seeds and plants gratis, rather then begin sooner by purchasing them; secondly, as the profits from seed are greater than from leaf, many of these may be deterred from entering at all into a cultivation so much less attractive than would have

been the case if there were no Government competition. Tea cultivation just now without Government competition is much more remunerative than that of Coffee; but, if the Government start the Tea plantation they propose, then Coffee will become the more remunerative of the two, and few will go into Tea while the Government plantation continues in existence.

6. In conclusion, I beg to call your attention to the correspondence contained in the last Blue Book upon Tea (dated 12th March 1863), where, from pages 8 to 11, it will be observed that the late Court of Directors in the first place, and more recently the Secretary of State, have, both of them, refused to sanction the formation of a Government Tea Plantation in Cachar on the plea that it "would be superfluous and be attended with no advantage" owing to the cultivation there having been already taken up by private enterprize.

7. The favor of an early reply, if possible, is earnestly solicited, as, if my humble objections are overruled, I would crave the indulgence of being allowed to memorialize the Secretary of State through the Local Government.

No. 288. ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1864, No. 148.

1. Mr. Rae has been misinformed in one important respect, as Government have no intention of supplying Tea seed gratuitously from their plantation.

2. The Government have received numerous applications for seed, and have not only experienced great difficulty in procuring it from the Government plantations in Northern India, but also have found that a very large proportion of that procured lost its germinating qualities before it reached its destination. The approaching sale of those plantations will place it out of the power of Government to obtain seed which they can issue with confidence that it is of really approved varieties. Under these circumstances they have determined on opening a small plantation, for the purpose of growing seed, of experimenting on the best methods of culture, and, if circumstances render it desirable hereafter, of affording instruction in the culture and manufacture of Tea, to the employés of planters. The seed will not be distributed gratuitously, but sold at cost price *plus* a fair profit, and if instruction is hereafter afforded, payment will be required on the same principle.

3. The Government have treated Mr. Rae with much liberality, have granted him 210 Acres of land rent free for seven years, and thereafter subject to a payment of only one Rupee per acre and have gratuitously procured manipulators for him from Bengal, and, as he himself states, he has already been offered 80,000 Rupees for his plantation. The Government are glad to learn that his enterprise has been so successful, but they cannot at all admit that the liberality extended to him should prevent them from aiding other parties in any way they deem expedient.

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

Tea Seedlings for Sale.
One year old China plants.

OVER 10,000.....4 Annas each.
Over 5,000.....5 Annas each.
Over 1,000.....6 Annas each.
Over 500.....8 Annas each.
Over 100.....12 Annas each.
Under 100.....1 Rupee each.

Other plants at prices that can be learnt on application. Orders registered on half payment in advance being made. Applications will be met in the order of registration. Plants can be mossed and delivered at any part of the Neilgherries at an extra cost, which will depend on distance. Cuttings (which are not recommended,) can also be had at the estate, for striking, at 4 annas per dozen.

For further particulars apply to Mr. H. D. RAE.

guate character. We wi
such a slur upon educationa
in India as to say that the
all in question should not assume
"local name and habitation" amongst
s. It will prove a trophy of what
isinterested Englishmen are compe-
ent to accomplish in a land antago-
istic to them in every possible way,
nd serve as a memento to a man
who wasted bodily strength and mental
nergy, in a long course of self denying
nd benevolent labour. The subscrip-
ions in Madras, when the above let-

TEA SEEDLINGS FOR SALE.

TEA seedlings of all ages, sizes, and varieties, sufficient to stock several Estates, will be available for sale at Mr. Rae's Tea Plantation near Sholoor, during the monsoons of 1864. A sliding scale of prices from 4 annas upwards will be advertised in this paper, in February next. Orders now registered: applications will be met in the order of registration. Half payment in advance will be required, and the balance on the plants being issued. Plants can be packed in moss, and delivered anywhere on the Neilgherries *at an extra charge*. Cuttings *ad infinitum* may also be had for striking, but this mode of propagation is condemned by all authorities on tea, for reasons that may most evidently be gathered by the inspection of some of these *tipless* plants at the Sholoor Estate—cuttings three years in bed there, being less forward than seedlings a year old.

Applications for seedlings to be addressed to the care of Captain Daly, Ootacamund.

...ll so appear in the Journals under ...mmediate charge?

Local.

Ootacamund.

The Mail.—The hour of closing the mail here, it appeared to us, was very unwisely altered to a quarter to 5 P. M. It will be seen from our Madras Correspondent's letter, that down to the time of his writing, seven o'clock on last Saturday evening, our issue of the previous Thursday had not reached him. There can be no doubt but that the slightest difficulty in descending the Coonoor Ghat, will always make the mail too late for the morning train leaving Pothanoor, and we would therefore suggest to Colonel Pears a return to the old time of ½ past 3 P. M.

Civil Dispensary.—It will be seen from a notice in our advertisement columns, that the meeting for forwarding the interests of this Institution

Ootacamund.

Tea.—We have been told that it is the intention of the Government to open a tea plantation in Ootacamund, for the purpose of supplying intending tea planters with tea seed. The measure stands in strange contrast with the abolition of the Government tea plantations in the North West Provinces of Bengal. Those plantations have been discontinued, evidently with the object of promoting private enterprise. We have such enterprise here, and we protest against the Government interfering with it. Major Mann, and Mr. Rae, have expended large sums of money in organising tea plantations, and although they may now be indisposed to sell tea seed, it does not follow that they will be equally so by the time the Government plantation has been brought to maturity. The probability is that, they will then be but too ready to sell their seed, having overcome the difficulties which now attend their enterprise. At all events, a sufficient time should be allowed the growers of tea in Ootacamund to realise the fortunes they have laid out in their plantations. If at the expiration of this time, tea seed should be as scarce as it is now, there will be a legitimate opportunity for Government interference. At present there is no necessity for any thing of the kind, and we accordingly raise our voice against the proposed Government tea plantation. Another circumstance worthy of consideration is, that Mr. McIvor, an experienced planter, will be brought into competition with novices in the art. This will not be fair, for the present tea growers have been obliged to trace their course, step by step, and they will have to contest with a man whose perfect knowledge will be a great advantage over their infantile experience. "Live, and let live," should be the motto of the Government. They have introduced Chinchona cultivation on the Neilgherries; this should be sufficient to satisfy their ambition for renown. Tea is just now in the hands of private adventurers: they should be allowed to make the most of their very spirited undertaking. If this protest is not attended to, we will not shrink from urging it, till the interests of those whose cause we advocate is admitted to a place in the deliberations of the powers that be.

...pel diseases, and prolong existence.

News.

Aberdeen.

The prominent event of the past fortnight has been the inauguration, by the Queen, of the late Prince Consort's Statue at Aberdeen, on the 13th instant. The circumstance of this being the first public act of her Majesty since her bereavement, has given an importance to her visit to Aberdeen which it would not otherwise have merited. She had long intended to take this opportunity of doing honor to the memory of the Prince Consort, and when the statue was completed signified her pleasure to that effect to the Lord Provost. The inauguration was to have taken place on the preceding Friday had not an accident, which occurred to the Queen a few days before, compelled her to put it off. She was returning in a pony carriage, accompanied by two of the Princesses from Loch Minck. It being dusk, the postillion got off the road and the carriage was upset. The Queen who was pitched the furthest was thrown against a stone and blackened her eye. She also sprained her thumb rather badly. The Princesses received no injury. The party had ridden on ponies to Loch Minck, and the man who was taking them back, after proceeding some distance along the road without hearing the sound of wheels, fancied that something must have occurred and went back to see ch. He soon found the royal party who rode hor a distance of five miles, on the ponies thus portunately brought. The groom whose intelligence enabled him to be of such timely assistance has received a watch from the Queen as a reward. It is said that when the pony carriage was upset, the postillion instead of going to the assistance of his royal mistress, sat down and bemoaned his traces saying in the most pleading and melancholy voice "Oh my poor traces, Don't cut my poor traces, they are the only good pair I have here." Notwithstanding the

Revenue Department

No. 148.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 28th January 1864.

Read the following

letter from Mr. A. D. Rae.

Objecting to the proposed establishment of a Government Tea Plantation at Ootacamund.

(Here enter 14th Jan.y 1864)

Mr. Rae has been misinformed in one important respect as Govt. have no intention of supplying tea seed gratuitously from their plantation.

The Government have received numerous applications for seed and have not only experienced great difficulty in procuring it

Question for Govt. Establishing a Tea Plantation on the Hills. Ten are already established and the more facility of procuring seed when ten are ready & getting it from other sources is hardly sufficient to justify such an undertaking as all events it should be narrowly restricted. I do not think that Mr. Rae has any right to complain of interference but if he has so many plants for sale the want of the district from would seem to be met I don't like this

from the Government plantations in Northern India but a very large proportion of that procured lost its germinating qualities before it reached its destination. The approaching sale of those plantations will place it out of the power of Government to obtain seed which they can ifore with confidence that it is of really approved varieties. Under these circumstances they have determined on opening a small plantation for the purpose of growing seed of experimenting on the best

In plantation either which seems to me to offend against sound principle for the next month in matters which can be sufficiently accomplished by private agency. I must have overlooked para 4 of the order of 23 Dec 2a to when it came to me How I suppose it is too late to alter one letter now, but as the Govt is to bring forward a measure certainly - In Railway is the best

JM.

methods of culture and, if circumstances render it desirable hereafter of affording instruction in the culture and manufacture of Tea, to the employés of planters. The seed will not be distributed gratuitously, but sold at cost price plus a fair profit, and if instruction is hereafter afforded, payment will be required on the same principle.

The Government have treated Mr. Raën with much liberality, have granted him 240 acres of land rent free for 5 years and

and thereafter subject to a payment of only 1 Rupee per acre- and have gratuitously procured manipulators for him from Bengal- and, as he himself states, he has already been offered 80,000 Rs. for his plantation. The Government are glad to learn that his enterprise has been so successful- but they cannot, at all add: mit that the liberality extended to him should prevent them from aiding other parties in any way they deem expedient

20/5 to

to the trivial extent of enabling them to obtain by purchase- seed which they may be sure is fresh and of good kinds.

1 Copy to H.E. Rae Esqre Capt. & Q.M.G.
10 Copies - Bd of Revenue
1 - Aby Collr of Coimbatore

Revenue 1864 Dept.

Pro: of Govt for Jany:

N. 148.

Pro: of the Madras Govt:

D/ 28th Jany: /64.

Further Pro: 4 April 1864 N 562

Mr Rae informed them it is proposed to establish a Govt Tea Plantation at Ooty-

N. 287 & 288.

19 Jany/64 Rec.