M.E.O. 14—18,000—27-6-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1946 Press Mis.

964. 26s

Dated 22-10-18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd October 1864.

No. 264. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Ooty, 26th September 1864, No. 1,085 :—

SIR,

1. In reply to the Government Order No. 1,165, of the 6th of July last, I have the honor to offer the following information.

2. It is a generally received idea that the bamboo seeds periodically and then dies, I have not however been able to prove this fact from observation. I have been most constantly in the larger bamboo forests of the Anamallays, the Wynád, and our other western forests during the last eight years, and have constantly (I may almost say every year) observed them more or less in seed, during the dry hot months, but I have never observed any diminution, the clumps contain often eighty to hundred culms, and it is very probable that each culm may seed after reaching maturity and then die down, this might be the case without any decrease being observable; but I do not believe that whole forests of bamboo seed at stated periods and then die down, in almost every clump culms may be seen at every stage of growth.

3. During the last hot season the seeding was greater both in the Anamallays and in the Wynád than has been known for many years, there is however no appearance of any diminution of these forests in either of these tracts, the forests are as dense and the clumps as large and vigorous as ever.

4. In the Anamallays the Kaders and Malcers and the people in the low country eat of the seed freely, and say that it is a good substitute for rice; but that it does not agree with those who are not accustomed to it, and that eating too freely of it is apt to bring on dysentry. During this last season the Kaders and Malcers collected a large quantity and stored it to be used during the monsoon.

5. The Kurambers in Wynád eat freely of it; they state that it is heating and apt to bring on dysentry and fever.

6. The young tender shoots of the bamboo are eaten by all natives as a vegetable.

7. The Kaders in the Anamallays state, that when the bamboo is in seed, fever is more rife in the forests; it must be remembered however that the bamboo seeds just at the most feverish season.

8. There can be no doubt that bamboo jungles are feverish, but then the bamboo is always found in the most feverish localities, *i. e.*, from the foot of the hills up to 3,000 feet elevation. I have always found those localities and elevations equally feverish whether the forest was composed of bamboo, teak or any other tree.

9. The bamboo is very largely planted for its beauty in many stations in Bengal; in Jubulpore the compounds are full of it, this would hardly be the case if it was found to promote fever.

10. In all the above remarks I allude to the "Bambusa Arundinacea"—(Willd.) or the common large thorny bamboo.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 265. From J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, dated 22nd October 1864, No. 1,946.

SIR,

Forests, No. 15.

1. With reference to Mr. Under Secretary Jacomb's letter of 17th June 1864, No. 2,274 B, I am directed to forward, for submission to your Government, the accompanying letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 26th ultimo, No. 1,085, furnishing information relative to the seeding of the Bamboo, &c.

2. The Board of Revenue have also been desired to obtain the fullest information procurable on the subject; their report, when received, will be duly forwarded.

Bombay 1864 Dec.
Rec.d from Govt. for Action

Bo. Gen.l Dept. Miscellaneous
No. 2 Acknowledged

Rec.d 22 Dec.r 1864

No. 1946.

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of Bombay

Sir,

With reference to Mr Under Secretary Lacon's letter of 17 June 1864 No 2274 B, I am directed to forward, for submission to your Govt, the accompanying letter from the Offg Conservator of Forests dated 26 ultimo No 1085 furnishing information relative to the seeding of the Bamboo Tree

2. The Board of Revenue have also been desired to obtain the fullest information procurable on the subject; their Report, when received, will be duly forwarded.

I have &c.

First Ast. Secy
22 Dec.r 64

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Revenue Dept.
Pro. of Govt. for Octr.

c fo 1646.

To the Secretary
o the Govt. of Bombay
22nd Octr. /64.

Pro. No. 188-90
6-7-64

Furnishing inform
:tion on seeding of bam
boo tree

c fo 264 & 265.