

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 574

Press

~~Mis.~~

83.84

Dated

5. 4. 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th April 1864.*

No. 83. Read the following letter from Captain HENRY MANN, to J. D. SIM, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Mercara,
Coorg, 15th February 1864:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request that you will submit the following circumstances, and my application founded thereupon, for the, as I trust, favorable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. Having spent a long period of years in trading in the China seas, my attention had become directed to the cultivation of *Tea*, and having been induced to consider that the Neilgherry Hills presented a favorable locality for the cultivation of the plant, I, about ten years ago, determined to take steps for prosecuting it.

3. Accordingly, while in the north of China, I took advantage of the opportunity thus afforded, and in conjunction with my friend Mr. Fortune, made a selection of seeds from some of the best varieties of the China shrub, and brought them down to Hongkong. Here they were sown in Wardian cases, and these sent by Steamer to Calcutta.

4. Arrived at Calcutta the seeds were found to have germinated and developed seedlings in such quantity, that a large additional number of Wardian cases had to be provided, into which the excess was transplanted, and the whole again sent by Steamer to Madras. From Madras the cases were forwarded to the Neilgherry Hills by carts with posted Bullocks, i. e., by what is familiarly called "transit."

5. I enter into these details for the purpose of showing to the Government how entirely I was in earnest, for I omitted no precaution that could ensure the arrival of the plants at their destination in good condition, and it will be readily perceived that such a mode of transit involved a very heavy expenditure.

6. My plants arrived at the Hills in April 1854; and I then expected (I think with some reason) that my difficulties in respect of carrying out the cultivation would cease. I had fully 250,000 healthy seedling plants of the best variety of China Tea; and this, with the expense I had gone to, and the proof affordable of my having ample capital to conduct the culture, proved that I was in earnest in my design, and seemed to guarantee fair, not to say liberal aid at the hands of the authorities, to my bold, because novel, enterprise.

7. But my disappointment in this was grievous, and the loss I may presume to say to the Government and public as well as to myself lamentable. For long weary months I strove to obtain land suitable for putting out my Tea plants in, but encountered only objections, difficulties and impediments. And all this while I had the bitter mortification of seeing the plants rotting and dying off in their cases, until, with a remnant of but a few thousands, I had to resort to the extreme measure of sending them across the Hills and down into the valley below Neddiwuttum, where a Superintendent planted them out and saved these last few thousands from destruction.

8. At last, after much delay and restrictive reservations on the part of the Engineer of the Jackatallah Barracks, a grant of land at Coonoor (dated the 18th December 1854) was made to me, being about 130 Acres in extent, of which 5 or so were forest and the rest grass land. I was to hold it *three* years free of kist, but I was not to cut the little timber or use water without the sanction of the District authorities. This sanction was ultimately given on the 20th June 1855; but what did it amount to?

9. I cut a channel to "use the water" by bringing it to my nursery ~~but~~ but it, the water, was shortly after required for some purposes of the Barracks, so it was ~~cut~~ cut off from me and my nursery plants killed in numbers in consequence! I might cut down trees, but I was not to remove them. They were the property of the Barracks, for firewood, which they retained full power to saw, cut and cart away; they could make charcoal also on the spot; and in fact this use of a forest of 5 Acres, nominally assigned to me on kist, has been going on ever since; and his Excellency in Council will understand with how little power of cultivation on my part, when it affords the opportunity of people straying about the place on the plea of being Contractors or

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such like for firewood, or charcoal burners, and of turning bullocks adrift at the risk of injuring the Tea bushes, and certainly of doing more or less damage.

10. However, such as it was, I went to the fresh expense of taking up all the plants that had been put out below Neddiwuttum, carrying them back across the Hills, and re-planting them on the land at Coonoor. This remnant was of the paltry number of about 7,000.

11. Finding the absolute necessity of having some forest land for my nurseries if I was to carry on the cultivation of Tea with the prospect of success, I, in September 1855, requested the Collector to grant me a piece of forest land of moderate extent near Burliar for this purpose. I reminded him of my heavy loss of Tea plants before, and I told him that I was about returning to China and purpose to bring a farther supply of them, but that before incurring so serious an expense, I must be assured of having land to plant them out in.

12. On the 27th September the Collector wrote to ask, with reference to the "great opposition" of the Government to the destruction of the forests, whether I would defer cutting down "any portion of forest" granted to me till it had been "ascertained" that my then Tea plants would give "good Tea."

13. I replied on the 29th idem, that if the land were granted I would engage to comply with his wish.

14. On the 10th October the Collector answered my application formally. He could not "recommend so much forest" as requested (20 Acres) "to be doomed to destruction." But he would recommend that I might sell "2 Cawnies as a nursery," and that more should be given hereafter, but upon the clear understanding that, until the success of the existing experiment were fairly tested, I should not touch a tree beyond the "2 Cawnies."

15. On the 20th December 1855 the Board of Revenue was pleased to pass orders that "under the circumstances represented" the Collector was authorized to grant me "2 Cawnies of forest land on the Neilgherry Hills for a nursery for Tea plants on the conditions proposed!"

16. Thus disappointed, foiled and thwarted at every turn, I was driven to the virtual abandonment of my desired enterprise. I beg his Excellency in Council to consider that the quantity of plants I had brought successfully to the Neilgherry Hills would have filled a large Plantation; that it was no experimental nursery but a cultivation on a large scale that I was prepared for, and that if, on the one hand, it proved successful, Tea would have at once become an *established culture* on the Neilgherry Hills to the profit alike of the Government and the public, the former in the unlimited sale of its waste lands adapted for the purpose, and the latter in the opening to it of a new and valuable branch of industry; while on the other if resulting in failure, not only would the loss have fallen exclusively upon myself, but it must have been most serious and damaging in its extent.

17. But the haggling (I hope I may be forgiven the term) over a paltry "2 Cawnies" of land seemed to show me that the limit had not even yet arrived to the loss of time, labor and money, the anxiety and mortification experienced in my pursuit of the cultivation of Tea on the Neilgherries, and I dared not sacrifice the interests of my family in doing what I had intended, and of which I informed the Collector, viz., in despite of all, and having brought a further supply of Tea plants from China, I was compelled to direct my attention elsewhere.

18. Coorg attracted me, and I was induced to enter upon the cultivation of *Coffee* in that country. Since that time I have planted out, for myself and in conjunction with friends, 2,000 Acres of *Coffee* in Coorg, which I mention not in any idle spirit of boasting, but simply to convince the Government that I was earnest in what I undertook, and that I had the command of ample means for carrying out to a similar extent the cultivation of Tea.

19. Relieved at this day from the urgency of outlays upon this *Coffee* cultivation in Coorg, I recur to my early predilection for that of Tea, and I venture to come before Government in the hope that it will give its consideration to all the circumstances in which I have been placed, and that it will feel justified in according to me the favorable position I am about to solicit, both as the pioneer of Tea culture on the Neilgherry Hills and as one who is in a position to

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deserve that encouragement, which it may perhaps now be conceded that he had some fair reason to look for at an earlier period.

20. Notwithstanding my engrossing occupation on Coorg, I have persevered in keeping up the cultivation of the little plot of Tea in Coonoor, and thus have secured a nucleus for seeds and seedlings to open out large plantations. Capital for such an object being now at my command, my desire is to engage forthwith in this; and with this assurance I trust the Government will be pleased to accord to me an extent of 2,000 Acres of land, upon terms which I would leave to its liberality and to its consideration of such claims as I may be deemed individually to possess. I would only venture to beg His Excellency's remembrance of the terms Government was pleased to grant to my successor in the work, Mr. H. D. Rao.

21. In conclusion I beg to say that the land I seek thus to obtain is an extent of 2,000 Acres of forest land in the valleys running south-east and south-west of the ground now being cleared for Chinchona cultivation near Mailcondah. This place, I may observe, is too remote from Ootacamund for the timber to have any value as firewood.

No. 84.

ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1864, No. 574.

The Government regret that Captain Mann was disappointed in obtaining the land he desired, but they cannot comply with the request contained in his letter above recorded.

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

J. D. Sim Esq^r
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will submit the following circumstances, and my application founded thereupon, for the, as I trust, favorable consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. Having spent a long period of years in trading in the China Seas, my attention had become directed to the Cultivation of Tea, and, having been induced to consider that the Nilgerry Hills presented a favorable locality for the cultivation of the Plant, I, about 10 years ago, determined to take steps for prosecuting it.

3. Accordingly, while in the North of China, I took advantage of the opportunity thus afforded, and in conjunction with my friend Mr. Fortune made a selection of seeds from some of the best varieties of the China Shrub, and brought them down to Hong Kong. There they were down in Wardian cases, and then sent by Steamer to Calcutta.

4. Arrived at Calcutta the seeds were found to have germinated & developed seedlings in such quantity, that a large additional number of Wardian cases had to be provided, into which the excess was transplanted, and the whole again sent by Steamer to Madras. From Madras the cases were forwarded to the Nilgerry Hills by Carts with posted Bullocks. i.e. by what is familiarly called "Transit".

5. I enter into these details for the purpose of showing to the Government how entirely I was in earnest, for I omitted no precaution that could ensure the arrival of the plants at their destination in good condition, and it will be readily perceived that such a mode of transit involved a very heavy expenditure.

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My Plants arrived at the Hills in April, 1854; and I then expected (I think with some reason) that my difficulties in respect of carrying out the cultivation would cease. I had fully 250,000 healthy seedling plants, of the best variety of China Tea; and this, with the expense I had gone to, and the proof affordable of my having ample capital to conduct the culture, proved that I was in earnest in my design, and seemed to guarantee fair, not to say liberal, aid at the hands of the authorities, to my bold, because novel, enterprise.

But my disappointment in this was grievous; and the loss - I may presume to say - to the Government & public as well as to myself, lamentable. For long, weary months, I strove to obtain land suitable for putting out my Tea Plants in, but encountered only objections, difficulties & impediments. And all this while I had the bitter mortification of seeing the plants rotting & dying off in their cases, until, with a remnant of but a few thousands, I had to resort to the extreme measure of sending them across the Hills & down into the valley below Neddawittum, where a Superintendent planted them out & saved these last few thousands from destruction.

At last, after much delay, and restrictive reservations on the part of the Engineer of the Jackatailla Barracks, a grant of land at Cornor (dated the 18th December 1854) was made to me, being about 130 acres in extent, of which 5 or 10 were forest & the rest grass land. I was to hold it 3 years free of Rent, but I was not to cut the little Timber or use water without the sanction of the District authorities. This sanction was ultimately given on the 20th June 1855; but what did it amount to?

I cut a channel to "use the water" by bringing it to my Nursery beds. But it, the water, was shortly after required for some purposes of the Barracks, so it was turned off from me, and my Nursery plants killed in numbers in consequence.

consequence! I might cut down trees, but I was not to remove them. They were the property of the barracks; for firewood, which they retained full power to saw, cut & cart away, they could make charcoal also on the spot, and in fact this use, of a forest of 5 acres, nominally assigned to me on Rent, has been going on ever since, and His Excellency in Council will understand with how little power of cultivation on my part, when it affords the opportunity of people strolling about the place, on the plea, of being contractors or such like for firewood, or charcoal burners, and of turning bullocks adrift at the risk of injuring the Tea bushes, and certainly of doing more or less damage.

However, such as it was, I went to the great expense of taking up all the Plants that had been put out below Neddawittum, carrying them back across the Hills, and replanting them on the land at Cornor. This remnant was of the paltry number of about 7,000.

Finding the absolute necessity of having some Forest land for my Nurseries if I was to carry on the cultivation of Tea with the prospect of success, I, in Sept 1855, requested the Collector to grant me a piece of Forest land of moderate extent near Buzliar for this purpose. I reminded him of my heavy loss of Tea plants before, and I told him that I was about returning to China & purposed to bring a further supply of them, but that before incurring so serious an expense, I must be assured of having land to plant them out in.

On the 27th Sept the Collector wrote to ask, with reference to the great opposition of the Government to the destruction of the Forests, whether I would defer putting down any portion of Forest granted to me till it had been ascertained that my new Tea Plants would "give good Tea".

I replied on the 29th idem, that if the land were granted, I would engage to comply with his wish.

On

My Plants arrived at the hill

14. On the 10th October the Collector presented my application formally. He could not recom-
mend so much Forest as requested, (20 acres) to be devoted to distraction. But he would recom-
mend that I might sell 3 Cawnies as a nursery,
and that more should be given hereafter, but
upon the clear understanding that, until the
success of the existing experiment were fairly
tested, I should not touch a tree beyond the
2 Cawnies.

15. On the 20th Decr 1855 the Board of Revenue
was pleased to pass orders, that under the cir-
cumstances represented the Collector was
authorized to grant me - 3 Cawnies of Forest
land on the Neilgherry Hills for a Nursery
for Sea plants on the conditions proposed.

16. Thus disappointed, foiled & thwarted at
every turn, I was driven to the virtual abandon-
ment of my desired enterprise. I beg His
Excellency in Council to consider that the quan-
-tity of Plants I had brought successfully to the
Neilgherry Hills, would have filled a large Planta-
-tion, that it was no experimental nursery but a
cultivation on a large scale that I was prepared
for and that if, on the one hand, it proved suc-
-cessful, Sea would have at once become an
established culture on the Neilgherry Hills to the
profit alike of the Government & the public. The
former in the unlimited sale of its waste lands
adapted for the purpose, and the latter in the
opening to it of a new and valuable branch of
industry. While, on the other, if resulting in
failure, not only would the loss have fallen
exclusively upon myself but it must have been
most serious & damaging in its extent.

17. But the haggling (I hope I may be
forgiven the term) over a paltry 2 Cawnies of
land seemed to show me that the limit had
not even yet arrived to the loss of time, labour &
money, the anxiety & mortification experienced in
my pursuit of the cultivation of Sea on the Neilgherries
and I dared not sacrifice the interests of my family
in doing what I had intended, and of which I

I informed the Collector, Vyt, in despite of all, &
having brought a further supply of Sea Plants from
China, I was compelled to direct my attention
elsewhere.

18. Coorg attracted me, and I was induced to
enter upon the cultivation of Coffee in that Country.
Since that time I have planted out, for myself
& in conjunction with friends, 2,600 acres of Coffee
in Coorg, which I mention not in my idle spirit
of boasting, but simply to convince the Government
that I was earnest in what I undertook, & that I
had the command of ample means for carrying
out to a similar extent the cultivation of Sea.

19. Relieved at this day from the urgency of
outlays upon this Coffee cultivation in Coorg, I
recur to my early predilection for that of Sea, and
I venture to come before Government in the hope
that it will give its consideration to all the cir-
-cumstances in which I have been placed, and that
it will feel justified in according to me the favo-
-rable position I am about to solicit, both as the
pioneer of Sea culture on the Neilgherry Hills, and
as one who is in a position to deserve that incen-
-tivement, which it may perhaps now be conceded
that he had some fair reason to look for at an
earlier period.

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-pation in Coorg, I have persevered in keeping
up the cultivation of the little plot of Sea in
Coonor, and thus have secured a nucleus for
seeds & seedlings to spawn out large plantations.
Capital for such an object being now at my
Command, my desire is to engage forthwith in
this; and with this assurance I trust the
Government will be pleased to accord to me an
extent of 2,000 acres of land, upon terms which I
would leave to its liberality, and to its consideration
of such claims as I may be deemed individually
to possess. I would only venture to beg His
Excellency's remembrance of the terms Government
was pleased to grant to my Successor in the

work

21. In conclusion I beg to say, that the land I seek thus to obtain, is an extent of 2000 acres of Forest land in the valleys running South East & South West of the ground now being cleared for Cinchona Cultivation near Mailcondah. This place I may observe, is too remote from Ootacamund for the Timber to have any value as firewood.

Mercara Corry Your Most Obedient Servant.
15th February 1864 Henry Gunn

Henry Kraus

to have taken precautions on this point before bringing his seed & young plants - The Govt is not in a position to give away land at any moment & inquiries have to be made whether private claims exist before applications can be complied with - Mr. Maun's course is now, in my opinion, to obtain the land he requires under the Waste Land Rules. -

26

[illegible]

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21.
land I
2000 ac
South Ea
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put but this would not
which also at the rate.
The Rate has 2400
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7 years & thereafter subject
to 1 R. per acre with a
provision of an "Extension"

Merca
15th Feb

to have
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The Gov
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private

not with any dependence from
the estate which was land in
the estate. I think in so much
as the expenditure in
improving the land
will be a great
benefit to the estate.
It is in keeping
to depart from rules
of a prescribed course
and I do not think
that Mr. Manner should
sufficient cause to
induce Govt to do so.
I regret the delay which
he experienced in getting
land but he surely could

complied with - Mr. Manner's course is now, in
my opinion, to obtain the land he requires
under the Waste Land Rules.
E. H. M.

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21.
land I
2000 acre
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15th Feb

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The Gov

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Private Claims Dept

complied with - Mr. Maun's case is now, in
my opinion, to obtain the land he requires
under the Waste Land Rules.

Rev = 1861. Ope
Proof for 1854

From, H. Maun
Esq.

Dated 15th July
Received 19th 1854

Requesting the
grant of 2000 acres
of forest land for
tea cultivation in
the valleys running
South East & South
West of the ground now
being cleared for tea
cultivation near
Mailondah on the Nil-
gherries on the same
terms as was granted to
Mr. Dal-

For Order.

Yours

Revenue Department

Purpose of the correspondence in
this regard, the Board's office relative to
Mr. Maun's application for land on the
Nilgherries for a tea plantation -

1 On the 8th November 1854
Mr. M. J. Walhouse Acting Sub
Collector in charge of Coimbatore
submitted with his recommenda-
tion an application from Mr.
Maun for about 130 acres of
waste land near Coonoor for
planting tea; the land to be gi-
ven on lease free of assess-
ment for 3 years and thereafter
the full terra paid by similar
land in the neighbourhood to be
levied -

2 On the 27th idem the Board
sanctioned the grant on the pro-
posed terms -

vide L.O. 543. In his annual report for
August 1858 para 1854 by Elphinstone the conservator
of

of Forests brought to notice Mr. Mann's successful attempt to introduce the Sea Plant into the Neigheries, and the Govt thereupon desired him to keep them informed of the progress of an experiment so creditable to Mr. Mann. - L.O. 5th Sept. 1858 No. 1086 para 23 -

4. Mr. Cleghorn replied to this order on the 27th August 1859, ^{Vide L.O. 25th Sept. 1859} and he forwarded at the same time an extract of a letter from Mr. Mann to his address, dated 30th April 1858. In this paper, Mr. Mann, alluding to the Sea Plants which he had taken up to Oota. - caumud in 1854, states as follows. - "In consequence of not being able to get a piece of ground to plant them out for several months, the greater part of these also died in the cases. At last, I determined to send down the few I had left to my Coffee plantation on the Western side of the Hills where with

with great care they recovered themselves a little, and in November 1854, having obtained this piece of land at Oonoor, I brought them up and planted out in the grass land not having any forest land ready, in all about 1500 plants. -

"In April 1855, I got another small supply of seed from China brought round in the same way, which I put down in my nursery at Oonoor, immediately they arrived and scarcely lost a single plant. - About 2000 of these I planted out (though still very small) in the Forest land in November of the same year and the remainder about 800 remained in the nursery till November 1856. I was convinced from the way these plants came on that the Sea Plant would grow well there and applied through the Collector to the Govt for a

a suitable piece of forest land for a tea plantation, which if they had granted me, I would at once have returned to China and brought over a large quantity of seeds, but I could get nothing but poor grass land, on which nothing would grow without being heavily manured, and to my repeated solicitations they at last sanctioned two parcels of forest land subject to all kinds of restrictions, so I gave the thing up and went on with the coffee, though I still think if given fair play the tea plant would not only grow well on the Nilgherries but pay well too.

5. In passing orders on these papers the Govt amongst other matters observed this - "If there are any restrictions on the taking of land on the Nilgherries, calculated to deter persons from engaging in this branch of industry, the Govt will be

be prepared to consider the propriety of relaxing them, in favor of such persons. It is to be observed, however, that so far as it applies, the only restrictions refer to forest land; but Sir Fleghorn expressed the decided opinion, (para of that the better grass lands will be found excellently suited to the culture of tea, and such lands may now be obtained on freehold tenure, with no other restriction than that spots selected shall be sold by auction."

2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72nd 73rd 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82nd 83rd 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92nd 93rd 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th

1855

Revenue Dept.

N^o 574-

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 5th April 1864.

Read the following
letter from F. Mann Esq.

Requesting the grant
of 2000 acres of Forest land
for Tea Cultivation in the
Valleys running South East
and South West of the ground
now being cleared for Cinchona
Cultivation near Mailcondah
on the same terms as was granted to Mr. Pies.

(Received 15th February
1864.)

The Government
regret that Capt. Mann
was disappointed in
obtaining the land he
desired, but they cannot
comply with the request.
Continued.


2/1/64


The first report
that Capt. Mann
had been appointed
to obtain the
land he desired
but they cannot
comply with the
request and
are disappointed.

contained in his letter
above recorded.

117

Copy of Captain H. Mann
Despatch 6 Apr

14 - to H. Mann

Revenue 180 to Sept^r
Proc of Govt for c & p^rid.

no 574.

Proc of the Madras Govt
Df 5th April 1864.

Captain Mann's ap:
plication for 2000 acres of
Forest land for Tea Culti:
vation on the Keilgheries,
refused.

no 83 1864.

11-1