M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 77 — Press ~~Mis.~~

150. 151.

Dated 14. 1. ~~19~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th January 1864.

No. 150. Read the following letter from E. ROBERTS, Esq., to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ottley Hall, Ootacamund, 9th January 1864:—

SIR,

1. It is I know the wish of Government that the cultivation of Tea should be extended over the Madras Presidency wherever it is likely to succeed, and I hear that every support will be given by Government to further this object. It is believed that the Government has proposed to Mr. McIvor, the Superintendent of the Gardens here, that he should produce Tea plants for distribution amongst intending planters of Tea, as Dr. Jamieson has done in Bengal.

2. Upon the strength of this I have addressed the Commissioner of Mysore making a proposition to him, but as I am not certain about what Department I should properly address, I beg to be allowed to communicate with your Department also, for if my request can be granted, I wish to commence operations at once.

3. I have secured about 400 Acres of land near Mercara, Coorg, and have planted some of it in Coffee. What is still in forest, however, I am desirous of planting out in Tea, but I am not sufficiently well off to incur the expense of bringing Tea seeds from Bengal. I believe that the most suitable Tea seeds for Coorg are only procurable from Bengal, but they suffer much in transit, and by the time they could be brought from Calcutta to Mercara only a small portion would be good. All this expense and risk at the outset I cannot afford, and I venture to propose that the Government should supply me with funds necessary to purchase, say, ten Calcutta bazaar Maunds of Tea seeds, to transport them to Mercarra, and to cover the expenses of the nurseries. If this were conceded to me, I would give land for the nurseries, attend carefully to the rearing of the plants, and do all that would be necessary until the plants arrived at the stage fit for being planted out. They might then be distributed to any planters in Coorg on terms that the Government might think fair and reasonable. In return for my own trouble and supervision, I would ask for sufficient plants, free of charge, to plant 300 Acres of my own land.

4. Mr. Mann for a Tea plantation at Coonoor, and Mr. Rae for another at Ootacamund, have had the monied support of Government to encourage them in cultivating the Tea plant on these hills, and I hope that the assistance I now ask, to enable me to introduce a new thing into a new country, will not be thought unreasonable.

5. The expense of purchasing and delivering at Mercara the ten Maunds of Tea seed will be about 3,500 Rupees.

6. I have every reason to expect that the return of money to Government will be speedy from the sale of the Tea plants.

7. Should my suggestion be entertained, I may expect to be called upon for a reference to show that I am a fit person to be trusted with what I ask. With this I am prepared, and amongst those whom I could refer to, I will mention the names of E. Lushington, Esq., late Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Dr. Mouatt, Head Inspector of the Bengal Jails, the Honorable Claude Browne, Member of the Bengal Council, &c, &c.

No. 151. ORDER THEREON, 14th January 1864, No. 77.

Mr. Roberts is informed that the administration of Coorg is entirely vested in the Commissioner of Mysore.

(True Extract.)

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

To E Roberts, Esq.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rec'd 1864 - Oct 6th
Prov. Govt Gen. Savy
No. 85

From
Wm. E. Roberts.

Dated 9th Sept
Received 11th 1864

Asks the assistance
of His Govt for the forwarding
Sea Vessels &c &c
Mexico.

No. 750 & 751

No. 77. 14 Pages

With enclosure

No. 77.

Mr. Roberts is informed that the administration of Liberia is entirely vested in the Commissioners of Mysons. —

Foreign Office George
16th Sept. 1864.

Copy to Mr. Roberts.
Desp. No. 15

Copy