M.R.O. 1—77,036—6-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair 18 5 [illegible]

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1840 Revenue — Press / Mis. — Spare Copy

Dated 20th July 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th July 1866.

No. 460. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, (Public), to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 16th June 1866, No. 22:—

1. I have considered in Council the letters in the Revenue Department, noted in the margin,* forwarding various reports and proceedings relating to the progress of Chinchona cultivation in your Presidency, together with the letter, dated 13th March (No. 6) 1866, submitting your proceedings consequent on Sir C. Wood's Despatch of the 30th September (No. 27) 1865, and on the report furnished by Mr. Markham after his visit to the Chinchona plantations at the commencement of the present year.

* No. 55, dated 24th August 1865.
" 59, " 23rd Sept. "
" 65, " 26th Oct. "
" 68, " 13th Nov. "
" 70, " 27th " "
" 74, " 25th Dec. "
" 75, " " "
" 4, " 6th Feb. 1866.
" 5, " 10th March "
" 13, " 11th April "
" 16, " 24th " "

2. It is highly gratifying to me to find that the favorable reports from time to time submitted by Mr. McIvor as to the progress of the plantations are fully confirmed by Mr. Markham, and I gladly recognize the skill and energy on the part of Mr. McIvor which have conduced so materially to this result.

3. With regard to the future management of the Government plantations, and the extension of Chinchona cultivation throughout the Hill Districts of your Presidency, I concur in the opinion of your Government as to the manner in which you propose to deal with the plantations of Neddiwuttum, Pykarah, and Dodabet. As regards the Mailkondah plantation, as to the maintenance of which you solicit my instructions, I am of opinion that operations should, at least for the present, be continued there on the part of Government. The site is reported by Mr. Markham to be peculiarly well suited for the cultivation of the Chinchona. If it should be decided eventually to dispose of it, there can be little doubt that any expenditure which may be incurred on it will be reimbursed; and, although it may be hoped that private enterprize may hereafter render the continuance of operations by Government on an extended scale unnecessary, it is impossible at present to regard as settled the question as to the extent to which Government may see fit to take part in the undertaking. The amount of land specified in paragraph 5 of your letter should, therefore, be retained for the present at Mailkondah, the remainder being sold as proposed by you.

4. In order, however, to carry out as fully as possible the great object contemplated by Her Majesty's Government in introducing the Chinchona into India, viz., that of making its produce accessible to the greatest possible number of the poorer inhabitants of the country, it is evident that every effort should be made to promote the cultivation of the tree by private persons in all the localities where the cultivation is likely to be successful. It is gratifying to observe the readiness with which planters, both European and Native, are disposed to undertake the growth of the Chinchona plant, in many cases in connexion with coffee plantations; but I am of opinion that the greatest benefit would result, and that one of the most effectual methods of diffusing among the bulk of the community the benefits which the introduction of the Chinchona is calculated to produce, would be secured should it be found practicable to promote the cultivation of the tree by villagers and small holders of land in suitable situations, even if they should not be able to do more than plant a few trees around their houses. The agency of the officers of Government

of different ranks, who would make known the uses of the bark, and through whom the young plants might be distributed, would, of course, be indispensable to the carrying out of this plan; and I am of opinion that every encouragement should be given to those officers who, like Mr. Leringe and Mr. Ballard, shew an interest in the matter, and a desire to assist in spreading the cultivation.

5. I agree with your Government that it is not expedient that Government should undertake the maintenance of any plantations in addition to those which it has already established, and I further agree in your decision that in all cases where the cultivation of the Chinchona is undertaken for the purposes of trade or profit, a charge should be made for the plants set up from the Government plantations; but in all cases, whenever a Government Officer sees an opportunity of introducing the cultivation among the lower classes in his District, a supply of plants should be furnished to him for gratuitous distribution, and every other practicable assistance afforded in the prosecution of the work.

6. I concur in the opinion of your Government that it is expedient, at this stage of the undertaking, that an experienced chemist and analyzer, possessed of a thorough knowledge of the Chinchona and its products, should be appointed to investigate on the spot various points connected with the cultivation of the tree and the extraction and use of its alkaloids, without a determination of which a satisfactory decision cannot be passed on various questions now awaiting solution. The establishment of a manufactory of quinine and of the inferior products of the Chinchona is the most important of these questions, and this cannot evidently be disposed of without further inquiry. I have, accordingly, resolved to sanction the appointment of an analytical chemist for a term of three years, and I shall lose no time in obtaining the services of a thoroughly qualified individual to proceed to your Presidency at as early a period as possible.

7. I approve the measures proposed to be taken by you for obtaining satisfactory reports on the relative efficiency of the various products of the Chinchona bark proposed by Mr. Howard, and recently sent out to your Presidency.

8. Three copies of Mr. Howard's work will be transmitted to your Government, in accordance with the request contained in the 7th paragraph of your letter, No. 6, of the 13th March last.

No. 461. ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1866, No. 1,840.

Miscellaneous. Ordered to be communicated to the undermentioned Departments, for their information and guidance:—

Superintendent of Government Chinchona Plantations.
Conservator of Forests.
Inspector General of Medical Department.
Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent of Government Chinchona Plantations.
„ the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Inspector General of Medical Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.