MR. O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3077 Press ~~His.~~

137-35 Dated 10-12- No 1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 137. Read the following Endorsement of the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, (General,) dated Simla, 10th November 1868, No. 1,977 :—

Read the following letter from the Commissioner for the Government of the Territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, with the Governor General, Head Quarters, Simla, dated Bangalore, 12th October 1868, No. 4,122/187.

I have the honor to forward copy of a letter, No. 361/61, of the 10th August 1868, from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, and to request that the Government of India may be moved to apply to the Melbourne Government, in Australia, to favor me with a supply of seeds of Eucalypti and other useful timber trees marginally specified, with a view to their experimental cultivation in the Provinces of Mysore and Coorg.

Eucalyptus Globulus ...	30 lbs.	(weight.)
Do. Marginata ...	30 ,,	do.
Do. Sideroxylon ...	20 ,,	do.
Eu. Globosa	10 ,,	do.
Citridora	10 ,,	do.

From the Officiating Conservator of Mysore and Coorg, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Mysore, Bangalore, dated Ootacamund, 10th August 1868, No. 361-61.

1. I have the honor to report, for the information of the Commissioner, that I lately visited the Government Plantations (at Ootacamund) of Eucalyptus and other useful timber trees, chiefly exotics.

2. Major Beddome, the Conservator of Madras, at my request, kindly took me over them, and gave me much valuable information. I would respectfully suggest that, if the Commissioner should consider the experiment worth trying, seeds of the various kinds of Eucalypti might be obtained from the Australian Government, and these valuable timber trees be introduced into Mysore.

3. In the plantation we first visited about forty acres had been planted out with the Eucalyptus Globulus (blue gum). The planting was commenced in August 1865, and the trees had grown capitally. I measured two trees planted out (seedlings) in 1865. One measured twenty-four feet, the other thirty feet, to the top of the terminal shoot, and in girth, respectively, thirteen and eighteen inches. Major Beddome tells me the timber is equal to teak, and in spite of its rapid growth, is good close-grained wood. The growth, in the Ootacamund climate, of this tree is almost incredible. In the public gardens is a specimen of Eucalyptus Globulus, now twelve years old. It is about 100 feet in height, and measures six feet in girth, nearly, at three feet from the ground. This specimen branches low, but it was grown as an ornamental tree, not for timber. To thrive well, the Eucalyptus requires an elevation of 4,000 feet; several sites could be found in Coorg, Munjerabad, and Nugur, for its propagation. It is very hardy. In the plantations I visited there had been scarcely one casualty in the first year; last year some young trees had been killed by frost, especially those in low and marshy ground. But apart from the frost, the tree flourishes best in damp ground, the largest tree in the plantation grew close by the side of a stream, and its roots were entirely surrounded by water.

4. The manner of propagation is as follows :—Nursery beds having been prepared, the seeds are sown broadcast (generally in December or January, in Ooty), and covered lightly with earth to the depth of quarter of an inch. They are watered copiously. When about three months old they are taken up, the roots covered up with earth, and then with moss, and the plants are in that state placed in fresh beds, or even (in this climate) simply under pandals, without being put into the earth. Here they remain for about a month to recover themselves, and they are then planted out in pits or trenches, each plant being six feet distant from the next. The dimensions of the pits and depth of the trenches varied considerably. Some of the pits were *three feet cube*, others only

eighteen inches cube. The depth of the trenches too varied from eighteen inches to thirty-six inches. An uniform depth of two feet and breadth of two feet for the trenches, or pits two feet cube would perhaps be the best. If the spot where the seedlings have been planted out is well protected from the wind, they require no further looking after. Should, however, the wind get at them, it is found necessary to remove almost all the leaves, as the plant is apt to get top-heavy, is blown over and injured. Being planted out at only six feet apart, they draw each other up, and require no pruning, the lower branches dying off naturally.

3. If introduced into Mysore, we could not moss the plants. Major Beddome advised my using bamboo pits, which have answered well up here. The young seedling on being first moved is put into the bamboo, which is then placed on the ground under the shade of pandals, when the time for planting out has arrived, the young plant is pushed out with a stick.

5. We then went on to Major Morgan's plantations. Here I saw a thriving plantation of Eucalyptus Globulus, aged seven years. I measured one specimen. It was four feet in girth at six feet from the ground, and seventy feet high, measuring about twenty-five feet to the first bough. The girth of this specimen was exceptional, but there were several hundreds of trees which would have measured about three feet or three and a quarter feet in girth. They were all well grown, with clean stems, and had never been pruned. They stood at six feet apart, and Major Morgan has this year commenced thinning them out. Grass grows well under the shade of these trees.

6. At Major Morgan's plantations I saw specimens of the Eucalyptus Globosæ, Eu. Peperetta, Eu. Citridora, several kinds of stringy barks, all Eucalypti from Australia. They were growing well. Major Beddome advises the introduction of the following trees as the best known timbers: Eucalyptus Globulus; Eucalyptus Sideroxylon; and Eucalyptus Marginata, a valuable timber, and said to be obnoxious to white-ants. The Madras Government obtain the seeds from the Australian Government, who have hitherto given them free.

7. Ootacamund is now overrun with the Australian Wattlé, Acacia Dealbata. The timber of this tree is worthless, fit only for firewood. Its roots cover the ground, sending up suckers in all directions. The tree too seeds profusely, and is now a nuisance in the place; while, therefore, it should be carefully excluded from gardens, it is admirably suited for fuel plantations. I intend bringing some down with me when I return to Bangalore. It may succeed at the Ooscottah plantations, but I am not at all sanguine of its doing so. The Acacia Melanoxylon (Australian blackwood) is also abundant in Ooty. This tree yields a black timber, much superior to the Ac. Dealbata; but though furniture has been made of it, the tree is grown chiefly for firewood. It requires to be kept under, for though not such a nuisance as the Ac. Dealbata, it spreads fast. The Ac. Mollissima is being introduced by Major Beddome. I saw some of the seedlings, but though the wood is better than that of the Acacias named above, he could give me no further information regarding it.

8. The leaves of all the Eucalypti, especially when the plants are young, are full of oil glands. The Eucalyptus Globulus' leaf has a strong taste of Camphor, and goats even will not touch it.

9. I intend visiting the plantations at Wellington shortly.

10. If the Commissioner considers the project worth a trial, I would respectfully suggest that the Australian Government be applied to for the following seeds :—

Eucalyptus Globulus, 30 lbs. weight.
,, Marginata, 30 lbs. ,,
,, Sideroxylon, 20 lbs. ,,

and ten pounds weight each of the Eu. Globosa and Citridora.

From the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, (General,) to the Commissioner of Mysore, dated Simla, 10th November 1868, No. 1,975.

1. In reply to your letter, No. 4,122, 187, dated 12th ultimo, regarding the introduction into Mysore and Coorg of the Eucalypti, and other useful timber trees which grow in Australia, I am directed by the Viceroy and Governor General

in Council to state that, in furtherance of this project, an application has been made to the Government of Victoria, at Melbourne, for a supply of seeds of the different species of the Eucalyptus mentioned by you.

2. His Excellency in Council has requested that the package of seeds should be sent to your address, through the Madras Government.

Copy of the foregoing correspondence forwarded to the Madras Government, for information.

By order, &c.,

(Signed) C. E. R. GIRDLESTONE,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 138. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1868, No. 3,077.

Forest, No. 4.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T Augustin.

No 1945.

From

C. E. Whitehead, Esq.
Officiating Secy to the Govt
of Madras.

To

L. B. Bowring, Esq. C.S.O.
Commissr of Coimbatore.

Ootacamund, the 10th November 1868.

Forestdept.
Genl.

Sir,

In reply to your letter
No 4182/107, dated 19th Octr, re-
garding the introduction into
Mysore and Coorg of the Eucalypti
and other useful timber trees
which grow in Australia, I am
directed by the Secretary of State
for India in Council to state that,
in furtherance of this project, an
application has been made to the
Governments of Victoria, and Tasmania,
a supply of seeds of the different
species of the Eucalyptus men-
tioned by you.

2. Adverting to
Council has requested that the
Secretary of State should be sent

1/2

Govt. of {1868} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

Dated December, 10th.

Read.

G. O., 10th December 1868, No. 3,077.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 187-193.

Forest seeds for Mysore Government.—Letter from Government of India regarding its supply by the Australian Government through that of Madras, recorded.

to your address through the Madras Government.

Simla
the 10th November 1868.

I have &c.
(Sd) C. E. R. Sidebotham
Secy to Govt of India.

No. 1977.

Copy of the foregoing correspondence forwarded to the Madras Government, for information.—

By Order &c.

Simla
Foreign Dept
General
the 10th November
1868.

Charles Sidebotham
Offg Secy to Govt of
India.

Revenue 1868. Oct.

No 3660.

From

The Under Secty. to the Govt. of India

Dated 10th Oct. 68.
Received 23rd Oct. 68.

No 1977.

INCLOSED. Ch. 3077.

From Govt. of India dd 30 Septr. 68 C No. 3482

10th October 68.

Forwarding for information Copies of Correspondence between the Court of Mysore & the Govt. of India, regarding the introduction into Mysore of the Eucalyptus Globulus or Australian Gum tree, which has grown in Australia

No. 137-138.