

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|                         |       |                         |
|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| G.O. No.                | 522   | Press<br><del>Mis</del> |
| <i>509-10.</i><br>Dated | 25-2- | 1868.                   |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
25th February 1868.*

No. 509. Read the following letter from the Superintendent of the Government Chinchona Plantations, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 15th February 1868, No. 14:—

1. While in Europe I made the acquaintance of Mr. Daniel Hanbury, the eminent Pharmaceutical Chemist, of Plough Court, Lombard Street, London, and as this gentleman very kindly undertook to aid in determining the quality and value of the natural and cultivated products of India, and also in introducing them to the European market, I beg to forward, by banghy, a small box, which I trust the Government may be pleased to cause to be forwarded to Mr. Hanbury, for report on the value and application of its contents.

2. This box contains a packet of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of dry Jalap from two roots of this plant grown in the Government Gardens here; these roots were a little over fourteen months' growth, and were about the size of an ordinary field turnip. The plant grows most luxuriantly, and should the produce prove to be of equal value to the Mexican Jalap, any quantity could be supplied at a very reasonable cost.

3. Enclosed is also a small packet of the false Jalap (*Convolvulus Chicorhiza*); this plant also grows freely, and might form an article of export.

4. Of the natural products, a small packet of Gum Kino is enclosed. This gum is the produce of *Pterocarpus Marsupium*, a tree very common on the lower ranges of these hills, and during the spring months, when a triangular incision is made in the bark, the gum flows freely from the tree, and could be collected in any quantity. This would form a most valuable export, as I have every reason to believe that the Kino of our *Pterocarpus* is very superior to that found in the European markets from Australia. This small quantity will, I trust, be sufficient to enable Mr. Hanbury to fix definitely its quality and value.

5. The fruit of our common prickly-pear yields a beautifully colored juice, and it has occurred to me that this might prove of commercial value, as forming an altogether innoxious material for coloring confectionary, and in fact for all purposes to which cochineal is at present applied. Enclosed are two packets of the dried fruit, and also a small phial of dried juice. Drying the juice in the sun and securely bottling it, appears to be the most desirable process of preparing this color for exportation, as in drying the fruit fermentation is liable to set in, and this reduces the brilliancy of the color. Mr. Hanbury will no doubt give us information on the probable value of this article, and if it can be turned to profitable account, it is desirable that we should do so, as thousands of tons of this fruit yearly go to waste.

No. 510. ORDER THEREON, 25th February 1868, No. 522.

Miscellaneous.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

2. The box will be forwarded to England, with a view to obtaining Mr. Hanbury's opinion as to the value and utility of the specimen products brought to notice by Mr. McIvor.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.  
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forests.  
,, the Superintendent of the Government Chinchona Plantations.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

522.

Communicated to Mr. B. Perkins, ~~and~~ and  
the Off. Conservator of Forests.

2. The box will be forwarded to Mr. [unclear]  
with a ~~view~~ containing Mr. Hamburg's  
opinion as to the value and utility  
of the specimen products brought to  
notice by Mr. McIvor

14 Mr. B. of Rev. Dec 20/67

13 Off. Conservator of Forests

1 Copy. Sup. Genl. Chem. Plantations Dec 20/67

25a. Dec 20/68