

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND,
30th July 1872.

No. 257.

No. 1,140.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Forests, No. 19.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 22nd June 1872, relative to the interchange of seeds between this country and the different colonies, and directing that the Forest Department, working in connection with the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta, shall be the medium of this exchange, and that with this view Dr. King shall yearly or oftener forward indents to Conservators of Forests in the provinces for the seeds which he may require, and that the Conservators will then employ temporary establishments for the collection of the seed at the cost of the province to which they belong, and forward it to Dr. King for preparation and despatch to different countries. Presuming that these instructions are intended to apply to this Presidency I am directed by the Governor in Council to request that they may be re-considered. Economy will certainly be sacrificed by the additional expense involved in the unnecessary transmission of the seed to Calcutta, instead of being despatched direct to its destination; the seed itself will very possibly suffer, and the instructions which Dr. King may issue as to the time for gathering, etc., are not likely to be so valuable as those which the local Government can frame for their subordinates.

2. Moreover, there is a certain amount of professional reputation and laudable satisfaction derivable by individuals from the systematic successful collection of valuable vegetable products and their direct interchange with other countries, and His Excellency in Council is of opinion that it would be inexpedient to withdraw this incentive to exertion from individual officers by rendering them simply the agents of a Calcutta official.

3. In the particular case of this Presidency the Governor in Council would especially deprecate any change in the system which has hitherto worked with complete success. Major Beddome, the head of the Madras Forest Department, is an officer of the highest reputation in the Botanical world, and is widely known as one of the most successful collectors. He is in constant correspondence with Botanists of eminence in all parts of the world, and has for years past been the well-known and direct medium for supplying to other countries from this Presidency the seeds desired by them, and procuring, in exchange, such as this Government might require.

4. The Governor in Council is of opinion that to subordinate Major Beddome in the manner proposed by reducing him to the position of a mere commission agent for fulfilling orders from the Calcutta Botanical Gardens would be to expose an officer of high scientific attainments and eminent reputation to most unmerited mortification in his professional pursuits.

5. I am directed to add that this Government will be ready at all times to afford Dr. King all the assistance he may need in the collection of seeds.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

Forest Dept. No. 1
M. S. Cy Secs: 30 July 1872
I. Coffee Secs: 3 Aug. 1872
3/3

Revenue Department
30th July 1872.

No. 1140.

D

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of India
Dept. of Agriculture Rev: & Commerce

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 22d June 1872, relative to the interchange of seeds between this Country and the different Colonies, and directing that the Forest Dept., working in connection with the Supt. of the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta, shall be the medium of this exchange, and that with this view Dr. King shall yearly, or oftener, forward indents to Conservators of Forests in the Provinces for the seeds which he may require, and that the Conservators will then employ temporary establishments for the collection of the

A/B.

J. D.S

ent at the cost of the province to which they belong, and forward it to Dr King for preparation and despatch to different countries. Presumably that if these instructions are intended to apply to this Presidency I am directed by the G. in C. to request that they may be reconsidered.

~~the Govt~~ ~~respectfully to protest against what appears to the~~ remonstrate. I would say "request that they may be reconsidered"

~~measure of interference and Centralization~~ Economy will certainly be sacrificed by the additional expense involved in the un-necessary transmission of the seed to Calcutta, instead of being despatched direct to its destination; the seed itself will very possibly suffer, and the instructions which Dr King may issue as to the time for gathering &c are not likely to be as valuable as those which the ~~Local Committee~~ Local Govt can ~~directly~~ frame for its subordinates.

~~subordinates~~

Moreover, there is a certain amount of professional reputation and laudable satisfaction derivable by individuals from the systematic successful collection of valuable vegetable products, and their direct interchange with other countries, and this G. in C. are of opinion that it would be ~~injudicious~~ injudicious to withdraw this incentive to exertion from individual officers by rendering them simply the agents of a Calcutta official.

In the particular case of this Presidency the G. in C. would especially deprecate any change in the system which has hitherto worked with complete success. Major Beddome, the head of the Forest Department, is an officer of the highest reputation in the Botanical world and is widely known as one of the most successful collectors. He is in constant correspondence with Botanists

of Eminence in all parts of the world, and has for years past been the most known and direct medium for supplying to other countries from this Presidency the Seeds desired by them, and procuring in Exchange, such as this Govt might require. I is

~~His Lordship is~~ of opinion that to subordinate Major Boldero in the manner proposed, by reducing him to the position of a mere Commissariat Agent for fulfilling orders from the Calcutta Botanical Gardens would be to expose an Officer of high Scientific attainments and eminent reputation to most unmerited mortification in his professional pursuits.

The same may be said of Mr Scott in regard to Chinchona Seeds.

I am directed further that his Lordship will be happy to take ~~some~~ such steps as may be found practicable for affording Major Boldero ~~in~~ such facilities in the collection of Seeds in the Neilgherry Hills as may be found consistent with other duties required of him.

No 1871

To Govt of India
Dept of Agriculture

Introduction of Seeds between
India and the Colonies