Botanical Gardens

The only Botanical Gardens under the superintendence of Government are those at Ootacamund. These Gardens were first started during the Governorship of the late Marquis of Tweeddale who in a minute recorded by him remarked that in no climate has he ever witnessed so much encouragement given by nature to concentrate the vegetable, floricultural, arboreal and fruitage productions of Europe and India as on the Neilgherry Hills. The objects of the Institution are

(1) Improvement of the Science of Horticulture in

their

this country at large by the dissemination of much valuable information which the natural advantages possessed by the Hills render available.

(2) Introduction and acclimatization of vegetable productions of Europe & other parts of the world hitherto unknown in India, &c

(3) Distribution of good seeds and plants.

The expenditure on these gardens in 1871-72 amounted to Rs. 71,905.

Donations to Scientific Societies

A donation of Rs. 250 per annum is paid to the Agri-Horticultural Society of Madras under the orders conveyed in the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Financial Department dated 11th July 1865 No. 2654 and an annual contribution of Rs. 500 is made by this Govt. for prizes for agricultural and other products such as cotton tea, cereals, forage, gums resins, dyes, shade and avenue trees &c. Last year a grant of Rs. 2,500 was made to the Society in aid of the estimated cost of Rs. 5,000 for the conversion of the Superintendent's Bungalow into a Botanical Museum & Library and for the construction of a new Bungalow for the Superintendent. The payments made to the Society in 1871-72 amounted to Rs. 6,000.

Botanical Gardens
Public Library
Ootacamund

Cinchona Plantations at Ootacamund

The object of these Plantations is the provision of an abundant and cheap supply of the febrifuge derived from the Cinchona plants for the use of hospitals and troops in India and the spread of Cinchona cultivation throughout the Hill Districts in order to bring the remedy within the reach of all classes of the native population.

2. In 1859 the Home authorities engaged the services of

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of Mr. Clement R. Markham for the special duty of introducing the Cinchonas into India. He started on his Expedition to America in the early part of 1860 and arrived in India at the End of the same year with the first instalment of Cinchona plants. These plants were in an unhealthy state when they arrived at Ootacamund.

3. In July 1861 the Experiment was entrusted to Mr. McIvor and ever since the plantations have made satisfactory progress and proved a decided success. The Extent

Extent of the plantations is upwards of 1200 acres consisting of about 2,630,000 plants. Operations are now restricted in a great measure to conservancy, it having been decided that attention should be directed to the propagation of new varieties exclusively.

The total expenditure on the Plantations from the commencement in 1860 up to March 1872 amounted to £6,674.

4. A first consignment of 7294½ lbs of dry bark was despatched to England last year for sale and realized satisfactory prices, varying from 2 s. 3 d. per lb

6 2s. 10d. per lb.

6. The value of the bark supplied to the Govt. Quinologist and shipped to England for sale during 1871-72 is estimated at a little over Rs. 16.000. The actual receipts and expenditure on these Plantations in 1871-72 were as shown below—

Receipts ——— "

Expenditure Rs 34,343—

6. When Mr. Markham visited Ootacamund in January 1866 he suggested the appointment of a Quinologist to be stationed there in order to investigate on the spot, the various questions connected with the elaboration of alkaloids, the harvesting of the bark, the most economical and efficacious mode of preparing the febrifuge, &c. &c.

The services of the same person were also to be turned to profitable account in utilizing the medicinal plants of India generally. The Secretary of State upon the requisition of this Govt appointed Mr. John Broughton in 1866 as the Quinologist, and he has ever since conducted numerous useful

Experiments

Experiments. The outturn
of ammonium quinine sup-
plied to the medical stores
at Madras in 1871-72 was
100 lbs of the value of Rs. 5,600
at Rs. 56 per lb. The charges
connected with the Quinine
-gist, this establishment
and contingencies amounted
in 1871-72 to Rs. 24,023

Cinchona Plantations

Rec'd 27 Feby 73

Revenue Department.
25th Feby 1873.

No. 216.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Dept. of Agriculture, Rev. & Commerce.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter dated 4th February 1873, No 144, I am directed to forward herewith two Memorandums regarding "Cinchona Plantations," "Botanical Gardens" and "Donations to Scientific Institutions"

Original

Go 216 Revenue

25.2.1873