(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 545 1876 Press Mis. 642

Dated 9/6 - 6 - 18 76.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 41. Read the following letter from J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 16th October 1874, No. 73:—

I have the honor to submit the Budget-estimate of the Government Cinchona Plantations for 1875-76, with a letter from the Superintendent on the subject.

2. I proceed to notice the items of difference between the present estimate and the estimate sanctioned for the current year.

The sum of Rs. 2,500 was the estimate for 1874-75 for the collection of bark for the manufacture of Amorphous quinine. The present Budget shows a sum of Rs. 3,000 for this purpose. The reason for the increase is that the bark to be supplied to Mr. Broughton in 1875-76 will be chiefly trunk bark obtained from the Hooker and Wood Plantations. The bark supplied in the current year has been hitherto, for the most part, prunings which are cheaper to collect and have been drawn, moreover, from the Neddivuttum Plantations where the factory used by Mr. Broughton is situate.

3. The Budget-estimate for the current year provided Rs. 6,000 for the collection of 40,000 lbs. of bark for shipment to England and Rs. 1,600 for the carriage of the bark to the coast. The present estimate for these items amount to Rs. 13,300 for the shipment of 70,000 lbs. of bark.

4. The Budget-estimate for the current year was cut down by G. O., dated 20th December 1873, No. 1,471, Revenue Department, sanctioning the same by Rs. 1,414, and by order of the Government of India a further reduction was subsequently made of Rs. 4,800. The estimate was thus curtailed by Rs. 6,244. Mr. McIvor, in his present letter, adverts to the consequences of these reductions. The effect is that instead of 40,000 lbs. only 20,000 lbs. of bark can be sent to England in the current year, and the weeding of the plantations cannot be properly done.

5. With regard to the diminished export, the economy effected by the reductions will lead to a sacrifice in the current year of the returns on 20,000 lbs. of bark, at 3*s.* per pound, that is to say, to the sacrifice of £3,000. This will be the immediate result. But there is another result which ought not to be kept out of sight. It has been reported to Government by Mr. McIvor, by Mr. Broughton, and by myself, that bark ready for harvest deteriorates if left on the trees. Therefore, by not taking the 20,000 lbs. of bark, which the reductions in the estimate make it impossible to touch, this quantity of bark will be diminished in value and a certain proportion of alkaloid now available will be definitively lost. And this is not all. If the bark was stripped, fresh bark of a better quality would be growing in its place, the commencement of the accretion of which will, by the present arrangements, be postponed for a year. Thus there will be a double loss in the production of a febrifuge which it was the original intention when the plantations were formed to produce in as large a quantity as the trees put down would yield.

6. Mr. McIvor describes in his letter the other effect of the retrenchments in neglected cultivation. Rs. 10 per acre is the smallest sum providing for proper attention to weeding, and weeding is essential to the growth of the Cinchona trees until they are sufficiently large to cover the land and keep down, in a measure, the weeds by their shade. As an illustration, Mr. McIvor adverts to the condition of the Mailkoondah Plantation, which the Government is aware has been abandoned. The Cinchona on

this property were young when they were left to struggle with weeds, and the weeds have since attained such dimensions that their removal would cost more than the trees are worth, and they have so choked the trees that the latter have ceased to make any progress at all, and will shortly die out and be lost.

7. The present Budget amounts to Rs. 47,800 against a Budget submitted for the current year of Rs. 41,444.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, 6th November 1874, No. 1,403.

Miscellaneous.

WITH his letter above recorded, the Commissioner of the Nilgiris submits the Budget-estimates of Receipts and Charges of the Cinchona Plantations for 1875-76.

2. *Receipts.*—The Receipts are estimated at Rs. 1,45,250. Of this sum Rs. 1,45,000, being the value of bark to be supplied to the Quinologist and sent to England for sale, will not appear in the Budget as pointed out in paragraph 2 of G. O., dated 20th December 1873, No. 1,471.

3. *Charges.*—The Charges are estimated at Rs. 47,800 against Rs. 35,260 the sanctioned grant for the current year, and Rs. 28,182 the actuals of 1873-74. The increase occurs solely in the items noted in the margin.

	Current year's Grant.	Estimate for 1875-76.
	Rs.	Rs.
Working charges	6,520	8,050
Collection of bark for manufacture of Amorphous quinine	2,500	3,000
Collection and carriage of bark for shipment to England	3,800	13,300

4. The first item is provided with reference to the extent of the plantations, viz., 952 acres, at Rs. 10 the acre, which the Commissioner considers is the smallest sum with which proper attention can be paid to weeding so essential to the growth of the Cinchona trees, until they are large enough to keep down the weeds by their shade. The Government are satisfied that this allowance is quite inadequate now, and that as the experience of the Mailkoondah Plantation and the condition of the existing plantations evidence, this great enterprise is beginning to suffer, and the Government will lose seriously by parsimony in this most important respect. The allowance of Rs. 10 per acre gives but one laborer to about 8 acres of land, and is palpably insufficient when the "growing" nature of the climate and richness of the soil on the Hills are considered. Thoroughly good culture is essential for the production of the alkaloids, and the destruction of weeds not only promotes the growth of the trees but saves the necessity for manuring. Under these circumstances, the Governor in Council resolves to raise the allowance to Rs. 20 per acre, as the lowest sum that will admit of any thing like justice to these most valuable plantations, which, though in their infancy, will, in 1875-76, yield 10 per cent. on the capital outlay on them.

5. In regard to the second item, Mr. Cockerell explains that the bark to be supplied to Mr. Broughton next year will be chiefly trunk bark obtained from the Hooker and Wood Plantations, whereas the supplies in the current year consist chiefly of prunings from the Neddivuttum Plantations in which the Quinologist's factory is situated.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th November 1874.

6. The third item which raises the estimate over the current year's grant by Rs. 9,500 provides for shipment of 70,000 lbs. of bark to England. The Commissioner reports that in consequence of the reduction of his estimate for the current year by Rs. 6,200, only 20,000 lbs. of bark can be sent to England instead of 40,000 as originally intended, and that the result will be a sacrifice of the returns on 20,000 lbs., at 3*s.* per pound, or £3,000 on the whole quantity. He adds that bark ready for harvest deteriorates if left on the trees, suffering in proportion in value, and that, if the bark was stripped, fresh bark of a better quality would be growing in its place, the commencement of the accretion of which is, by present arrangements, postponed for a year. Under these circumstances, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council approves the Budget-estimate, amounting to Rs. 57,300.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Order in the Financial Dept. 18th Nov. 1874

Referring a Memo of the Surgeon
Refer to Commissioner of the Nilgiris
for explanation of the case mentioned
Despatch of 4000 lbs of bark
& England this year, as stated
do do. The additional crops anticipated may
be secured for the purpose can be made
from savings or based for from other
heads of the Estimate for the current
year.

(True Extract)
C. Webster
Offg Under Secretary
to Govt Financial

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Financial Department.
" the Government Quinologist.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman

For the Honble Dept.
Commissioner Nilgiris
Accountant General
Govt. Quinologist

No 4085

Received 1874 Nov 20

Prom. of Can. Prov. Govt. Dept.

Dated 18th Novr/74

Rec'd 19th Novr/74

No 1955

Informing the Commissioners of the Belgian Govt. that arrangements can be made for the despatch of 40,000 lbs of Canadian Flour per R.M. Steamers, free of charge from Quebec to the Continent.

Current year.

No 130 - 21 November 1874

Wm. Harden

No 130

Received

21 Novr/74

To H.M. Government Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs