(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of report

(3) Details of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

C.O. No.	Press Mark
Dated	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 289. Read the following letter from J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 21st October 1876, No. 67.

GOVERNMENT Order, Revenue Department, dated 29th September 1876, No. 1390, on the subject of the Government Chinchona Plantations, directs me *inter alia* to dispense with one of the two Overseers at Dodabetta, to report whether any increase of pay ought to be granted to the Head Overseer at Dodabetta, to report whether it is practicable to effect savings on the allotment for repairs of buildings, and to stop the orders for galvanized wire, if the wire has not yet been received. The order finally states that no extra allowances will be given to the Assistant Superintendent until the end of a year, when his claims to an increase will be considered.

2. The Dodabetta plantation is 287 acres base measurement in extent. I think it proper to state here, as I am about to proceed on furlough, that about forty acres of this area is too exposed to support chinchona; that the ground, although planted several times, is bare; and that therefore I have directed it shall be planted next year with Eucalyptus Globulus. This gum is very hardy and a rapid grower, and will afford protection from wind, which is very much required, to the chinchona. It is quite useless to attempt the cultivation of chinchona on this ground.

3. Formerly, there were three Overseers at Dodabetta—Narrainsawmy, the present Head Overseer, and the other to whom the Government order under report refers, on Rupees 70 per mensem, Mr. Burrows on Rupees 50 and Mr. McDonald on Rupees 35. There was also an Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Rowson, on Rupees 150 per mensem.

4. Mr. Rowson was transferred to Neddivuttum, McDonald was dismissed on grounds of economy. I deem it impolitic to reduce further the establishment at Dodabetta. With so large an area as the plantation occupies and with increasing crops, two Overseers are absolutely necessary to keep the plantation in order. Numbers of coolies are employed, and there ought to be two Overseers to watch the gangs. Without constant supervision, the coolies flag, and only half the work is turned out that the cooly hire warrants. I would venture to suggest that both the Overseers should be retained.

5. I cannot recommend any increase of salary to the Head Overseer, Narrainsawmy. He has no faculty for organizing labor, and himself requires constant supervision by a European. McDonald is a much better workman. His fault is drink; and he has been lately transferred from Neddivuttum, where he drew 70 Rupees per mensem, and reduced to 50 Rupees per month. Apart from his failing, he is a better officer than Narrainsawmy. He is more active and more energetic. I could not recommend that Dodabetta should be placed under the sole charge of Narrainsawmy. Such a change would involve great risks to the plantation.

6. Since the death of Mr. McIvor, the Commissioner has been in charge of the plantations, and, owing to the press of work connected with getting in the crop for the current year, I have ventured to appoint as a temporary measure an Overseer to Pykara on Rupees 50 per mensem. The appointment was made on the 6th ultimo. The pay of the Overseer will be disbursed from the allotment for working charges.

7. I would venture here to suggest that the Commissioner should be specially empowered to make what arrangements appear necessary, so long as he does not exceed the allotment. Unless a discretion is allowed, it will be impossible for him to work the plantations with success. If he is required to obtain the sanction of Government to every temporary change, the plantations will suffer, as intermediately the time for performing the work required will have passed away. Of course, all the changes and measures adopted in each year will be referred to in the Administration Report.

8. I am unable to recommend savings in the repair allotment. The Drying House at Neddivuttum leaks very much, and it is in the interest of the plantations that the roof should be made watertight.

9. The galvanized wire has arrived in Madras. On this point I need merely state that Mr. McIvor was so satisfied of its efficacy, that he ordered the same quantity that has been supplied to Government for his own plantations.

10. With reference to the last point to which the Government Order adverts, I venture to submit that it will be expedient to allow Mr. Rowson to act under the Commissioner as Superintendent, as a temporary measure, pending the final arrangements the Government may see fit to make. I am of opinion that it is absolutely necessary, if the estates are to be maintained, that instructed European superintendence should supervise all the operations. Mr. Rowson is a nephew of the late Mr. McIvor, and came from England in 1869. He is a native of Liverpool. He has acquired a very good knowledge of [illegible] since the arrival of the seedlings, and my successor will necessarily depend in great measure on his experience. In my view, he should be made immediately responsible for all the plantations, and should be the sole officer to whom the instructions of the Commissioner should be addressed.

11. The need of a European under the Commissioner to carry on so large an undertaking as the chinchona plantations will be better understood when I state that the almost universal practice of planters is to employ European agency. It is found that Natives have not the energy required for overseeing plantations, and there is not an estate on the Nilgiris which is not supervised by a European. The usual rate of pay is 1 Rupee per mensem for every acre under cultivation, and if the Neddivuttum and Pykara plantations, alone consisting of 614 acres base measurement, were in private hands, the pay of the Superintendent would be 614 Rupees per month.

12. But I propose that Mr. Rowson should supervise all the plantations, comprizing 901 acres base measurement. Without his assistance, in Ootacamund it will be impossible for the Commissioner to do justice to the Dodabetta plantations. There is not only the labor to consider, and the harvesting of the crop, but pruning, and only a European understands how to organize labor and how to prune. On pruning, the productiveness of the trees very much depends.

13. With regard to the pay Mr. Rowson has drawn, it is necessary to make some remarks. Mr. Rowson received 150 Rupees per month at the outset, and now draws 200 Rupees including horse allowance. His predecessor was Mr. Dawson, who was always employed at Neddivuttum. Mr. Dawson served two years. He commenced on 50 Rupees. By Government Order, 25th April 1871, No. 743, Revenue Department, his pay was increased to 200 Rupees per month, but

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th November 1876.

Mr. Dawson resigned his appointment to better himself elsewhere. During the time the convicts were at Neddivuttum, Mr. Dawson drew an extra 50 Rupees per month for working them.

14. Mr. Rowson has served seven-and-a-half years, and only draws what Mr. Dawson was offered after five years' service. He never had, as Mr. Dawson had, an extra allowance on account of the convicts. Moreover, Mr. Dawson was not required to keep a pony. Mr. Rowson is obliged to maintain a pony, because, unlike Mr. Dawson, he has to supervise Pykara as well as Neddivuttum. 25 Rupees of Mr. Rowson's pay is budgetted as "horse keep."

15. If my views are approved, and Mr. Rowson is made responsible for all the plantations to the Commissioner, he will have to be constantly on the road between Ootacamund and Neddivuttum, and must keep a second pony.

16. The Budget allotment for the current year for the plantations is 68,000 Rupees. Mr. Rowson will have the disbursement of 40,000 Rupees, even if he is retained only on the Neddivuttum plantations. It is for the Government to consider whether such a responsibility ought to be imposed on an officer drawing Rupees 200 per mensem. It is obvious that the main responsibility of these disbursements must rest on Mr. Rowson, because the Commissioner cannot supervise efficiently expenditure going on more than 20 miles from his head-quarters. I need not enlarge on the necessity of paying highly for honesty in connection with the management of plantations, which lays open so many channels for peculation [illegible].

17. I recommend that Mr. Rowson should assume the position I have indicated, and that he should draw Rupees 300 per mensem with retrospective effect from the date of Mr. McIvor's death. It may be stated in the order that the increase is temporary and pending good behaviour. I should remark that Mr. Rowson informs me he has been put to an extra expenditure of at least 300 Rupees since Mr. McIvor's death, owing to his having taken up the duties I now suggest he should continue.

No. 290. ORDER THEREON, 17th November 1876, No. 1,703.

Miscellaneous.

His Grace the Governor in Council does not see sufficient reason for placing the management of the plantations under Mr. Rowson, but the addition to his salary recommended by the Commissioner is approved.

2. His Grace the Governor further directs, in modification of the instructions contained in paragraph 2 of the Order, 29th September 1876, that the establishment for Dodabetta remain intact.

3. The temporary employment of an extra Overseer at Pykara is approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Revenue Department

No. 4526

From Commissioner Nilgiris.
dy 21st October 1876

For orders

I am at a loss to advise on the basis of G. O. 29th September.

Of course the Commissioner never has controlled or managed the Cinchona Plantation or really known anything about them except what Dr McIvor pleased to reveal. Now, if the proposed plan of leaving each Plantation under the Subordinate Agency attached to each (that at Dodabetta being weakened) under the direct control of the Commissioner is to be carried out, we shall certainly want some real work and knowledge

4526

FOR ORDERS.

I think we should give the new system a fair trial. I would increase Mr. Rowson's salary in consideration of his increased responsibility. These papers should be kept till the return of H.E. the Govr. I would sanction the establishment as proposed by the Comr.

4/11/76. Jean McCoshen

[illegible]

[illegible] Rowson's salary [illegible] his reason for not [illegible] at Dodabetta — I do not see [illegible] the [illegible] Rowson &c — we want to keep going

Comt. Bilagiri 21 Oct. 76

No. 1703 - 17th Nov.

His Grace the Governor in Council does not see sufficient reason for placing the management of the Plantations under ~~[illegible]~~ Mr. Rowson, but the additional to his salary ~~[illegible]~~ recommended by the Comm. is approved.

His Grace the Govr. further directs, in modification of the instructions contained in para 2 of the Order of 5th Sept. 76. ~~[illegible]~~ the establishment for Dodabetta remain intact —

The temporary employment of an

an extra Overseer
at Tykarah is
approved —

[illegible]
10-15/76

[illegible] Commission of Indigenous [illegible]
14 [illegible]
6 [illegible]

[illegible]

Proof to the Petition of the Governor
General of the Province and Dependencies
of Cavite, the Alcalde Mayor of the
Province of Cavite, the Royal Officials
of the same, the Ecclesiastical Judge
of the Bishopric of Nueva Segovia
and the Commissary General
of the Religious Orders of the Holy
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus
of the Philippine Islands.

In the City of Manila on the fifteenth
day of the month of January of the year
one thousand seven hundred and forty-
six before me the Notary Royal and
Public and Witnesses appeared
Don Fernando Valdés Tamon Governor
and Captain General of these Islands
Don Juan Antonio Quiroga Alcalde
Mayor of the Province of Cavite
Don Juan Francisco de Arizaga
Royal Official of the same
Don Juan Antonio Ramírez Ecclesiastical
Judge of the Bishopric of Nueva Segovia
Don Juan Antonio Ramírez Commissary
General of the Religious Orders of the
Holy Province of the Most Holy Name of
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order. Numbers of coolies are employed and there ought to be two Overseers to watch the Gangs. Without constant supervision the coolies flag and only half the work is turned out that the cooly hire warrants. I would venture to suggest that both the Overseers should be retained.

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active and more energetic. I could not recommend that Dodabetta should be placed under the sole charge of Narrainsawmy. Such a change would involve great risks to the Plantation.

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necessary to cover or be done with respect
the plantations. Garden & diversions
to allowed & will be impossible for
him to make the Plantations with
success. If he is required to obtain
the sanction of Government to any
improving Changes the Plantations
will suffer an irretrievable
loss for the remainder of the term equal
to the whole Charges and Expenses attended
on such Improvements

5. That remarks of encouragement
towards the Defaulters will be
given to the Planters with
the sanction of Government to any
improving Changes the Plantations
will suffer an irretrievable
loss for the remainder of the term equal
to the whole Charges and Expenses attended
on such Improvements

6. That the Planters do make
Gardens & Orchards for their
Houses & Plantations

7. That the Planters do not
Cut down any Timber Trees
growing on the Plantations
without Leave from the Superintendant
or Assistant Superintendant
or Overseer

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in 1869. He is a native of Liverpool. He has acquired a very good knowledge of Chinchona since he arrived on the Nilgiris and my successor will necessarily depend in great measure on his experience. For my view he should be made immediately responsible for all the Plantations and should be the sole Officer to whom the instructions of the Commissioner should be addressed.

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is not supervised by a European. The usual rate of pay is one Rupee per Mensem for every acre under cultivation and of the Neddivuttum and Pykara Plantations alone consisting of 614 Acres base measurement were in private hands, the pay of the Superintendent would be 614 Rupees per month.

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16. The Budget allotment for

We cannot agree for the Contractors
to 68,000 Rupees. Mr. Rowson will
leave the disbursement of the sum
over if it is retained only for the
completion of the works under the
Engineer's Inspection & for the
Engagement of Coolies employed
on Repairs to Roads in connection
with the Dam
Engagement of Contractors which Engs
when the works Commenced for Execution
Engineer to be consulted from time
to time
Engineer to be consulted from time
to time
Engineer to be consulted from time
to time