M.R.O. 1—77,(21—3-3-31.

(1) Number of pages 3

(2) Date of repair 30-3-32

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 424 Press Mis.

Dated 19. 3. 1878

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th March 1878, No. 424.

Read the following paper:—

No. 202. From A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 4th March 1878, No. 50.

In my letter to Government, No. 172, of 21st December last, submitting the Budget Estimate of the Government Cinchona plantations for 1878-79, I made provision for several items of which I have now the honor to apply for sanction.

2. *Salaries—Commissioner's Office.*—Under this head provision is made for an extra Clerk on Rs. 15 per mensem. As reported in my letter of 21st December last, the late Mr. McIvor entertained on the 1st April 1876 a Clerk on Rs. 15 per mensem to assist Narrainsawmy, the H[illegible]verseer of the Dodabetta plantation. The salary of this Clerk was paid from working charges. Subsequently, owing to pressure of work in the Superintendent's office, this Clerk was on the 1st June 1876 brought from the Dodabetta plantations, and he has ever since continued to work here. His services cannot be dispensed with, as there is a considerable amount of miscellaneous work, such as posting up daily reports, &c., and as there is no one to take the Manager's place when absent through illness or from other causes. I trust, therefore, that Government will sanction the retention of the Clerk on the permanent establishment. The amount required is Rs. 180 per annum.

3. *Neddivuttum Plantation—Salaries.*—I have provided in the Budget for a Writer on 35 Rs. per mensem for this plantation. At present Mr. Rowson has no Writer. He has the accounts of two plantations (Neddivuttum and Pykara) to keep, and has a considerable correspondence with reference to the sale of plants and seeds, and has to supply information on Cinchona cultivation, &c. This office work keeps him more in the house than is desirable, and the appointment of the Clerk recommended will enable him to devote more time to the *working* of the plantations. The amount required is Rs. 420 per annum.

4. *Pykara Plantation.*—This estate consists of two plantations—the Wood and the Hooker. They are separated by the Pykara river. The former is 70 acres, the latter 170 acres in extent. At present both plantations are in charge of one Overseer who lives on the Wood estate. The river is often impassable for days together during the monsoon, and even in the fine weather it is not possible to efficiently work the estates with one man at one and the same time. I have, therefore, proposed the appointment of an additional Overseer who will be put in charge of the Hooker estate, leaving the present Overseer in charge of the Wood estate. The sum required is Rs. 600 at 50 Rs. per mensem.

5. *Dodabetta Plantation.*—In paragraph 2 I have reported that a Clerk was entertained by the late Mr. McIvor to help Narrainsawmy, the Head Overseer of the plantation, but that he was subsequently withdrawn for duty in the Superintendent's office. It will be of great advantage to set the Head Overseer free almost entirely

for out-door work. The Clerk will be employed in preparing the daily reports, journals, and other accounts, and in the supervision of the Central Bark store at Ootacamund (old Laboratory). At present the Head Overseer has to do this work to the detriment of his more important duties. The amount required for the Clerk at Rs. 15 per mensem is Rs. 180 per annum.

6. *Works—New Works.*—In paragraph 9 of my letter, No. 172, of 21st December last, forwarding the Budget Estimates for 1878-79, I asked for an allotment for the construction of two Overseers' sheds at Pykara, one on the Wood and the other on the Hooker estate. I pointed out that the Overseer at present lives in part of the bark store—a bad arrangement; and that as I had recommended the appointment of an Overseer for each estate, it would be advisable to construct houses for each. I have now the honor to enclose plan, estimate, and specification for each house. If the houses are thatched they will cost Rs. 650 each, if roofed with iron 950. I think the latter will be preferable on every account, and trust that Government will sanction the larger estimate.

7. *Roads.*—In the Budget I have proposed an allotment of Rs. 2,000 for opening out as a cart road the present trace from the Pykara-Neddivuttum short cut road to the Hooker estate, and for making the short cut from the junction to the mail road passable for carts. The new trace was made, I believe, by Colonel Farewell to afford easy access to the Pykara falls; and portions of it are already opened out to ten or fifteen feet. If this road is made passable for carts we shall be able to load the bales of bark at the estate, and so avoid the heavy expense of transporting them to the road by coolies. The distance is about three miles, and Mr. Rowson estimates that Rs. 2,000 will be sufficient for the work.

8. *Bridges.*—In my Budget I have applied for an allotment of Rs. 800 for bridges; three bridges are required, two in the Neddivuttum plantation, and one over the Macoorchi stream between the Neddivuttum and Pykara plantations. The stream that runs through the Neddivuttum plantation is often impassable in the monsoon, and the present bridge is in a dangerous state. The Macoorchi river is unbridged, and consequently communication between the plantations is often stopped in the monsoon. I have not submitted plans and estimates for the three bridges as they will be roughly made with jungle wood. I trust Government will sanction the lump allotment.

9. The estimates for works now submitted for sanction are as follows:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Overseers' sheds	1,900	
Bridges	800	
Roads	2,000	
		4,700

OTHER ALLOTMENTS—NEW WORKS.

Drying shed, Pykara (plan and estimate will be submitted hereafter)	3,000	
Gooly lines	2,000	
Flues, Dodabetta plantation	1,000	
Repairs	1,750	
		7,750
	Total ...	12,450
Budget allotment	...	12,000
	Excess ...	450

Should Government, however, be pleased to accord their sanction to the allotments now proposed, and allow me to commence some of the works at once out of savings in the current year's Budget, of which I have money available, I shall be able to have all the works mentioned completed by the end of next year within the Budget allotment.

No. 203. ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1878, No. 424.

Miscellaneous.

THE new works proposed by the Acting Commissioner are approved and sanctioned with the exception of the proposed drying shed regarding which further details are awaited.

2. The proposed increase to the establishments will be forwarded for the sanction of the Government of India, and the Acting Commissioner will submit the usual tabular statement for this purpose.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Acting Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. C. Howarth.

Govt. of {1878} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE AG. COMMISSIONER OF NILGIRIS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 19th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 19th March 1878, No. 424.

MARCH.

Nos. 202-203.

New Works in connection with Cinch
Plantations.—Approving and sanctioning
Acting Commissioner's proposals with refere
to — with the exception of the proposed dryin
shed ; and resolving to submit the proposal t
increase the establishments to the Government o
India.

