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(2) Date of repair 11.5.57

(3) Initials of the Referencer J.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1654	Press
		Mis.
Dated	7-12-	1880.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

7th December 1880, No. 1,654.

READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER :—

No. 110. Note by His Grace the Governor, dated 30th October 1880.

I VISITED Naduvatom on Monday, 25th October, having inspected the plantations on two previous occasions, in June 1876 and October 1878; the rain prevented me from making so complete an inspection at Naduvatom as on the two former occasions, but I visited particular parts, which I had on former occasions noticed, so that I was able to form a fair opinion of the comparative condition and the progress of the plantation. The trees planted by myself and party in 1876 had mostly thriven well, one of them exceeded 12 feet in height. Passing through the Napier plantation, the general character of the trees in 1876 was an irregular growth of three or more stems; careful and judicious use of the knife has corrected this, and it is now an healthy and vigorous plantation of good single-stemmed trees, except the portion above the road, next to "Ossington," which still indicates the ungenial nature of the soil and severity of the wind to which it is exposed.

2. The "Condamenias," which were some years since used to make good the failures amongst the Succirubras, although healthy and vigorous, are being hopelessly overshadowed by their broad-leaved neighbours.

3. The growth of the trees south of the old jail and north of the public road, the latter especially, was very marked; the growth of the hybrid Succirubras appears to equal the pure kind; the grey bark trees, of which there are a few, appear the least healthy; a want of fulness in the terminal buds of the young shoots and an hardness of the bark are visible on nearly all of them. Examining three of the principal places in which on my first visit I noted the failure of the trees planted, I did not find that the area of failure was increased, and it was evidently due to three causes combined: proximity of rocks to surface, excessive wet from water passing over the rock surface in contact with the roots, and exposure to peculiar eddies of wind. To endeavour to replant those areas would be simply a waste of labor.

4. I examined a portion of the five acres coppiced last year; the work appears to have been very carefully conducted, the stumps have been carefully adzed, and it was not easy to find any case in which the bark showed signs of bruising or other injury in the process, but the cutting has not, in my opinion, been made sufficiently low. To cut oak or ash coppice in England in a similar manner three inches above the collar would certainly produce decayed and hollow stumps, the result appears likely to be the same in the case of the Cinchona. The shoots proceed from the sides of the stump just above the collar, and will thus form no callous to cover and incorporate the stump; the shoots should proceed from the inner edge of the cut bark whence they would speedily form a growth over the whole stump; this seems to have arisen from the Conservator of Forests instruction in letter, 6th May 1879, No. 230, in which he directed the sawing of the stump three or four inches above the collar. I believe that if the trees had been cut in accord with the second sentence of paragraph 4, G.O., 27th May 1879, No. 1,161, a more vigorous growth would have been obtained; I think also the shoots had been too much reduced in number. I do not believe that three shoots on a tree, whose circumference is fifteen to eighteen inches, will suffice to keep the roots in healthy action, and to maintain life in the whole surrounding bark.

5. The opinion of Mr. Rowson, I find, is the same, but he was bound by the instructions he received. I think that a small additional area, say half an acre, might with advantage be coppiced in the ensuing season, under instructions to cut

the stump immediately above the collar, and not to remove the young shoots for the first season, to an extent which would leave more than a two-inch interval. After the first season's growth, the weaker ones might be removed with the knife.

6. The whole condition of the plantation is highly creditable to Mr. Rowson, and has greatly improved under his superintendence since my first visit, at the time of Mr. McIvor's death. Visiting the estate on the occasion, with no previous notice, there had been no opportunity for any preparation or clearing up. I was disappointed to find that only one row of new cooly lines had been erected, the early provision of these is of much importance. No commencement whatever has been made by Public Works, in constructing, or even preparing for constructing, the new drying shed; this is an emergent work, and there is now much danger that it cannot be completed in time for use next season, which will endanger the quality and limit the quantity of the possible harvest, and this with a crop whose value may be extended from 5 and 20 to 40,000 pounds is material.

7. Viewing the sites proposed, I think the site above and south-west of the cooly lines is a preferable one, having a freer circulation of air, and it will only cause the cutting of something under two hundred plants, also allowing the old shed and the cooly line to continue in use. The old shed, however, will not last long without at least a completely new roofed frame. One point is of much importance, and that is that no complicated stoves, involving skilled workmen and iron work for their repair, should be introduced; the old fashioned brick flues, maintaining a steady heat, can be constructed and repaired by the ordinary labor available, and are repairable in a few hours with materials always at hand. The failure of a hot-water pipe or valve, or the cracking of a cast-iron stove would need much time to repair, and may thus endanger a valuable crop. Another point which needs attention is the provision of a cistern on the ground above and immediately adjoining the sheds with a three-inch pipe to each shed for hose in case of fire; there is an ample supply of water from the stream at sufficient elevation.

8. The new raggi-store is substantial and well built; the cooly lines well kept, and old laborers continuing to adhere to the estate, notwithstanding the inducements which have been held out to them from elsewhere, which speaks well for the management. Mr. Rowson has moved into the new bungalow just completed. I rode through the "Ossington" and "Prospect" estates on Wednesday, their trees bear no comparison with the Naduvatom. I also visited the "Hooker" plantation, and examined the coppicing. The remarks on the coppicing at Naduvatom would equally apply in case of the "Hooker;" there is a larger sprinkling of grey bark amongst the coppiced trees on the Hooker, and I noted that they had in nearly every case failed to shoot; the same remark also applies very generally to the hybrid, and it would seem that these trees are unsuited for coppicing by some natural peculiarity. The general character of the trees on Hooker is of a slower and less vigorous growth in all the Succirubra, except a small portion in a ravine, formerly a sholah, and sheltered by unfelled trees. The elevation and exposure of this estate is too great for that class.

9. The Crown bark trees are healthy and vigorous. The arrangements made last year for cattle will materially aid this estate with manure. I carefully noted the portion of this estate visited by the ice storm last year, the damage by which, on the Wood estate, I noted shortly after its occurrence. The portion of Hooker subjected to the storm was practically destroyed. A few scattered trees survive, which served to show, by the injury to their bark and the broken branches, the severity of the blows they received. The destroyed trees had been uprooted and the area replanted with about 125,000 plants. Like Naduvatom, the estate is well cultivated and weeds kept down. The nursery beds had a good and healthy crop of seedlings. The state of the river would not allow me to cross to again inspect the Wood estate, except by a detour of many miles by the Pykara bridge. From my two previous visits, however, I am of opinion that there is no advantage to be derived from maintaining the cultivation of this estate, from which carriage is especially costly, manure most difficult to obtain, access of wild animals to the gorge rendering it impossible to maintain cattle, and being remote from supervi-

sion. The whole existing crop might be realized by uprooting the trees, and the estate allowed to return to a natural sholah, assisted by the sowing of accacias or other suitable trees. I would not sell the land. A valuable supply of fuel for the estate which would soon be costly would be obtainable therefrom. Consequent, on the change of site of Superintendent's residence at Naduvatom, the rain gauge has been removed, which has disclosed the fact that the short distance and somewhat lower elevation indicates a very much less rainfall. In connection with the question of possible effect of clearing operations upon the hills, it is worthy of notice that, as I before observed in a Minute on questions connected therewith, the spring below the old bungalow at Naduvatom has sunk a considerable distance lower in the ravine, and I, on this occasion, found that the spring which on my former visits gave a good supply at the old jail lines, has now disappeared. On general matters connected with the district I noted that the road from Sandynullah to Pykara and on to Naduvatom has deteriorated to a very marked extent, so as to add materially to the cost of traffic and was almost impassable for spring carriages, although in 1876 I drove the whole distance with my pony carriages. The greater part has never been metalled, although well and skillfully traced. It would probably be not difficult to obtain contributions from the estates whose traffic passes thereover towards what must be a considerable outlay to form it into a metalled road. The Government plantations should of course contribute; it would materially reduce the time and consequent cost of bark carriage. Another point needing attention is the necessity for prompt demarcation, by small ditch as well as bound stones, of the reserved sholahs adjacent to occupied land.

10. The destruction of sholahs and encroachment upon others are very marked within four years. So far as I could ascertain on the spot, it would appear that it has not been customary to include demarcation of sholahs in the demarcation of the estate adjoining or surrounding them. The sholahs should be demarcated by surrounding straight lines, and the small areas of grass thus included might with advantage be planted; at present there is no sufficient demarcation to secure them, when every man's hand is against them. This duty should be watched by a superior officer, and not left to subordinates who may possibly not be reliable.

11. This work in the neighbourhood of Naduvatom, the head of the Ouchterlony valley and adjacent estates, is emergent. The Manager of the Ouchterlony estate told me that he proposed to clear some hundred acres of large sholahs at the head of the valley at once, which renders the preservation of the remaining Government sholahs of the utmost importance, as well as the examination of the several boundaries, so that any sholah not included in the grant, but felled, should there be any such cases, may be resumed. The Manager of the Ouchterlony estate explained the difficulties experienced in safely conveying coffee to the coast, but the mode of theft which he had himself witnessed is of a nature simply requiring energetic action by the Magistrate and by efficient and trustworthy police to repress. It is not creditable that organised theft of a valuable produce should be allowed to prevail in a portion of a district so much frequented. Much stress is now laid rightly on the sanitation of villages, and endeavours are being made to induce the natives of country villages to pay more attention to that subject, to cleanliness in the surroundings of their homes than hitherto, but the condition of cooly lines to be seen on estates on the Nilgiris, owned and managed by European proprietors is, such as to be a disgrace to the owners and to civilization, and if proprietors will not attend to it, and officers cannot control it, legislation must be resorted to.

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

No. 111.

ORDER THEREON, 7th December 1880, No. 1,654.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris and Conservator of Forests, whose attention is specially drawn to His Grace's remarks as to the unutility of replanting certain portions of

the estate where the plants have continuously failed, the construction of additional cooly lines at Naduvatam, and the coppicing of a further small area which should be felled next year, and the operations carried out strictly in accordance with His Grace's suggestions.

2. The plans and estimates for the new drying and storing houses at Naduvatam received general approval in G.O., 20th October 1880, No. 1,367, and are now in the Public Works Department, in which His Grace's views as to their site, the construction of a cistern, &c., in case of fire, and the advantage of adhering to the present system of heating will receive consideration.

3. The Commissioner will take early steps to have the state of the road to Naduvatam brought to the notice of the Local Fund Board, in view to measures being taken to have it metalled, bearing in mind that Government will be prepared to pay a contribution which will be annually provided in the Cinchona budget.

4. The Superintendent, Revenue Survey, will arrange for the demarcation of all sholahs contiguous to estates being carried out with the least possible delay and being checked by an *officer* of the department.

5. The Conservator of Forests will bear in mind that the grass land included in such demarcation should be planted up.

6. The complaint of the Manager of the Ouchterlony estates as to coffee stealing has been disposed of in the Judicial Department.

7. The improvement of the sanitary condition of cooly lines on private estates will receive the Commissioner's best attention.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
" the Conservator of Forests.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
" the Judicial Department.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

85 Copies.

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Wm W. H. [illegible]

I visited Rediwuttun on Monday 25th October, having inspected the plantations ~~before~~ ^{on} ^{previous} two occasions, in June 1876 and October 1878, the rain prevented me from making so complete an inspection at Rediwuttun as on the two former occasions, but I visited particular parts, which I had on former occasions noticed, so that I was able to form a fair opinion of the comparative condition and the progress of the plantation. The trees planted by myself and party in 1876, had mostly thrived well, one of them exceeded 12 feet in height.

Chapman

Debit. of (1880) 217.00

REVENUE.

171

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NILGIRIS,

Fig. 1

Dated December 7th.

Printer 11th.

Dear

Bruch.

G.O., 7th December 1880, No. 1,651.

DECEMBER,
Nos. 110-111.

Note by His Grace the Governor of Madras on the Madras and Mysore Plantations, Mysore's— Commencing to the Commissioner and Conservator of Forests—and directing that their special attention be drawn to certain remarks of His Grace: issuing certain instructions to the Commissioner, Conservator, and Superintendent of Mysore Survey, and stating that the complaint of the Manager of the Ouchterlony estates as to coffee suckling has been disposed of in the Judicial Department.

W. H. H. H.
605/4

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W. H. D.

Page 57. r. 79. has 56th. 12

Revenue 1880 Sept

Feb 15 90.

From

His Grace the Governor.

PRINT

230 Oct.
212 Nov.

Note on the Medicinal
uses Cinchona Plants.

c. 22/11. R 7/12/90.

Feb. the first? to be
on his visit in Feb 89
to the Mediterranean
Cinchona plants?

5-3/4

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demands

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factory conditions
of the Estate
to be by H.G.
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Carrickarlon
H.G. is just of
C. B. is waiting
H.G. is to be

John
H.G. is waiting
H.G. is waiting
H.G. is waiting

No. 154

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 7 Dec 1947

READ the following *Note*

by His Grace the Governor
dated 30th October 1880 on the
Medivutham Chinchana
Plantations.

C. P. 6590.

in the same respect
to the attention of
the S. E. Mag. of
his friend & neighbor
of the S. E. of Police
directed to S. E. S.
Remarks.

The consid. of
relating to Bond
to Graham's place
shd. be taken up.

5/1/10

Communicated to the
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3 Reformed & Helgins }
21. County of ... } Sept 14/12/50
21 " " " " }
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Ex 2

7/12

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