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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1690 A Press Mis.

Dated 8-12 1880.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
8th December 1880.

No. 145-A.

No. 1,670-A.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME, REVENUE AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

SIR,—I am directed by His Grace the Governor in Council to forward for the information of the Government of India the accompanying copy of the Proceedings of this Government, dated 8th December 1880, No. 1,670, on the subject of placing the Chinchona Plantations on the Nílgiris under a Forest Officer, together with copies of the Secretary of State's despatches referred to therein.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

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

Exd. W. H. French.

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Original

Agriculture {1880} Department.

( )

Government of Fort St. George.

Dated 8th December 1880. { No. 1,670-A. Enclosures. 5 Spare Copies.

Received.

D. No. Progs.

L. No. No. 145-A.

Transmitting Proceedings of this Government on the subject of placing the Cinchona Plantations on the Nilgiris under a Forest Officer, together with Secretary of State's despatches.

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# REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous, / *Forests.* No. 4 of 1879.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

My Lord,—With reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 17th January 1878, remarking on the Annual Report on the Cinchona Plantations for 1875-76, we have the honor to forward herewith a report by Captain C. Walker, who was deputed by us to inspect the plantations and enumerate the trees, and also the report of the Committee which was directed to investigate and advise on the questions raised by your Lordship.

These were, briefly, the retention by Government of the plantations, the appointment of a successor to the late Mr. McIvor, the re-employment of a Quinologist, and the resumption of the local manufacture of a febrifuge.

2. We have already intimated that we are altogether opposed to the general relinquishment of the plantations, and are strengthened in our opinion by the papers now under consideration. We would invite your Lordship's special attention to paragraphs 56, 57, and 66 of the Committee's report. The fact that the action of Government in continuing the enterprise is not injurious to the Indian planter is shown by the increase in Cinchona cultivation in this Presidency and Ceylon—an increase which is due to the assured success of the Government plantations and the prices realised by their bark in the Home market.

3. That success, however, has not been so complete as might have been hoped, for a large proportion of the plants put out on the estates have perished. Captain Walker, after a careful and accurate enumeration, has found but 569,031, whereas according to the computation of the late Mr. McIvor there should have been *1,125,204. Moreover, only two of the Cinchona species have as yet been found to thrive on the Nilgiris. The varieties of the *Cinchona calisaya* which are of much higher repute have hitherto failed. Further experiment with the latter is needed, and also in hybridization, and the systematic cultivation of such hybrids as appear to be of value. This subject opens up a wide field for research, and may possibly be the means of extending the cultivation to districts where Cinchonas cannot now be grown. The best method of harvesting the bark is also as yet open to question, and varied experiments on a scale of some magnitude are needed for its satisfactory determination. Investigations of this kind are necessarily too costly and protracted to be undertaken by private persons; and as their aim is to provide the people of India with a febrifuge

* Excluding Melkoonda abandoned plantation.

bark of the highest quality, and one that can be abundantly grown by them, they are a fit object for Government experiment.

4. To obtain a sufficient scope for the inquiry it is necessary to retain the plantations with their varied elevation, aspect and rainfall. Moreover, without a considerable annual harvest of bark it would not be possible to meet the requisite expenditure or to defray the interest of the money already sunk and reproduce the capital.

A careful statement of the capital account of the plantations has been prepared by the Accountant-General, and is appended to the Committee's report. This carries the account up to 1876-77, and the figures for the following year having been added by the Committee, the result is to leave a debit balance of about six lakhs of rupees.

5. Assuming that the estates are to be retained by Government, it remains to consider whether their produce should be sent to England or worked up in India, or whether both plans should be followed.

The information now available has forced us to the conclusion that the only course at present advisable is to send the bulk of the bark for sale in the Home market. We are satisfied that this course in no way injures the Indian planter, and that without it it will be impossible to make any approximation to the end in view, viz., the placing of a really cheap and efficient febrifuge within the reach of the people of this country.

6. If the bark is to be worked up in India, it is in the first place necessary to cheapen its production, and next to discover a method of manufacture that shall at a reasonably moderate outlay extract a due proportion of the alkaloids.

The Committee show that so far no such method has been discovered, though the officers in charge of the inquiry in Bengal are sanguine of future success.

7. There is also the further difficulty that if these preliminary obstacles were overcome a febrifuge from Nilgiri bark sold at the lowest price at which it could be produced would be immediately bought up and exported to be resold at the true commercial value of its constituents.

8. We are therefore as yet unable to recommend the resumption of the local manufacture of a febrifuge, and will consequently not require the services of a Quinologist.

9. The Government of India have suggested that we should send bark to Calcutta to be converted into a febrifuge or quinine by the local Quinologist, but, apart from the fact that a satisfactory method of manufacture has still to be found, there are obvious objections to the adoption of their suggestion, such as the cost of transport, &c., which we shall lay before them.

10. In regard to the future management of the plantations we are fully of opinion that it is desirable to appoint a person in succession to the late Mr. McIvor. We also think with the Committee that what is wanted is a scientific but practical horticulturist who shall be capable of working the plantations to the best advantage, and of experimenting, particularly in the direction of careful artificial hybridization, and the modes of propagating the several varieties. In one of his last official communications Mr. McIvor expressed his conviction of the importance of such experiments, and intimated that his experience led him to anticipate the best results. These fruits of his labors unfortunately perished with him, and it becomes all the



more desirable that the inquiry should be started afresh by one trained and experienced in such cultivation and competent to record and act upon the results obtained.

11. We shall therefore be glad if your Lordship will set on foot inquiries for a suitable person at such salary as may be necessary.

12. In regard to the Committee's remarks* as to the more extended use of sulphates of cinchona alkaloids other than quinine, we may here mention, for your Lordship's information, that we have sanctioned the issue by the Medical Department of 50 per cent. of cinchonidine and 25 per cent. of cinchonine against 25 per cent of quinine. This measure, which will considerably lighten the expenditure in Civil and Military Hospitals, will make the cheaper alkaloids more generally known, and more readily obtainable by the people of the country. We have also directed a further systematic trial of the Sikkim febrifuge.

* Paragraphs 36—48.

Proceedings, Public Department, Nos. 42 and 43, dated 22nd January 1879.

We have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.
( „ ) W. HUDLESTON.
( „ ) DAVID. F. CARMICHAEL.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
14 March 1879.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

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FORT ST. GEORGE,

*REVENUE DEPARTMENT.*

Miscellaneous.

*Forests.*

*Copy.*

*Letter to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.*

*Dated 4 March,*
*No. 4 of* 1879.

FORWARDING, with observations, reports by Captain C. Walker and the Cinchona Committee on matters connected with the Cinchona Plantations, &c.

Revd
21/12/80

No: 1670 A

To the Secretary to the
Govt of India
N.R. & A.D.

Sir

I am directed by Sir Frederick Govt in Council to forward for the information of the Govt of India the accompanying copy of the Proc: of this Govt dy 8th Decr 80, No 1670 on the subject of placing the Cinchona Plantns on the Nilgiris under a forest officer, together with copies of the Secretary of State Despatches referred to therein -

8 Decr 80

List.

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