M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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4

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1194	Press Mis.
Dated	15.8.	1881.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

15th August 1881, No. 1,194.

READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

No. 198. Endorsement of the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, dated 29th July 1881, No. 2,100.

Despatch from the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, (Leave, &c.—Pensions,) to the Right Honorable the MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, M.P., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated Simla, 29th July 1881, No. 205.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—We have the honor to refer for Your Lordship's consideration an application from Mr. Robert Cross for a pension of Rs. 100 a month in recognition of the services rendered by him in collecting the various species of Chinchona as well as the Rubber trees of South America, on which duty he was employed on several occasions by the Secretary of State.

We have not in our possession detailed information regarding the precise periods for which Mr. Cross was employed specially on work in the interests of *India* or regarding the nature of his remuneration therefor, and we are accordingly unable to deal finally with this application. We gather that Mr. Cross's services in the cause of India amounted to about six years in all. While admitting therefore that Mr. Cross has done good service for India, we do not think that he has thereby established a claim to a pension for life from the Indian Revenues. We cannot accordingly concur in the recommendation made by the Government of Madras in his behalf. But if Your Lordship thinks that Mr. Cross's remuneration has been inadequate, we should have no objection to the grant to him of a moderate gratuity payable from Indian Revenues.

We have the honor to be,
MY LORD MARQUIS,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servants,

(Signed) RIPON.
(,,) D. M. STEWART.
(,,) W. STOKES.
(,,) RIVERS THOMPSON.
(,,) J. GIBBS.
(,,) E. BARING.
(,,) T. F. WILSON.

ENCLOSURE.

From the Acting Under Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, dated 17th May 1881, No. 779.

I AM directed to forward, for the favorable consideration of the Government of India, and ultimate submission to the Secretary of State, the accompanying very temperate representation from Mr. Robert Cross of the valuable services rendered by him in collecting the various species of chinchona as well as the rubber trees of South America, and his application in consequence for some recognition of his exertions in the way of a moderate pension.

2. The success consequent on Mr. Cross's endeavours admits of no question, and the Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers that the warmest acknowledgments of the Government at Home and in India are due to Mr. Cross.

3. The Madras Government are now forwarding to the Secretary of State copies of interesting reports recently submitted by Mr. Cross after personal inspection of the chinchona plantations on the Nilgiri Hills and the American India-rubber plants at Nilambúr.

Proceedings, dated 17th May 1881, No. 781.
" " 17th " " " 784.

I am desired to enclose copies of these papers for the information of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated 17th May 1881, No. 778.

READ the following paper:—

Endorsement of the Conservator of Forests, dated 7th April 1881, No. 25.

From R. CROSS, Esq., to the Conservator of Forests, dated 4th April 1881.

I TAKE the liberty of addressing to you a few statements relating to my previous labors while employed in collecting the different species of chinchonas and American India-rubber trees in South America—now being cultivated in India—and trust that these may be deemed of sufficient importance to merit your notice and to recommend them for the favorable consideration of Government.

2. These duties first commenced in 1860 when I proceeded to South America for a collection of plants of the red-bark tree which grows in the Republic of Ecuador on the western slopes of Chimborazo. I may state that before proceeding on this work I was informed that I would probably have the plants delivered to me at the port of Guayaquil, to which place they were to be brought down, "each in its own little bamboo pot," but I had to proceed upwards of 150 miles into the interior—passing through two revolutionary armies on the way—to the habitat of the tree and there gather together and cultivate the collection, and proceeding with it afterwards succeeded in bringing 463 plants alive to India. Of other duties performed in this way I may refer for comparison to the most successful—that of the Dutch Government—entrusted to M. Hasskarl, who although he had a Dutch man-of-war for specially conveying his plants from South America, only brought two plants alive to Java. While performing this duty I had an attack of fever at Guayaquil. Towards the latter end of 1861, I made a collection of seeds of the "Crown" bark at Loxa, the results of which are the plantations scattered over the Nilgiris. I did not however get through this undertaking without another attack of fever experienced near the Gulf of Guayaquil. In 1863, I travelled along the course of the Andes from Chimborazo to Popayan over the most extensive volcanic plateau in America, and beyond Popayan on the Central Cordillera made a collection of seeds of the Pitayo bark tree. A fierce revolution was then reigning in the country which delayed the journey so much that the seeds failed to germinate. As it was three attacks of fever were experienced during this long journey. However, in 1868, I returned to Pitayo and made a fresh collection of seeds, and on this occasion of plants also, which finally ensured the establishment of this valuable bark tree in India. In 1875, I made a collection of plants of the Central American rubber tree (*Castilloa elastica*) in the interior of the Isthmus of Panama, and although shipwrecked on the return voyage, managed to bring a sufficient number alive to England, by which means the tree was introduced into India. In 1876, I proceeded to Brazil, and ascending the river Amazon to Para made a collection of plants there of the *Hevea* tree which yields the Para rubber of commerce. Then disembarking on the return voyage at the port of Ceara, I was able to secure a collection of seeds of the tree previously undescribed, which furnishes the "Ceara scrap" of the English market. Both of these sorts are now established in India. In 1878, I again went to New Granada (now United States of Columbia) and crossing from the Pacific side over the entire mountain ranges of the Cordilleras to the upper sources of the Amazon, made a collection of plants of the tree yielding the bark known as "Soft Columbian" or "Santa Fé," which forms so important a feature in the English and French markets. Great hardships were encountered in collecting plants of this sort, which were found to be incredibly scarce. On the return journey a divergence was made for plants of the sort whence is obtained the "Carthagena" or "New Granada" bark, which, though only of a second-class character, might still prove, when cultivated, a useful sort in India.

3. On reaching England with these collections of plants I received instructions to forward them to Kew from Southampton, which was accordingly done. At Kew the collection of Santa Fé plants from some misunderstanding was put into a cold shed where they lay for a week, which had the effect of killing the young growths and seriously injuring the majority of the plants. I was then asked to take care of them, and by means of propagation succeeded in raising a little stock of plants. Of these a case was despatched in the autumn of 1879; but, as none of the plants survived, the remainder was brought out by me and are now doing well, so that after a series of the most extraordinary difficulties the introduction of the plant is secured to the country.

4. In justice to myself I may mention that the collection of both the Ceara rubber tree and Carthagena bark was made by me without previous instructions, and consequently at my own expense.

5. In the investigation and collection of these widely-distributed products, forming an important source of the export wealth of Brazil and of seven of the Central and South American Republics, it will be found that the work has been done thoroughly and properly, as in every instance the habitats of the various trees were studied on the spot, and the various climatic conditions and other circumstances carefully noted and considered.

6. Apart from the perilous nature of these journeys in regions proverbially unhealthy, a still greater source of danger, especially in New Granada, was the risk occasioned by the predatory raids of revolutionary guerillas.

7. In conclusion, I trust that in view of these longthened and important services, Government may be pleased to bestow on me a pension of one hundred rupees per mensem.

8. But whatever view may be taken of this request, I beg to state that my chief wish is to render the introduction of the plants at present under my charge secure to the satisfaction of every one, and to give such assistance or advice as may facilitate the development of these products in India.

FORWARDED to Government. Mr. Cross appears to have performed very valuable service and to have undergone great hardships in the collection of various species of chinchona and rubber trees in South America, and his labors will probably result in great benefit to India. It is presumed that all this time he has been in the service or rather the pay of the Home Government, and that they are better able to judge of the value of his services than this Department.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Colonel,
Conservator of Forests.

Order thereon by the Government of Madras.

MR. CROSS's application for pension will be forwarded for the favorable consideration of the Secretary of State through the Government of India.

COPY forwarded to the Government of Madras, with reference to their letter in the Revenue Department, No. 779, dated 17th May 1881.

(Signed) S. JACOB,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 199. ORDER THEREON, 15th August 1881, No. 1,194.

Miscellaneous. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

30 Copies.

Original.

Govt. of 1881: Madras.

REVENUE.

Vide Cir. 6, 2.8.81.

Dated August 15th.

Printed 24th.

Encl. *Encl.*

G.O., 15th August 1881, No. 1,154.

AUGUST.

Nos. 198-199.

SUBJECT.

Mr. Robert Cross.—Recording endorsement of the Government of India, forwarding copy of despatch sent to the Secretary of State transmitting an application from — praying for a pension of Rs. 100 a month, with recommendation that if necessary, a moderate gratuity may be granted to him.

No. 205 OF 1881.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

LEAVE, &c. —
Pensions.

To

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, M.P.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Simla, the 29th July 1881.

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" D. M. STEWART.
" W. STOKES.
" RIVERS THOMPSON.
" J. GIBBS.
" E. BARING.
" T. F. WILSON.

No. 2100

COPY forwarded to the Government of Madras, with reference to their letter in the Revenue, Department No. 779, dated 17th May 1881.

Stephen Lee

Offg. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of India.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

Enclosures of Despatch No. 205 of 1881.

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To—The Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Finance and Commerce.

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Govt. Central Branch Press, Simla.—No. 332 C. F.—28-7 81.—40.

Schedule of Papers.

Letter from the Government of Madras, No. 779, dated 17th May 1881.

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, No. 778, dated 17th May 1881.

8017-5-81 Nos 200-202

Revenue 1881 Despatch

No. 4101.

Copy.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

LEAVE, &c.
Pensions.

Read 15/8

FROM

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

TO

THE SECY. OF STATE FOR INDIA.

No. 205.

Dated Simla, the 29th July 1881.

Received " 9 August /81

Forwards an application from Mr. Robert Cross, praying for a pension of Rs. 100 a month, with recommendation that if necessary a moderate gratuity may be granted to him.

G. C. B. Press, Simla.—No. 332 C. F.—28-7-81.—40.

Recommended for the Consideration of the Secretary of State for Revenue in Council

Read

Nos 1194

Recorded.

List

15th August 1881

198 199