M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair 30-8-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer CP

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

(Revenue) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1081	Press / Mis.
Dated	17-11-	1887.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12

17TH NOVEMBER 1887, No. 1081, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from M. A. LAWSON, Esq., Government Botanist and Director of Cinchona Plantations, Nilgiris, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 22nd October 1887, No. 53:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 867 of the 5th September 1887, Revenue, I have the honor, with reference to paragraph 7 of G.O. No. 988 of 15th November 1886, Revenue, to submit a report on the proposed future working of the Wood plantation.

2. I have already pointed out in several reports that a great portion of this plantation is in a very bad condition, and that I think that the outlay which would be necessary to put these portions into a state of repair would never be recouped, and I therefore strongly urge on Government to allow me to abandon all the above-mentioned portions, and to retain only about 20 or 25 acres of the better part of the plantation.

3. There are still upon the portions which I propose should be abandoned many trees which have passed their prime. These I would uproot at once, but I would not attempt to replant, for the soil is in most places very poor owing to past denudation; and the land in many other parts, owing to its rocky and stony nature, is ill-suited for the culture of cinchona.

4. In paragraph 7 of G.O. No. 988 of 15th November 1886, Revenue, Government remark as follows:—

"The Director's attention is drawn to the fact that this plantation yielded in 1885-86 37,385 lb. of green bark at a cost of only Rs. 6,680, or As. 2-10 per lb., while in the previous year the yield was 30,252 lb., and the cost Rs. 5,473."

But the former statement of the cost of the bark being only As. 2-10 per lb. is misleading, because the calculation has been made upon the green instead of upon the dry bark, and as green bark ordinarily loses two-thirds of its weight during the process of drying, the cost of the dry bark per lb. was As. 8-6.

5. With respect to what the capital outlay upon this plantation has been since the commencement, I am unable to give you the information asked for in the above quoted paragraph, as the accounts of this plantation have, prior to the year 1883-84, been mixed up with those of other estates under the management of the Assistant Superintendent of which it was for the time being placed; but since the year 1883-84, the cost of upkeep has been Rs. 19,484, but this does not include the charges connected with the supervision.

6. I may state here that I have of a purpose curtailed the expenses connected with the upkeep of the Wood plantation, and kept them at their lowest limit, feeling assured that money expended on their renovation, that is to say on the outlying and worser portions, would be simply wasted. So that the sum of Rs. 19,484 for the four years does not truly represent what would have been expended had the renovation of the plantation been carried on, as was originally intended. If this renovation is insisted upon by Government which, for reasons given above, I should deprecate, the outlay for the next few years must be very great—I think not less than Rs. 10,000 per annum.

7. If Government allow my proposed changes, and retain the 20 to 25 acres only, I think I shall not be far wrong in putting all charges connected with the plantation at about Rs. 3,000 per annum. This will include, besides upkeep proper, the cost of maintaining a sub-overseer on the place, who would be transferred from the Hooker plantation.

8. I estimate that I should obtain from the trees now standing upon the outlying portions about 70,000 lb. of dry bark, nearly all of which would be red bark but of a somewhat inferior quality, averaging probably not more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. of total alkaloids, the monetary value of which in the present fluctuating state of the market, I am unwilling to estimate.

9. If my proposals are sanctioned, the outlay on repairs will be very small; indeed only such as has been ordinarily expended every year upon the present buildings.

ORDER—dated 17th November 1887, No. 1081, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The proposals of the Director are approved and sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Secretary to Government.

To the Government Botanist,
„ the Editors' Table.

Original

Govt. of {1887} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 17th November 1887, No. 1081.

NOVEMBER.

Wood Estate.

Approving Mr. Lawson's proposals regarding the future working of the —.

No. 53 Director's Office
Ootacamund 22nd October, 1887.

From

M. E. Lawson, Esq.
Govt. Botanist and Director
of Cinchona Plantations
Nilgiris.

To,

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to para 2 of G.O. No. 567 of the 5th September, 87 Revenue - I have the honor with reference to para 3 of G.O No 988 of 15th November 1886 - Revenue - to submit a report on the proposed future working of the Wood Plantation

2 I have already pointed out in several reports that a great portion of this plantation is in a very bad condition, and that I think that the outlay which would be necessary to put these portions into a state of repair would never be recouped, and I therefore strongly urge to Government to allow me to abandon all the above

Vide VII

above mentioned portions, and to retain only about 200 or 25 acres of the better part of the plantation.

3. There are still upon the portions which I propose should be abandoned many trees, which have passed their prime. These I would uproot at once, but I would not attempt to replant for the soil is in most places very poor, owing to past denudation, and the land in many other parts, owing to its rocky and stony nature, is ill suited for the culture of Cinchona.

4. In para 7 of G.O. No. 788 of 15 November 1886 - Revenue - Government remark as follows:-

"The Director's attention is drawn to the "fact that this plantation yielded "in 1885-86 - 37,385 pounds of green bark "at a cost of only Rs. 6.680, or Rs. 0-2-10" per lb, while in the previous year "the yield was 30,252 lbs, and the cost" "Rs 5473". But the former statement of the cost of the bark being only 0-2-10 per lb is misleading, because the

the calculation has been made upon the green, instead of upon the dry bark, and as green bark ordinarily loses two thirds of its weight, during the process of drying, the cost of the dry bark per lb. was annas 8-6 pie.

5 With respect to what the capital outlay upon this plantation has been since the commencement, I am unable to give you the information asked for in the above quoted paragraph, as the accounts of this plantation have, prior to the year 1883-84, been mixed up with those of other Estates under the management of the Assistant Superintendent of which it was for the time being placed, but since the year 1883-84 the cost of upkeep has been Rs 19.484, but this does not include the charges connected with the supervision.

6 I may state here that I have of a purpose curtailed the expenses connected with the upkeep of the Ward plantation, and kept them at their lowest limit, feeling assured

assured that money expended on their renovation that, is to say on the outlying and worse portions, would be simply wasted. So that the sum of $19,680 for the four years does not truly represent what would have been expended had the renovation of the plantation been carried on, as was originally intended. If this renovation is insisted upon by Government which for reasons given above I should deprecate, the outlay for the next few years must be very great, I think not less than $10,000 per annum.

7. If Government allow my proposed changes, and retain the 20 to 25 acres only, I think I should not be far wrong in putting all charges connected with the plan. - Indian at about $3,000 per annum. This will include, besides upkeep, proposed, the cost of maintaining a Sub-Overseer on the place, who would be transferred from the Hooker plantation.

I

8 I estimate that I should obtain from the trees now standing upon the outlying portions, about 70 cwts of dry bark, nearly all of which would be Red bark, but of a somewhat inferior quality, averaging probably not more than 4 to 5 per cent of Total alkaloids; the monetary value of which in the present fluctuating state of the market, I am unwilling to estimate.

9. If my proposals are sanctioned the outlay on repairs will be very small; indeed only such as has been ordinarily expended every year upon the present buildings.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt. Servant
W. A. Lawson
Govt. Botanic Gardens
Director

97

Rec 15-11-86 No 9 88

Revenue Dept:

Revenue (1887) Circular
No 8659.

24 OCT 87
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

From
The Govt Botanist and Director of
Ceiba Rona Plantations
Nilgiris

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St George

No. 53

Dated 22nd October 1887

Encl 1

Subject
Wood Estate

Submits the special report on the — as regards capital outlay value of yield &c as called for by Government.

C. 5/11. R.C. 10/11. R.C. 15/11.
R. 10/11. R. 14/11 R 7/11

Rec
G.O. No. 1081 8/17/11

The proposals of the Director are approved and sanctioned

(Sd) J Price
Secy to Govt

To
The Govt Botanist Des. 9-12
a Editors' Table

70.
2

137

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 8659

From Director of Cinchona Plantations

Dated 22nd Oct. 1887.

FOR ORDERS.

W. Lawson submits his Report on the Condition of the "Wood" Plantation called for in para 7 of G.O. No. 988 of 16th Nov. 1886.

2. In his report for 1886-6 W. Lawson proposed to abandon the greater part of the Estate as the soil was poor & stony & was exposed to the depredations of Sambur and "devastating blasts" & was difficult of access in bad weather. He added that a large expenditure would be required to bring it into good order & that many years would elapse before it would give a return on such expenditure.

Before passing orders on the proposal Govt desired to have a special report giving all the information available regarding the capital outlay, cost of up-keep, value of yield, & estimated cost of repairs.

3 This information W. Lawson now sets to give, but

he is unable to separate the capital outlay from that of the other estates. The cost of up-keep for the past four years is roughly Rs 6,000 per an. but this was a "starvation" up-keep & if it is intended to renovate the plantation Rs 10,000 per an. for the next few years must be spent

The Director strongly recommends that all except "200 or 250 acres" shd be abandoned, in which case the up keep wd be reduced to Rs 3000 per an.

On the 1st part to be abandoned are some 7,000 lbs of dry bark, Chiefly C. Succirubra of poor quality, can be obtained by up-tearing, but the Director is unwilling to estimate the value of this bark in the present state of the market.

4. It is submitted that the Directors proposals should be sanctioned & that the bark to be harvested shd be added to the accumulations now being made for the manufacture

5 February—

Experience has shown that the up-keep of the Wind-blown & barren parts of the estate is unprofitable in ; and

2. 153

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated 188 .

FOR ORDERS.

it is certain that any attempt to replant such portions would be merely to repeat the experience of the past and will be a costly failure. Replanting even on good soil is hardly satisfactory. If would, it is submitted, be impossible to sell the estate in the present weak state of the chinchona market, the value of the unit being now well under 2d & the Nilgiri Planters are too impecunious to put down cash on so speculative a venture.

WMS 2/11.

I have seen this Estate. It is unwarned how anyone could have been so foolish as to plant some parts of it at all. It is all that the Director says of it, and it would be a very good job if Govt. could divest itself of the property entirely. The reductions proposed might be made and if what is retained was kept in Satisfactory, it would probably be better & pay than keeping Known waste Rs. 3000 a year on it. & for selling the plantation there is

I think the Director's proposals may be accepted and thereby Expenditure considerably reduced on this Estate

C C C
7/11

There can no doubt he is right. The abandonment may also act as a 'sop' to the Chamber of Commerce who annually attack Govt. for extending their enterprise.

P P H
11 Feb

Exceedingly little chance of Govt. ever being able to do this

L
4/11

"Wood" Chinchona Plantation

FOR ORDERS.

proposal to abandon part of.

G.O. 15th Nov. 1081

Hon'ble Mr. Master (C.S.)

Copy

4. To the Govt. Botanist Ootacamund
C.S.

Yes.
4

G.O. No: 1081 dt 12/11/11
The proposals of the Director are approved & sanctioned MMB 16/11
15/11

Submitted that this may be placed on the S-T- MMB 16/11

Copy of G.O. 15th Nov. 1081