M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 144 Press ~~Mis.~~

298-302

Dated 15—1—1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1867.

Read the following papers :—

No. 298. From the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, September 1866, No. ——.

1. In Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, and their Order thereon, dated 19th July 1866, No. 1,778, I am directed to report as to the success that has attended Mr. Rae's experimental cultivation of tea at Sholoor.

2. There are, I conceive, but two points of view from which we must judge of the success of the tea cultivation :—

First.—The quantity of land cultivated.

Second.—The quality of the tea produced.

With regard to the extent of land under cultivation, Mr. Rae had granted to him, about six years ago, 240 acres of land, and of this quantity about 70 acres are now said to be under tea. The remaining 170 acres are still in their normal condition ; of these 170 acres, according to Mr. Rae's estimate, 90 acres are unfit for cultivation, leaving 80 acres which can be cultivated. According to my ideas, of the 170 acres now uncultivated, 30 acres may be said, from their rocky and stony nature, to be unfit for cultivation, leaving 140 acres which can be cultivated. This land is no doubt inferior in quality to that portion of the estate which has been planted, but it is quite equal to the adjoining grass land in point of fertility ; in fact, I do not think that any of the land about Sholoor, sholah land excepted, is in any way superior to it. The question naturally arises if tea cultivation has been a success, how comes it that so much land as 140, or say 100 acres, allowing 70 acres even to be unfit for cultivation, have been allowed to remain waste. I confess I am unable to solve this point, and the mystery in which it is involved is not, to my mind, dissipated by any of the arguments adduced by Mr. Rae in the accompanying original letter, drawn up by him on the suggestion of the Right Honorable the Governor to prove that his tea cultivation has been a success.

3. According to Mr. Rae's shewing, the quality of his teas is first class. They have fetched in the London, Bombay, and local markets, from two to eight shillings per lb., whilst specimens of the Coonoor teas sent home have, to my knowledge, not been valued by the London brokers at more than two shillings per lb., and the Cachar teas have been sold in the Calcutta market wholesale for the London market at Rupee 1-2-6 per lb.

4. If the wholesale rates obtained in the Calcutta market pay the growers, which I believe they do, the prices fetched by the Sholoor teas should yield a handsome profit, and lead to their extensive cultivation, even on inferior soils, which may require a considerable outlay of capital to bring them into good order for the reception of the growing plants.

5. Combined with the above circumstances, the fact that Messrs. Framjee & Co. of Ootacamund have, as stated by Mr. Rae, offered to discontinue their importations of China teas if regularly supplied with Sholoor teas must, I think, be accepted as a test of the success of the growth of the local teas. I have written to Mr. Rae, pointing out that I think he should verify, by the production of the sale bills, the prices obtained for his teas in the London, Bombay, and local markets, as well as the large sales of tea plants effected on these hills.

No. 299. From the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 15th September 1866, No. ——.

1. With reference to the latter clause of my letter to your address, forwarding an original letter from Mr. Rae, in which he gave in detail his reasons for considering his tea planting a success, I beg now to transmit another original letter with enclosures from the same gentleman. From the enclosures it will be gathered that Mr. Rae's teas have been sold in this country at 3 Rupees per lb., and that, as a rule, he is not in the practice of retaining the bills of sale of his teas. With reference to Mr. Rae's statement, that Messrs. Framjee & Co. told him that if supplied regularly with his teas they would be prepared to give up the importation of China teas, there seems to be now misapprehension, as Mr. Nowrowjee, the Manager of that firm, informed me that he could not recollect having given expression to such sentiments, but that he had sold Mr. Rae's teas, and purchased from him on his own account a parcel of tea of eighty lbs. weight.

No. 300. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st December 1866.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 19th December 1866, No. 311.

I have the honor to inform you of the death of Mr. Rae, whose application for an extension of land for tea experiment is now under the consideration of Government.

Submitted for the information of Government.

No. 301. From Mrs. H. A. RAE, to the Right Honorable Lord NAPIER, &c., &c., &c., Governor of Madras, dated Ootacamund, 20th December 1866.

1. I, the widowed mother of the late H. D. Rae, venture to address you, and to lay a few facts before your Lordship, fearful that the long delay in hearing of the extension said to be granted to my son's estate, portends no good.

2. I wish to shew, that tea prepared by my son's own hands and sent to the Calcutta Agricultural Exhibition, procured him a first class silver medal, while that prepared by the manipulators provided by Government is condemned by the public; hence Mr. Grant's telling your Lordship that he did not consider my son's tea a success, though he admitted having tasted good tea on the estate (that otherwise prepared). My son condemned the manipulator's tea in 1864, and took good care that such as he exhibited was carefully prepared by himself. During 1866 my son has not made much tea, preferring to leave the trees to yield seed, as he deemed it advisable to wait for the arrival of a skilled Tea-maker, for whom he had sent at a great expense to Almorah, and who is now on his way to Ootacamund.

Vide enclosed letters.

3. After five years of great outlay and much mental anxiety, and just as he was about to reap the fruits of his labors, it has pleased the Almighty to deprive me of my stay and hope! leaving his widow and myself unprovided for, save by the profits we can make out of the working of the estate. An advantageous arrangement my son had entered into, and which depends on our getting the extension and

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th January 1867.

immediately opening it out, plants being ready for the purpose, will be lost to us by long delay; that the promised extension will be altogether withheld, I do not for a moment think possible, but delay in getting it will ruin us, by obliging us to sell the estate at a time when all estates are a drug in the market.

I therefore pray your Lordship to grant my prayer for an early settlement of this question.

No. 302. ORDER THEREON, 15th January 1867, No. 144.

Land Revenue.

1. The Government are satisfied that Mr. Rae, of whose death they have heard with regret, so far as his means permitted, fairly carried out the experiment of growing tea on grass land, in consideration of which the land at Sholoor was granted to him, and that the result has been encouraging. They are pleased therefore to authorize the Collector to make over to Mr. Rae's representatives the 200 acres of grass and 20 acres of shola land reserved under the instructions contained in G. O. 15th June 1864, in full acquittance of all claims on them in connection with Mr. Rae's engagements.

2. The Collector will forward as soon as possible a plan of the land, shewing clearly its boundaries, reserved rights if any, &c., and a draft deed in the same terms as the Sholoor Title Deed.

3. Mr. Rae's representatives will not be charged assessment for any part of the original grant, or the extension now sanctioned, which may, as set forth in the Order of the 23rd August 1860, No. 1,422, be "absolutely uncultivable, *i. e.*, rocks." For all other land they must pay the fixed assessment of one Rupee per acre, when the rent-free tenure expires, whatever may be the quality of the soil.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Baltimore
15th Sept. 66

My dear Sir

I want to
know for the Rail
Road & the position
I must take with
regard to the land
of the deceased Colter.
The Farmers in the Farm
of giving the Rail Road
200 acres more land
for which with the

[illegible] instructions in Council
on Surveying.

[illegible] your obedient servant

G. J. Cumberland

To the Chief Secretary

I think that an extension of 200 acres contiguous to the Estate might be granted. That was the conclusion which I arrived at after personal enquiry with the assent of the Collector the Chief Secretary. The Extension should be marked out with the assent of the Collector & Conservator of Forests towards the [illegible] great advantage of Shola but would not exclude all Shola. The right of the

1064

Rec'd 1867 - Nov'bar
Pro of Gobt for January
W. 96 -

From Mrs. Rae

Dated 20th. Decem'r 66.
Received 15th Day 67.

W

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Under the circumstances presented Soliciting that the promised extension con-
cerning Her late Son's
Estate may be granted. -

S.O. No 44. 15 Jan'y

A.3501

I do not consider
altogether myself bound
to be governed solely
by the grounds granted
by the Estate of
Mr Rae for the
Non-Cultivation
or residence.

N.

120 Acres of Land

W. 1446.

16th Jany. 1869.

The pets are satisfied that the Race of whose death they have heard with re-
So far as his means permitted
pet, fairly carried out the ~~Testat~~ Exp-
pariment of growing Tea on grass land-
in consideration of which the land at
Shelsow was granted
to him, and that
the result has been
encouraging. They
are pleased there-
fore to authorize
the Collr. to make
over to Mr Race's re-
presentatives the
200 acres of grass
120 acres of Shola

land reserved under the instructions contained in G.O 15th June 1864, in full acquittance of all claims or them in connection with the Railway surrendered.

The Collr will forward as soon as possible a plan of the land, showing clearly its boundaries, reserved rights of way &c and a draft deed in the same terms as the Salem Title deed.

The Railway Representatives will not be charged assessment for any part of the original part or the extension now sanctioned, which may be set forth in the order of the 23rd Augt. 60 No 1422, be "a tolerably unculturable, i.e. rocky". For all other land they must pay the fixed assessment of 1 R per acre, when the rent-free terms Expire - whatever may be the Quality of the soil.

I. D.S.

14 Copies Letter Bd of Revenue Despatch 19th
1 — Collrg - Coimbatore

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Revenue 1867 Default
Pro of Govt for January

No 144.

Pro of the Madras Govt
Dy 15th January 1867

Pro of the Board of Revenue
16 March 1867 No 891

Pay Rs 339. 8 4 (Rde.) — 66

Letter reserved for late
Mr Dale's Representation
on the Bodelyherries
referred to in made
over this representation

No 298 @ 302