

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2375

Press
Mis.

200.201

Dated

9-10-1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 200. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 27th September 1867, No. 259:—

1. I have the honor to submit a report on the Red Sanders-wood plantation* in Cuddapah, which I inspected a few days ago.

* Originally proposed by Captain Beddome in Proceedings 26th August 1862, No. 1,812. Sanctioned, G. O., 18th September 1862, No. 2,030.

2. The plantation being the first successful attempt to cultivate the Red Sanders-wood of commerce, deserves special notice, though it is conducted on a small scale and without any fixed establishment.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF THE TREE.—The tree (*Pterocarpus Santalinus*) is singularly local in its distribution, being found only in quantity on the gravelly slopes of the rocky hills in North Arcot and Cuddapah and the southern parts of Kurnool. It is now comparatively rare in the first of these districts. Captain Beddome published a good figure in the Forest Report of 1862-63, page 25.

4. FIRST ATTEMPTS UNSUCCESSFUL.—Some years ago two officers of the Forest Department made various attempts to raise Red Sanders in the Cuddapah district, but there was no result; the curious flat-winged seed appears to have been planted too deep. Mr. Yarde has succeeded, by watching the process of nature. The seeds are washed down in the north-east monsoon, and are partially covered with sand in the rocky nullahs.

5. USES OF THE TREE.—The stem is valued for house-posts beyond any other, being impervious to white-ants. The smaller portions are carved into images, &c. The leaves are the favorite food of cattle and goats, and are much in demand. The wood is extremely hard, finely grained, and of a garnet red color, which deepens on exposure. It is employed to dye a permanent reddish brown color. It communicates a deep red to alcohol and ether, but gives no tinge to water.

6. COMMERCIAL.—In the cold season, large heaps of short billets (two feet to three feet) or gnarled roots may be seen on the Madras beach, where it is sold by weight, and being heavy, is used as dunnage. In the four years 1852-53 to 1855-56 the value of this wood exported was Rupees 2,20,983, or more than half a lac a year. (Madras Exhibition Report, 1857.) The North-West Line traverses the native *habitat* and the supply has been diminishing. The seigniorage in Cuddapah was raised from Rupee 1 to Rupees 6 per cart-load, to prevent its extermination. As the value of a post is not less than 2½ Rupees, and there are often twenty in a cart, the value of the cart-load is often 50 Rupees. Price of the roots keeps steadily at £ 3-10-0, sometimes £ 4 per ton.

7. SITE OF PLANTATION.—The plantation is about a quarter of a mile east from the Codoor Railway Station, and may be seen from the line. The land was formerly covered with fair scrub jungle, and is watered by a picotta from the Codoor river, the banks of which are undulating, and the soil gravelly with an admixture of red earth and sand. The extent is twenty-four cawnies (say thirty acres), half of this is now planted. The whole is being encircled with a bank three feet high, and topped with an aloe fence.

8. SYSTEM PURSUED.—The seeds are gathered in May, and sown in July in small beds, about eight feet square, prepared on the river bank. They are thrust into the light soil perpendicularly or at an inclination, and about one inch deep,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th October 1867.*

just sufficient to cover the winged seed. About 700 seeds are put in the bed, which is watered every second evening by a watering pan. Seeds soaked one night in cold water, germinate in twenty to twenty-five days, and unsoaked seeds in thirty to thirty-five days. After germination has taken place the beds are moderately watered by a picotta, small channels communicating between the beds. During the first six months particular care in watering is necessary, Mr. Yarde "finds that too much water is equally destructive as none at all." The condition of the soil will be the best guide. The plant inhabits a country with small rain-fall. The leading shoot at six months has a tendency to droop from the weight of the leaves, and should be supported with a forked stick Y, which is sufficient to straighten the stem.

9. PLANTING OUT.—It is convenient now if rain falls to transplant from the nursery into wicker baskets, supplied at a very low cost, six pies each by the Yanadies, who are skilful in digging up with care the long tap roots with a pointed instrument. The baskets should be watered every second or third day, and kept in the shade. When the plants are 15 to 20 inches above ground and well rooted, the baskets should be buried in holes 1 foot $\times$ 1 foot $\times$ 2 feet at 7 feet apart, they must be watered moderately till the rainy season.

10. PRESENT CONDITION AND PROSPECTS.—There are now 8,000 promising plants, of various heights, from 1 to 3½ feet. The number would have been larger, but the want of rain for two years prevented planting out, and caused about 2,000 casualties. In November 1865 a sudden rise in the river destroyed a number of nursery beds.

11. ENTIRE COST.—The experiment has been carried on for two and a half years, close to the Forest officer's head-quarters. The hire of temporary coolies has been met from the working charges of the Range, sanctioned from time to time in small sums by Captain Beddome or myself after repeated inspections.

Expenditure incurred.

Bamboo fence of Nursery	Rs. 24
Clearing jungle, holing, weeding, and watering ..	761

Total Rs. 788

For this sum we have 8,000 plants, or the cost of each is about 1½ Anna.

The result being so far satisfactory, the time would appear to have arrived for proposing a regular establishment, and I would suggest—

1 Gardener at 8 $\times$ 12 = ...	Rs. 96
1 do. „ 6 $\times$ 12 = ...	72
Cooly labor, tools, &c.	132

Total Rs. 300

The sum of 300 Rupees might be entered in the forthcoming Budget. Mr. Yarde has conducted the experiment with skill and judgment.

No. 201. ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1867, No. 2,375.

Forests, No. 9.

1. The above report shows very satisfactory progress in this experiment, and Mr. Yarde deserves much credit for the measure of success which his attention to it has secured.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th October 1867.*

2. The Government sanction the proposed annual charge of Rupees 300 for the maintenance and extension of the plantation, and desire that a careful account be maintained of all expenditure, so that the financial result may be accurately ascertained when the plantation begins to produce returns.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Revenue Board.
„ the Agri-Horticultural Society.
„ the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Reports from Ford Smith & Coys.
Statement Showing the Quantity and value of Redwood.

<i>Redwood</i>	<i>Reported Quantity and value</i>	
	<i>Cord.</i>	<i>Dollars.</i>
1862-63	84,714	2,54,659
1863-64	88,694	2,57,082
1864-65	66,579	199,743
1865-66	95,732	287,197
1866-67	54,682	194,045
From 1st April to 30th September 1867	21,288	34,932

See Boston House
Proceeds 30th Sept 1867

Witness: Wm. H. Platts
Collector San Francisco

2375.

The above report

shows my satisfactory
progress in this experiment
I W. Gent desires much
credit for the success of
success I? his attention &
it increased - I W.?

Sanction to proposed annual
charge of \$300 for the main
collection of the plantation.
I desire that a care be taken
to maintain a full & accurate
list of the principal results
to be seen in the collection
to be seen in the collection
to be seen in the collection.

6th 9th Octr. 167.

R^a Capens, *Lophoceros* / *Horned Lizard* "10"

(Handwritten notes)

Dec 28th / 69.

Provis "October 19 du de 200.

No 25 August 1867 348-349
15 Sept. - - 362-363

Reported to England
17th Dec. 1867 his
Hort.

Rev. Mr. J. J. O'Connell
Jr. of Ch. St. N. York
Forest Department

Sir,
The Conservator
of Forests
To the Secretary to the
Revenue Department

Dated 27th September 1867
Received 30th 10-1

No 256
Enclosure - None
Subject
N 23759
Submits a report
on the progress of the
Red Saunders's Plantation
in Cuddalore District

No 2004201