Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2434-5

DATED 13th May

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the Govt. of India &c. that the Merchantman at Cocanada has already been reconsigned to Madras & placed under the charge of Dr. A. G. Bourne, the offg. Supdt. of the Govt. Central Museum.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No	Department.	D

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3712

From The Govt. of India. Rev. & Agri Dept.

Order

No. 1079 1-4.

Dated 26th April 1897

Received 5.5.97

Registered

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding Copy of a despatch from the Secy. of State on the question of Mr. Standen's appointment as Director of the Govt. Cinchona Plantations

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

India Office, London, 18th March 1897.

File No. 1 of 1897.

Serial No. 3.

Revenue,
No. 47.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor General of India in Council.

My Lord,

Madras Botanical Department.

I forward herewith a copy of two letters* received from the Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, relating to the Botanical Department in the Madras Presidency, for such action as your Excellency may consider advisable. In both letters Mr. Thiselton-Dyer urges the appointment of a competent successor to the late Mr. M. A. Lawson as Government Botanist, and Director of the Chinchona Plantations and Botanical Gardens at Ootacamund, a matter specially dealt with in my Despatch, No. 83, of the 16th July last, which is still under consideration of your Lordship's Government, and on which I will therefore offer no further observations on the present occasion.

* Dated the 8th and 17th February 1897.

File No. 32 of 1896, Serial No. 11.

2. In his second letter Mr. Thiselton-Dyer suggests objections to the transfer, as reported in the newspapers, of the herbarium from Ootacamund to Madras. So long as the Head-quarters of the Botanical Department for Southern India are stationed at Ootacamund there are undoubtedly weighty resons for retaining the herbarium at Ootacamund. But, on the other hand, it would certainly be more generally accessible, especially to Indian students of botany, if situated at Madras; and I am not aware of the herbaria of Northern and Western India having in any way suffered from being kept at Seebpore, near Calcutta, and Poona respectively. But this is a point that must be left to the convenience and decision of the local authorities.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) GEORGE HAMILTON.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 1.

Royal Gardens, Kew,
8th February 1897.

Sir,

In my letter of 20th June, in reference to the Botanical Department of the Madras Presidency, I remarked that "persons who were accustomed to obtain assistance from Mr. Lawson are beginning to write to Kew." The Madras Botanical Department is now apparently completely in abeyance, as I understand that Mr. Hooper, who for a time carried on the late Mr. Lawson's work, has been transferred to Calcutta. Communications relating to planting enterprise in Madras continue to reach Kew, as you will observe from two recent examples which I enclose.

2. If Kew attempted to answer individual inquiries from every part of the empire, it would inevitably be overwhelmed. It has been necessary, therefore, to lay down the rule that residents desiring information or assistance in different parts of the empire should apply to the local technical officer. If he finds himself at a loss he is always at liberty to fall back on Kew, which gladly renders such assistance as is possible from a central establishment.

3. I venture, therefore, to express the hope that the Secretary of State in Council will take such steps as may seem to him proper for inducing the Government of Madras to secure a competent person to fill the vacant office of Government Botanist.

I am, &c.,
W. C. THISELTON-DYER.

The Under Secretary of State
for India.

No. 2.

Royal Gardens, Kew,
17th February 1897.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I learn from an Indian newspaper (cutting enclosed) that the Herbarium of the late Botanical Department of the Madras Presidency is in course of removal from Ootacamund to Madras.

2. This is a further step towards the permanent suppression of that Department. I have already addressed you at some length upon this subject, in compliance with the request of the Secretary of State conveyed in your letter of 17th June last. But I may point out that the Madras Government wrote to the Secretary of State in 1882 (R. S. and C., 2567) "that it is most important that we should have the assistance of a professional Botanist of high attainment in developing the resources of Southern India."

3. This policy was acted upon, and in 1884 it was decided that the Madras Herbarium should be kept at Ootacamund and be in charge of the

Government Botanist. This was a well-considered plan and the reasons appear to me to be weighty. Madras is a bad place for the preservation of dried plants. It is also extremely difficult for a botanist to work at a herbarium there, as from the nature of such a collection the use of a punkha is inadmissible. But a herbarium, if it is to serve any useful purpose at all, must be constantly consulted.

4. Mr. Thurston is well known to be an efficient officer of great ability. He has done most excellent work in the Madras Museum. But he is no botanist, and there is no obvious necessity to place the Herbarium under his charge. It must be remembered that a herbarium is not a thing to be once made and closed. It must receive constant additions, and be continually revised and worked up. This requires the technical knowledge of a botanist.

5. I must further point out that Ootacamund, for the purposes for which a herbarium is employed, is a far more central place than Madras. There is already a fairly suitable building, and the Herbarium would be more accessible to Forest officers, to planters, and to others requiring botanical information and assistance. It would also be nearer to the country which requires further study and exploration.

6. I may point out that in Ceylon, the conditions of which are in many respects similar to those of Southern India, the Government Herbarium is at Peradeniya and not at the Government Museum at Colombo: and this arrangement is found practically convenient.

7. I may further point out that large contributions to the Herbarium have been made from Kew, at the request of the Madras Government. Mr. Lawson assiduously worked it up, and it ought now to be a fairly efficient instrument for its purpose. I fear that its relegation to Madras will make it practically a dead letter.

I am, &c.,
W. C. THISELTON-DYER.

The Under Secretery of State
for India.

Enclosure in No. 2.

"Mr. Edgar Thurston, Superintendent of the Central Museum, will proceed on furlough at the end of this month, and we understand that Dr. Bourne, F.R.S., of the Presidency College, will act for him. Mr. Thurston is now at Ootacamund in connection with the removal of the Herbarium attached to the Government Botanical Gardens to the Museum in Madras."

G. C. Press, Simla.—No, 163 R. & A. D.—27-4-97—50

1897.

File No. 1 of 1897.

Serial No. 4.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

ECONOMIC PRODUCTS.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. $\frac{1079}{1-4}$.

Dated Simla, the 26th April 1897.

SUBJECT.

Appointment of a Government Botanist and the management of the Government Cinchona Plantations, Madras.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 162 R. & A. D.—28-4-97.—52.

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3712

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
15 MAY 97

No. $\frac{1079}{1-4}$

FROM

F. G. SLY, ESQ., C.S.,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
Economic Products.

Simla, the 26th April 1897.

SIR,

WITH reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 92, dated the 15th February 1897, I am directed to forward for consideration a copy of a despatch and enclosures from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 47-Rev., dated 18th March 1897, and to say that the question of Mr. Standen's appointment as Manager of the Cinchona Plantations and Factory has been referred to the Secretary of State, and that the Government of India will await the final proposals of the Government of Madras regarding the appointment of a Government Botanist.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

FGSly

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

D/4 1,000—20-2-96.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 3712

From Govt of India.

Dated 26 Apr 1897.

The Hon Mr Lyon C.K.
The Hon W Blunt C.K.
H.E. the Governor

FOR ORDERS.

The Govt of India forwards for consideration a despatch from the Secretary of State which encloses two letters from Mr Thiselton Dyer.

In the first letter Mr Dyer remarks that "the Madras Botanical "Department is now "apparently compelled" in "obeyance" as "Mr Hooker who for a time carried on Mr Lawsons work has been transferred from Madras to Calcutta. As an excuse apparently for meddling with what is not his business Mr Dyer pleads that "letters on "planting enterprise relating "to madras continue to reach

he understands that

C 7/5/97 13/5/97

Kew." As carefully omits to say whence the letter came. ~~People in England would naturally want to know.~~

In the 2nd letter Mr Dyer sends the Under Secretary of State for India a newspaper cutting which says that Mr Thurston was going to the work of removing the Herbarium to Madras. Mr Dyer then protests that the removal of the Herbarium is a further step towards the permanent suppression of the "late Botanical Department of the Madras Presidency." He gives various reasons for holding objectionable both a better place for the herbarium than ~~Ootacamund~~ Madras and deprecates Mr Thurston's [illegible] for the post. The Secretary of State submit that, if any reply to India is required, they may be informed merely that the herbarium has been removed to Madras

FOR ORDERS.

Mr Dyer in conclusion asks that the Secretary of State may take such steps as may seem to him proper to induce the Madras Govt to appoint a competent person to the vacant post of Govt Botanist

Mapped A in envelope cover.

Approved
JS
8/5/97

A.H
12.5.97

and that as Mr Dyer's letters were written in ignorance of the facts ~~arguments~~ & considerations set forth in Mr Sloss's letter to 92 dated 15th Feb 1897 they do not call for any remarks.

A draft G.G. & letter are submitted for approval

MM
7.5.97

I think perhaps a reply had better be sent. The letter is sent for consideration.

[illegible]
11/5/1897

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read C No 3712

JS

13/5/97

JS

8/5/97

SJ 5/7/97

5.5.97
12.5.97

G.O. Mis No. 2434 of 13th May 97.
Recorded.
The following letter with Encl to G.O.
Alle 7/5/97
7/5/97
20/5/97
Letter No. 2435 of 13th May 97.
To the Secy to Govt of India
Rev & Agrl Dept

Sir, With reference to
Mr. Sly's letter No 1079/1-4 dated
26th April 1897 and the
papers thereinto forwarded
I am directed to state for
the information of the
Govt of India that the
Kistnamma at Vellacamma
has already been transferred
to Madras and placed
under the charge of Dr
A.G. Bourne, the Offg Supdt
of the Govt Central Museum
2. With reference (i. Mr

2. These Letters & communications which were forwarded from Enclosures to the despatch of the Rt Hon the Secy of State, I am to say that H.E. the Governor in Council is of opinion that as they were written necessarily in ignorance of the facts & considerations set forth in Mr Chamberlain's letter No 92 dated 15th Feb 1897, & they do not call for any remarks.

7/5/97

Mlc 7.5.97

When given for copying ____
When copied ____
When examined ____
When signed ____
} 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.							
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—
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