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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Marine

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

630

Press ✓

B.P. No.

~~Mis.~~

Dated

16 - 11 -

1886
195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following letter from T. E. MAISHALL, Esq., Acting Port Officer, Administrative Department, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 14th July 1886, No. 6455:—

I have the honor to state that, in the correspondence recorded in G.O., Marine, No. 170, dated 9th May 1876, reference is made to the supply of fuel from Hope Island for the use of the Marine department at Cocanada on the payment of a "light storage," and accordingly the Collector of Godavari, in July 1876, issued orders to the deputy tahsildar of Coringa to allow the Port officer at Cocanada to cut fuel in Hope Island for the use of the Marine department at an annual composition of Rs. 100. This has been done for the last 10 years, but the Port officer now reports that the Collector of Godavari has forwarded a notice to him (copy enclosed) from the District Forest-officer to the effect that for this year (1886-87) fuel can only be removed under the following conditions:—

- (1) The price will be Rs. 0-8-0 per cubic yard, cutting and stacking to be done by the Marine department.
- (2) The fuel must be measured by a Forest-officer before removal.
- (3) All off-cuts, &c., left, remain the property of the Forest department.
- (4) The area it is proposed to cut over must be inspected and approved by the District Forest-officer before felling commences.

The Collector has asked the Port officer, Cocanada, to state if he has anything to urge in the interests of the Marine department, and the latter has submitted the matter to this office.

2. From the Government Order quoted above, it will be seen that the reservation of Hope Island as a fuel depôt for the Marine department met with the approval of Government, and no reasons are now assigned by the District Forest-officer for setting aside the arrangements made on the authority of that order.

3. The question of fuel supply is one of the greatest importance to the port of Cocanada, in consequence of the heavy dredging work carried on at that port by a steam dredger, and the operations will be considerably extended as soon as the new Priestman dredger is brought into full working order by the specialist, who has arrived from England and has entered on his duties. The consumption of fuel will therefore be much increased, and the rate proposed to be charged by the Forest-officer will greatly enhance the cost of dredging, which will only tend to check progress in a work so essential to the improvement of the port, the deficit in the port fund rendering it necessary to keep down expenditure. Moreover, the conditions laid down in the notice are likely to cause delay and friction between the departments.

4. According to the notification of Government as per margin, Hope Island is brought within the port limits of Cocanada, and the whole island, except the small space whereon the lighthouse and the lightkeeper's quarters are situated, is submerged at spring tide, thus bringing

Dated 5th September 1882, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, part I, dated 19th idem, page 516.

the island within the high water mark limit assigned under the provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1875, to the jurisdiction of the Port office of Cocanada, and in fact the conservancy of the island has been actually under the control of that officer all this time, and several cases of illegal cutting of wood have been prosecuted by him and the offenders punished. The new proposal will transfer the island to the Forest department, and unless a boat and crew and an officer are kept on the spot, it will be impossible to exercise an efficient supervision over the place, and the cost of such an arrangement will hardly make it a desirable acquisition to the Forest department.

5. Under the foregoing circumstances, I respectfully beg strongly to recommend that the existing arrangements be allowed to stand undisturbed.

ENCLOSURE.

From J. S. BATTIE, Esq., District Forest-officer, to the Collector of Godáviri, dated 31st August 1886.

In sending up proposals regarding Hope Island and Coringa coast forest, I propose that the arrangement under which the Marine department has hitherto removed fuel from Hope Island be revised on conditions more favorable to this department.

Hitherto the Marine department has removed fuel for their yearly consumption on a payment of Rs. 100 per annum, and the quantity removed is supposed to be 500 cubic yards.

The Port officer makes his own arrangements regarding cutting and removal. The work is done by contract. I do not know at what rate the contractor is paid, but the small off-cuts are given to him in part payment. I propose that the Marine department be informed that, for this year (1886-87), fuel can only be removed under the following conditions:—

- (1) The price will be As. 8 per cubic yard, cutting and stacking to be done by the Marine department.
- (2) The fuel must be measured by Forest-officer before removal.
- (3) All off-cuts, &c., left, remain the property of the Forest department.
- (4) The area it is proposed to cut over must be inspected and approved by the District Forest-officer before felling commences.

No. 1212-C.

Referred to the Revenue Department for remarks.

(By Order.)

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Under Secretary to Government.

PUBLIC & C., DEPTS.,
OOTACAMUND,
27th July 1886.

Endorsement, No. 4669, Revenue.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for remarks.

OOTACAMUND,
6th August 1886.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

Reference on the above, dated 31st August 1886.

Referred to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, and to the Collector of Godáviri, for remark.

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle,
with the letter, in original, and its enclosure
(to be returned.)
Collector of Godáviri.

READ—the following letter from J. S. GAMBLE, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 4th September 1886, No. 1352:—

In returning papers, in original, received with Board's Government Register No. ³²⁴⁶ of 31st August 1886, I have the honor to refer to my endorsement to the Board, No. 1292, of 27th August 1886, on Collector's No. 250 of 3rd August 1886.

2. I would add that the memorandum to the Collector signed by the District Forest-officer was only a proposal which the Collector referred for opinion to the Port officer of Cocanada, and was not an order altering the system of supply of the Marine department. I was unaware of the proposal of the District Forest-officer and am

bound to say that I think it was somewhat premature, and that it would have been better first to have awaited the orders of Government on the proposal to make a reserved forest of Hope Island. Although I strongly advocate the latter measure, I wish to say that I do not advocate any change in the management of the forest on the island unless it is shown that the Marine department are cutting so much as to endanger its permanent yield. But the amount paid by them for the fuel cut is so small (Rs. 100 per annum) that I certainly think it may well be increased to what is paid by other departments of Government, the rates in force for the time being. The general rule which governs transactions between all departments of Government is that the same rates are charged as to the public, and I think the Collector is right in proposing to increase the rate, though why he proposed to raise it to so much as 8 annas per cubic yard I cannot say. Rs. 1-4-0 per 100 cubic feet was what was proposed in the recently submitted list of rates.

READ—the following letter from J. THOMSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Godáviri, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 10th September 1886, No. 390:—

In answer to Board's Proceedings of 31st ultimo, I have the honor to refer to my letter No. 250 of 3rd idem to Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, which proposes creating Hope Island and the adjoining coast a reserved forest.

2. Copy thereof is enclosed and I have nothing further to say on the matter.

ENCLOSURE.

From J. THOMSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Godáviri, to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated Cocanada, 3rd August 1886, No. 250.

I have the honor to submit proposals by the District Forest-officer for constituting the Cocanada coast forest and Hope Island reserved forests under Act V of 1882.

2. A plan accompanies. The blocks are adjacent: the Coringa block is bounded on the north by the sea and the Coringa river, on the west and south by waterways called the Vasam-kalava and Valakatlayernu, and on the east by the Godáviri. Its area is given approximately as 6,720 acres.

3. Hope Island is separate and distinct on the north-east and its approximate area is 2,100 acres.

4. The coast and island have altered much since the last survey and the correct areas can only be settled by a fresh one.

5. In the former a great deal of cutting is going on and the District Forest-officer reports it in very poor condition and recommends closure for 5 or 6 years. The latter has been under what may be called conservancy by the Marine department since 1876 or thereabouts for supply of fuel, tella mada, *Arcennia tomentosa*, white mangrove, to the Marine department at Cocanada for harbour dredging purposes for a lump sum of Rs. 10 per year. Copies of the Master Attendant's application to the Collector, No. 1201, dated 3rd July 1876, and of his reply, No. 6, dated 28th July 1876, are enclosed.

6. The Master Attendant appears to contract for cutting and carriage, the small cuttings going to the contractors in reduction of their charge, and the Lighthouse Superintendent exercising local supervision.

A copy of the contract of 1884 is enclosed. It need not be said that the arrangement for Rs. 100 is favorable to the Marine department. The results in point of conservancy are good.

7. In view of the existing arrangement I referred this reserved forest proposal to the Master Attendant and enclose copy of his communication to the Master Attendant, Madras.

8. Granting it to be the case that "the reservation of Hope Island as a fuel depôt for the Marine department meet the approval of the Governor in Council," all that seems to have been approved was (Extracts of G.O., Marine, of 9th

Extent as marked.
[]

May 1876, No. 170, are enclosed) that land which might be useful for port needs should not be made over to private persons but retained for State purposes, and no warrant is given for regarding the Marine department as entitled to fuel or to it on more favorable conditions. These must regulate supply between different State departments.

9. What may be a more cogent objection to the Forest Department's entry is the fact that the whole of the two blocks are within marine port limits, *vide* page 824 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 11th December 1883, and the whole is, I understand, flooded at high tides except the small area on which the Hope Island lighthouse stands. Act XII of 1875 was extended to this presidency by G.O., No. 287, of 18th June 1881.

10. I presume, however, that the Forest Act could be extended to those areas while preserving intact the Port officer's jurisdiction under the Act of 1875.

11. If so, it seems advisable that this should be done. The "*tella mada*" here as in Kistna is a source of considerable firewood supply capable of being profitably worked. The Marine department should pay the market rate. I am not aware of any reason why it should be supplied at cheap rates, but even that could continue under forest administration. It is not advisable to take up the coast block only and leave out Hope Island; much the same establishment could look after both. The conservancy of Hope Island must then of course devolve on the Forest department, but this is no reason why the Lighthouse keeper should not be as useful in this respect as heretofore and there need be no such delay or friction as the Port officer apprehends.

RESOLUTION—dated 29th September 1886, Forest No. 519.

Submitted to Government, in reference to endorsement, No. 4669 Revenue, dated 6th August 1886.

2. The arrangements in force hitherto have worked well, and nothing is expected to be gained by reservation under the Act, or by the transfer to the Forest Department, save an addition—accepting the estimate of 500 cubic yard a year—of Rs. 68-12-0 a year to the forest budget. The Board therefore, recommend that no change be made.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with the Port officer's letter and its enclosure, returned.

Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.
" " Collector of the Godavari District.
" " Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.
" " Examiner of Forest Accounts.

Exd. A. Aubert.

Administrative Department.

CURRENT NO.

MADRAS,

Marine Office,

11th July 1886.

No. 6465.

From

J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieut. R.N.R.,
Acting Port Officer

Master Attendant,

Administrative Department,

Madras,

To

The Honorable G. Honester Webster,

Chief Secretary to Government,

Marine Department,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

I have the honor to state that, in the correspondence recorded in G. O. Marine No. 170, dated May 9th 1876, reference is made to the supply of fuel from Hope Island for the use of the Marine Department at bocanada on the payment of a light seigniorage, and accordingly the collector of Godavari in July 1876 issued orders to the Deputy Tahsildar of Coringa to allow the Port Officer at bocanada to cut fuel in Hope Island for the use of the Marine Department at an annual composition of Rupees (100) one hundred. This has been done for the last 10 years, but the Port Officer now reports that the collector of Godavari has forwarded a notice to him (copy inclosed) from the District Forest Officer to the effect that for this year (1886/87) fuel can only be removed under the

the following conditions:-

- (1) The price will be Rs. 100-8-0 per cubic yard, cutting and stacking to be done by the Marine Department.
- (2) The fuel must be measured by a Forest Officer before removal.
- (3) All off-cuts &c. left remain the property of the Forest Department.
- (4) The area it is proposed to cut over must be inspected and approved by the District Forest Officer before felling commences.

The Collector has asked the Port Officer, Bocanada, to state if he has anything to urge in the interests of the Marine Department, and the latter has submitted the matter to this Office.

2. From the G.O. quoted above it will be seen that the reservation of Hope Island as a fuel depot for the Marine Department met with the approval of Government, and no reasons are now assigned by the District Forest Officer for setting aside the arrangements made on the authority of that order.

3. The question of fuel supply is one of the greatest importance to the Port of Bocanada, in consequence of the heavy dredging

6157
dredging work carried on at that port by a Steam Dredger, and the operations will be considerably extended as soon as the new Priestman dredger is brought into full working order by the Specialist, who has arrived from England and has entered on his duties. The consumption of fuel will therefore be much increased, and the rate proposed to be charged by the Forest Officer will greatly enhance the cost of dredging, which will only tend to check progress in a work so essential to the improvement of the port, the deficit in the port fund rendering it necessary to keep down expenditure. Moreover, the conditions laid down in the notice are likely to cause delay and friction between the departments.

4. According to the Notification of Government as per margin, Hope Island

Dated 5th September 1882 published in the Port Saint George Gazette, Part I, dated 19th idem, page 516.

is brought within the port limits of Bocanada, and the whole island, except the small space whereon the lighthouse and the lightkeepers' quarters are situated, is submerged at spring tide, thus bringing the island within the high water mark limit assigned under the provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1875, to the jurisdiction

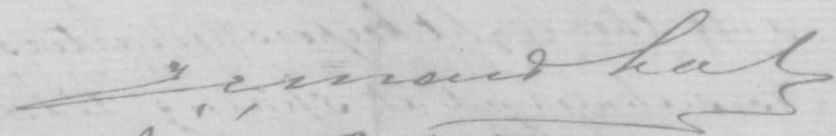
-diction of the Port Office of Bocanada, and in fact the conservancy of the island has been actually under the control of that officer all this time, and several cases of illegal cutting of wood have been prosecuted by him and the offenders punished. The new proposal will transfer the island to the Forest Department, and unless a boat and crew and an officer are kept on the spot, it will be impossible to exercise an efficient supervision over the place, and the cost of such an arrangement will hardly make it a desirable acquisition to the Forest Department.

5 Under the foregoing circumstances, I respectfully beg strongly to recommend that the existing arrangements be allowed to stand undisturbed.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servt,


Acting Port Officer.

2 Jan 3246/86
In G.R. 4713/86

Jan 57 6/86

AM

Back No. 115
Collector

In sending up proposals regarding Hope Island and Loringa Coast forest, I propose that the arrangement under which the Marine Department has hitherto removed fuel from Hope Island be revised on conditions more favourable to this Department.

Hitherto the Marine Department has removed fuel for their yearly consumption on a payment of Rs 100 per annum, and the quantity removed is supposed to be 500 cubic yards.

The Port Officer makes his own arrangements regarding cutting and removal. The work is done by contract. I do not know at what rate the contractor is paid but the small off-cuts are given to him in part payment. I propose that the Marine Department be informed that for this year (1886-87) fuel can only be removed under the following conditions.

The

(1) The price will be Rs 4-8-0
per cubic yard, cutting and
stacking to be done by the Marine
Department.

(2) The fuel must be measured
by a Forest Officer before removal.

(3) All offcuts 4" left, remain
the property of the Forest Department.

(4) The area it is proposed to cut
over must be inspected and ap-
proved by the District Forest
Officer before felling commences.

(Signed) J. S. Battis
District Forest Officer

(True copy)

(Signed) S. Jagannathan
Temp. Dy. Collector.

(True copy)

(Signed) J. H. Baker.
Port Officer.

(True copy)

[Signature]
Acting Port Officer.

2500 3245/6
Jan 4. R 47/13/86

Rev. 605/86

Rev 571/86

22-7-86
29.10.23/11
21. 3. 27/11
21-2-31/11

CURRENT NO.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1886.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

DISPOSED
No. 630

DATE 16-4-87
8300
COV. ORDR.

Printed October 14th.

Received 13th Oct

Enc 2

Cur 5

Proceedings, dated 29th September 1886,
Forest No. 519.

Indorsement No 6466.

Transferred to the
Marine Department with
an impression of Conserva-
-rence in the view taken
by the Board of Revenue

Redundant

of Secretary to Govt

For Mr. George S
27th Oct 1886

Order 1/16/11/86, No 630 (cur)
12/11

As recommended by the
Board of Revenue no change
will be made in existing
arrangements.

12/11

12/11

To the Secy to the Marine Dept

Submitting to Government remarks of the
Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, and
the Collector of vari on the reservation of
the Hope Island and on the existing arrange-
ments regarding the supply of fuel from the
island to the Marine department; and recom-
mending that no change need be made in the
existing arrangements.