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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

(P) Political (Pens) DEPARTMENT.

1877

G.O. No. 1152 Press Mis.

Dated 12 April 18 77

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 30. Read the following letter from Colonel C[illegible]ABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Gover[illegible], dated 18th August 1857, No. 3016.

SIR,

1. In para. 62 of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 961, dated 19th May last, Government in remarking on these parts of Mr. Tuke's report on the river Sabbery, which referred to teak forests, observed, that Mr. Tuke's Proceedings were apparently not authorized by Lieutenant Haig, expressed their decided disapprobation of them, and desired to be informed of the circumstances under which the timber was taken, and what eventually became of it.

2. I have now the honor to forward copies of Mr. Tuke's report* in reply to the observations of Government, and of a letter No. 45, dated 20th Ultimo, from Lieutenant Haig.

* Dated 16th July 1857.

3. From Mr. Tuke's report it appears.

1st. That he entered into contracts, on account of Government, with the Rajah of the Beejee Talook for a supply of any teak timber that he might require, exceeding 4 cubits in circumference, and that a Goomastah, and two Peons were employed in searching for trees of the required size.

2nd. That the timber cut at Arcooroo, was given to him by the Dewan of the Mulcanagherry Talook, and that he paid an advance of Rupees (68) sixty-eight, for cutting it, and Rupees (3) three, to a Blacksmith for Sharpening the Ghouds Axes, the timber cut being still at Arcooroo.

3rd. That the timber cut in the Soonchum Talook, was also given to him by the Soonchum Rajah, to whom he gave a gun in exchange.

4th. That the timber cut was at first intended by him for Government, but that subsequently he applied to Lieutenant Haig, and received permission to sell on his own account, the timber that had been given to him; and that he refunded to the Government Cash box the sum of Rupees (71) seventy-one, which had been advanced.

5th. The value of the gun given to the Soonchum Rajah having been paid to him by Lieutenant Haig, that he lays no claim to the timber cut in that Talook, and that it still remains there, owing to the difficulty of transporting it, on account of the rocks in the river.

6th. That the Rajah of Beejee has failed in fulfilling the contracts entered into, from the difficulty of conveying the timber from the interior to the river, and that he has promised to pay back within 2 months the money he has received.

7th. That the Goomastah and Peons who were employed for a few months in searching for timber, did not succeed in finding any of the required size.

And 8th. That he was not aware at the time that Government had any interest in the teak timber in that part of the country, seeing that the Rajahs allowed the Natives on payment of a small fee, to cut any quantity they required.

4. Lieutenant Haig in his letter observes.

1st. That in procuring a supply of teak for the Dowlaiswarum work shops, the arrangements were left to Mr. Tuke's discretion.

2nd. That the views of Government respecting the conservancy of the Godavery forests were not made known at the time of Mr. Tuke's expedition, and that he learnt in conversation with the Acting Commissioner of Nagpore, that it was very doubtful whether the British Government had any right to interfere with the forests of the Nagpore territory, on Zemindary lands.

3rd. That a very large proportion of the small sized teak timber imported into Rajahmundry, being fully ripe old wood though not a tenth part of the scantling of that seen by Mr. Tuke on the Sebbery, he considers it likely that the trees felled by Mr. Tuke had reached a full maturity, and that the few trees of the very large proportions described, were altogether excep-

tional in point of size, and had only obtained their extraordinary dimensions under very peculiar circumstances of soil, and moisture.

4th. That he gave his consent to Mr. Tuke, receiving the trees which had been given to him at Arcooroo, considering, that as an Uncovenanted servant, on the existing terms at that time, he was not precluded from entering into commercial speculations, and instances, as a case in point, the late Mr. Roberts, who was permitted to trade on his own account, at the time he was employed on behalf of Government in building boats, at Mahadipore.

And 5th. That the interests of Government might not suffer by Mr. Tuke's transactions, it was stipulated, that the officer in charge of the Dowlaiswarum work-shops, was to have the refusal of the timber.

5. From the foregoing circumstances it is evident that the proceedings of Mr. Tuke were under a misconception of the interests of Government in the Godavery forests, fully authorized by Lieutenant Haig, but the orders of Government being now clear, future irregularities of the kind are not likely to occur, and I would express a hope that the censure passed on the conduct of Mr. Tuke may be qualified to such extent, as His Lordship in Council may be pleased on this explanation to decide.

Letter from Lieutenant F. T. HAIG, Civil Engineer, Upper Godavery; to Colonel C. F. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Dowlaiswarum, 29th July 1857, No. 45.

SIR,

1. With reference to para. 62 of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 19th May No. 961. I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from Mr. G. Tuke relative to the transactions which took place in the year 1855, respecting the teak wood purchased by him on the Sebbery.

2. Mr. Tuke was sent to explore that river in connexion with the expedition of 1855, and it was left to his discretion to make any arrangements he thought proper to procure a supply of teak for the Dowlaiswarum work-shops. He found some of very large size in the Soonchum and Mulcanagherry Talooks, and made his own terms with the native authorities for the purchase and felling of them.

3. The Government disapprove of these proceedings, first, because Mr. Tuke ought to have known that they wish to conserve the forests, and secondly, because with ocular evidence before him, that the teak tree will grow to its full size in those jungles, he cut down a number of trees only half grown. With regard to the first ground of censure, I would remark, that the views of the Government respecting the Godavery forests were not made known at the time of Mr. Tuke's expedition, and moreover, that I learnt from conversation with the Acting Commissioner of Nagpore at that very time, that it was very doubtful whether the British Government had any right to interfere with the forests of the Nagpore territory on Zemindary lands as to the impropriety of cutting trees but imperfectly matured it seems to me very questionable, whether those felled by Mr. Tuke were so or not. It is undesirable that a very large proportion of the small sized teak timber imported into Rajahmundry is fully ripe Old wood, though not a tenth part of the scantling of that seen by Mr. Tuke on the Sebbery, and it seems to me far more probable, that the few trees of the monstrous proportions described by Mr. Tuke were altogether exceptional in point of size, and had only attained their extraordinary dimensions under very pecular circumstances of soil and moisture, than that those which he cut down, uncommonly fine timber as they were, were only half advanced towards maturity.

4. With regard to the ultimate disposal of the timber, Mr. Tuke's letter will inform you, that at the time of his connexion with the Upper Godavery being dissolved, I permitted him to take as his own the trees at Arcooroo, which were given him for nothing by the Dewan of the Mulcanagherry Talook. Mr. Tuke had been much dissatisfied with the allowances he received during the time he was employed on the Upper Godavery, and on his withdrawing from that District, he requested that I would, in consideration of the services he had rendered in the expedition of that year, allow him to keep the wood referred to, which had cost the Government nothing, and was in fact made over to him as a personal gift by the Dewan, to whom in consequence of its being of larger size than he, or his people could move it, was useless. Had Mr. Tuke been in the service, I could not have consented to any such transaction, I should in that case have claimed the wood as the undoubted property of Government. But Mr. Tuke was not at that time a servant of Government, and the terms under which Uncovenanted servants were at that time engaged in the Department Public Works, did not produce their occasionally entering into commercial speculations. I may instance as a case in point, the late Mr. Roberts, who, while employed on behalf of Government in building boats at Mahadeopore, was permitted at the same time to trade on his own account. But in order that the Government might lose nothing by the transaction, in making over the wood to Mr. Tuke. I stipulated, that the officer in charge of the work-shops at Dowlaiswarum should have the refusal of it, and in this way, the Government would I have no doubt have procured the timber at a cheaper rate, than if they had brought it down river by their own officers. It has however never yet been rafted.

Letter from Mr. G. TUKE; to Lieutenant F. T. HAIG, Civil Engineer Upper Godavery, dated Cocanada, 16th July 1857.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th of July, which I received yesterday.

I beg to enclose two copies of contracts I made for teak wood, on account of Government with the Rajah of the Beejee talook. You will see in the contracts, that the Rajah agreed to give me all the wood in his talook exceeding 4 cubits in circumference, and I set a Goomastah and two peons to hunt for wood of that size.

The wood at Arcooroo was given to me by the Dewan of the Mulcanagherry talook, and I paid 68 Rupees advance for cutting it, and 3 Rs. for a Blacksmith for sharpening the Ghouds Axes, this wood is still at Arcooroo. The wood cut in the Soonchoor talook was given to me by the Rajah of that talook, for which I gave him a gun. I must candidly say, I did intend all this wood for Government in the first instance, for you know I had fully made up my mind to go and try my fortunes in the Cremean war, you are aware, that I had an auction, and sold every thing, I had but a few clothes and a rifle. I was afterwards persuaded from the step by my friends. I then wrote to you, asked you if you would give me the wood I got for nothing, and you said, yes, and as I had paid 68 Rupees, and 3 Rupees out of the Government money for the cutting of the Arcooroo wood, I asked you to whom I could repay it, but you forgetting to answer this, I paid it into my cash box, [Government.]

The wood at Soonchoom I cannot claim for you paid me for the gun I gave for it, the wood is still in Soonchoom, but I cannnot get men to bring it down on account of the rocks in the river. The Rajah of Beejee has declared, that he cannot fulfill his contracts as he cannot drag the wood from the interior to the river, and has promised to pay back the money within (two) 2 months. The Goomastah and Peon who were sent to look for the wood were only kept on a few months, they said, they found no large wood.

I regret to see that Government reprove me for cutting down wood of so small a size, but till receiving your letter with the Government papers yesterday, I can conscientiously say, that I had no Idea whatever that Government had any thing to do with the teak wood in those parts, and you must know yourself the quantity of very small timber that has been coming down from those jungles for years past, all sold to natives by the Rajah, in most instances not sold even, but a man going into a talook pays a quarter of a Rupee to the Rajah, and helps himself, knowing this how could I imagine, Government had an interest in the wood. Had I not cut the wood, the natives surely would have when all the very small wood was finished. It is only the difficulty of moving it, and the rocks in the Sebbery that have prevented them doing so up to this time.

and that a Cormastah, and two Seers were employed in searching for trees of the required size

2d That the timber cut at Arcoorra was given to him by the Dewan of the Mulcanaghiry Talook, and that he paid an advance of Rupees [85] Eighty eight for cutting it, and Rupees [3] three, to a Blacksmith for sharpening the Chisels over the timber cut being still at Arcoorra.

3d That the timber cut in the Loonchum Talook was also given to him by the Loonchum Rajah, to whom he gave a gun in exchange.

4th That the timber cut was at first intended by him for Government, but that Lieut. Haig, subsequently he applied to Lieut. Haig, and received permission to sell on his own account the timber that had been given to him; and that he refunded to the Government Cash box the sum of Rupees [77] Seventy one, which had been advanced.

5th The value of the gun given to the Loonchum Rajah having been paid to him by Lieut. Haig, that he lays no claim to the timber cut in that Talook, and that it still remains there, owing to the difficulty of transporting it, on account of the rocks in the river.

6th That the Rajah of Beejee has failed in fulfilling the Contracts entered into from the difficulty of conveying the timber from the interior to the river, and that he has promised to pay back within 2 Months the

the money he has received.

4th That the Cormastah and Seers who were employed for a few Months in searching for timber, did not succeed in finding any of the required size.

5th That he was not aware at the time that Government had any interest in the teak timber in that part of the Country, seeing that the Rajahs allowed the Natives on payment of a small fee, to cut any quantity they required.

3 Lieutenant Haig in his letter observes.

1st That in procuring a supply of teak for the Dowlaiswaram work Shops, the arrangements were left to Mr. Sykes discretion.

2d That the views of Government respecting the conservancy of the Godavary forests were not made known at the time of Mr. Sykes expedition, and that he learnt in conversation with the Acting Commissioner of Rajpore, that it was very doubtful whether the British Government had any right to interfere with the forests of the Rajpore territory, on Zemindary lands.

3d That a very large proportion of the small sized teak timber imported into Rajahmundry, being fully ripe old wood, tho' not a tenth part of the scantling of that been by Mr. Sykes on the Sebbery, he considers it likely that the trees felled by Mr. Sykes had reached a full maturity, and that the few trees of the very large proportions

proportions described, under altogether exceptional circumstances
front of Lego, and had only obtained them extraordinary
dimensions under very peculiar circumstances of soil and
moisture.—

4th Ans. That he gave his consent to Mr. Tate receiving the trees which had been given to him at Lego
considering, that as an uncovenanted Servant, on the
existing terms at that time, he was not precluded from
entering into commercial speculations, and instanced as
a case in point, the late Mr. Roberts, who was licensed
to trade on his own account, at the time he was employed
on behalf of Government in building boats at Rathnagore.

5th That the interests of Government might not
suffer for Mr. Tate's transactions, it was determined that
the Officer in Charge of the Dowlaiswaram workshops
was to have the refusal of the timber.—

6th From the foregoing circumstances it is evident
that the proceedings of Mr. Tate were under a
misconception of the interests of Government in
the Godavery forests, fully authorized by Lieut.
Haig, but the Orders of Government being now other
future irregularities of the kind are not likely to
occur, and I would express a hope, that the Censure
passed on the conduct of Mr. Tate, may be so
qualified to such extent, as His Lordship in
Council may be pleased on this explanation

to decide.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant.—

Ald Inst Engr & C. — Alfred Fraser Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

No. 45.

From Lieutenant F. J. Haig
Civil Engineer Upper Godavery

To The Chief Engineer D.P. Works
Fort St. George

Sir,

1. With reference to para 62 of the Extracts from the Minutes of Consultation of the 19th May No. 961. I have the honor to forward Copy of a letter from Mr. G. Lake relative to the transactions which took place in the Year 1855 respecting the teak wood purchased by him on the Lebery.—

2. Mr. Lake was sent to explore that River in Conn: : nexion with the expedition of 1855, and it was left to his discretion to make any arrangements he thought proper to procure a supply of teak for the Dowlais: : waram workshops. He found some of very large — sizes in the Loonchum and Male ana having taken, and made his own terms with the native authorities for the purchase and felling of them.—

3. The Government disapproves of these proceedings, first, because Mr. Lake ought to have known that they wish to conserve the forests, and secondly, because with ocular evidence before him that the teak tree will grow to its full size in those jungles, he ought down a number of trees only half grown. With — regards

regard to the first grounds of Censure, I would, remark, that the views of the Government respecting the Godavery forests were not made known at the time of Mr. Jake's expedition, and moreover, that I learned from conversation with the Acting Commissioner of Rajahmundry at that very time, that it was very doubtful whether the British Government had any right to interfere with the forests of the Rajahmundry territory on Zemindary Lands — As to the impropriety of cutting trees but imperfectly matured it seems to me very questionable whether those felled by Mr. Jake were so or not. It is undeniable that a very large proportion of the small sized teak timber imported into Rajahmundry is fully ripe Old wood, though not a small part of the Scantling of that sort by Mr. Jake on the Godavery and it seems to me far more probable, that the few trees of the monstrous proportions described by Mr. Jake were altogether exceptional in front of Ellore, and had only attained their extraordinary dimensions under some peculiar circumstances of soil or exposure, than that those which he cut down were commonly fine timber as they were, were only half advanced towards maturity —

With regard to the ultimate disposal of the timber, Mr. Jake's letter will inform you, that at the time of his connexion with the Upper Godavery being dissolved, I permitted him to take as his own the trees at Aracoroo, which were given him for nothing by the Dewan of the Mulcanagherry Talook. Mr. Jake had been much dissatisfied with the allowance he received during the time he was employed on the Upper Godavery; and on his withdrawing from that District, he requested that I would, in consideration of the services he had rendered in the Expedition of that Year, allow him to keep the wood referred to, which had cost the Government nothing, and was in fact made over to him at a personal gift by the Dewan, to whom in Consequence of its being of larger size than he or his people could remove it, was useless. Back to Mr. Jake's use in the Service, I could not have consented to any such transaction. I should in that case have claimed the wood as the undoubted property of Government. But Mr. Jake was not at that time a Servant of Government, and the terms under which uncovenanted Servants were at that time engaged in the Department Public Works, did not preclude their occasionally entering into commercial speculations. I may instance as a case in point, the late Mr. Roberts, who, while employed on behalf of Government in building boats at Mahadeopore, was permitted at the same time

time to trade on her own account. But in order that the Government might lose nothing by the transaction, in making over the wood to Mr. Jake, I stipulated, that the Officer in Charge of the workshops at Doulaiswaram should have the refusal of it, and in their way, the Government would have no doubt have procured the timber at a cheaper rate, than if they had brought it down river by their own Officers. It has however never yet been rafted.—

I have &c.

(Sig.d) F. F. Haig Lieut.

Civil Eng.r Elster Godavery

Camp at Doulaiswaram
20.th July 1857.

Cocanada
July 16.th 1857

From
Mr. G. Jake

To
Lieutenant F. F. Haig
Civil Eng.r Elster Godavery

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10.th of July which I received Yesterday.—

Beg to enclose two copies of contracts made for teak woods, on account of Government with the Rajah of the Rejjee taloob. You will see in the contracts, that the Rajah agreed to give me all the woods in his taloob exceeding 4

4 Cubits in circumference, and I set a Toomastah and two peons to hunt for wood of that size.—

The wood at Arcooroo was given to me by the Dewan of the Mukandapherry taloob, and I paid 68 Rupees advance for cutting it, and 3 Rs for a blacksmith for sharpening the Chonds axes, this wood is still at Arcooroo. The wood cut in the Loonchoor taloob was given to me by the Rajah of that taloob, for which I gave him a Gun. I must candidly say, I did intend all this wood for Government in the first instance, for you know I had fully made up my mind to go and try my fortunes in the Cremean war. You are aware, that I had an Auction, and sold every thing I had but a few clothes and a rifle. I was afterwards persuaded from this step by my friends. When I wrote to you, asked you if you would give me the wood I got for nothing, and you said, Yes, and as I had paid 68 Rupees, and 3 Rs out of the Government money for the cutting of the Arcooroo wood, I asked you to whom I could apply to, but you forgotten to answer this, I paid it into my Cash how Government.—

The wood at Loonchoom I cannot claim for you paid me for the gun I gave for it, the wood is still in Loonchoom, but I cannot get

men

men to bring it down an account of the Rocks
in the river - The Rajahs of Pegue have declared
red, that he cannot fulfill his contracts as he
cannot draw the wood from the interior to the
river, and has petitioned to pay back the money
either (two) 2 Months - The Commandants and Serjts
who were sent to looke for the wood me to only
keept on a few months, they said, they found no
large wood. -

Regret to see that Government are
prowe me for cutting down wood of the small
size, but till receiving your letter with the
Government Papers Yesterday, I can conscien-
tiously say, that I had no Idea whatever
that Government had any thing to do with
the teak wood in these parts, and you must
know yourself the quantity of very small
timber that has been coming down from
those jungles for years back, all sold to
natives by the Rajah, in most instances
not sold even, but a man going with a Cutch
pays a quarter of a Rupee to the Rajah, cu-
and helps himself, Knowing that how could
I imagine, Government had any interest in
the wood. Had I not cut the wood, the natives
surely would have taken all the very small

(2)
wood

wood was finished. It is only the difficulty
of procuring it, and the rocks in the Lebbery that
have prevented them doing so up to this time
In conclusion, I can conscientiously say,
I did all I did with the best motives, and there-
fore feel more the rebuke I have incurred from
Government —

I have &c
(Signed) L. Lukes

(True Copies)

Alex Baker Colonel
Chief Engineer

account

No 1652

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 28th August 1857

Read the following
Letter from the Chief
Engineer

Mem: ter 18th Aug 57 Revd

With the Proceed
ings recorded above, the
Chief Engineer submits
to Govr and Lieutenant
Genl and Mr Tulloch respecting
to the remarks made
in para 62 — of the
Extract from the Minutes
of Consn dated the 19th
May 57 to 961, and the proceed-
-ings of the latter Gen-
-tleman in having cut
a number of Teak trees,
partly on his private
account.

Enclosed in Letter from
The Chief Engineer Dt 18th
To the Secretary to Government
Dated

Rec'd 28th August 1857
Ans'd

Copied
Captain J Cotton
Offg Chief Engineer
Fort St George
Madras 18th August 1857

Copy of Letter from Capt J Cotton Offg Chief Engineer Madras dated 18th August 1857

Copied
Captain J Cotton
Offg Chief Engineer
Fort St George
Madras 18th August 1857

Dated 18th August 1857
Rec'd 28th Ditto
Ans'd

To the Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir

With reference to the remarks made in para 62 of the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 19th May 1857 No 961, and the proceedings of the latter Gentleman in having cut a number of Teak trees, partly on his private account

I have the honor to submit herewith a statement of the Teak cut by me, and the manner in which it was disposed of

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
J Cotton
Offg Chief Engineer

Fort St George
18th August 1857

opinion, and have only objected to the assumption that the Government has no interest by possessing shares of the Com-

The Government see nothing in the papers now submitted to lead them to change the opinion they formerly expressed of the impropriety of Mr. Tuttle having engaged in private speculations while engaged in a Government survey

Copies to the Chief Engr
Aug 29