1. Number of pages
2. Date of receipt
3. Number of
H.R.O. 1—21400—11-11-40

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2263	Press Mis.
Dated 7—12—38	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 72. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 3rd November 1858, No. 5959.

SIR,

1. In acknowledging the receipt of Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 2288, dated 29th October 1858, I have the honor to state that as dry fuel is of very little use for brick kilns, the permission to purchase and store wood, which may be cut from Avenue trees in Tanjore at any season, will not meet the wants of this Department.

2. So long as the Public Works remained under the control of the Revenue Officers, the wood of the Avenue trees was reserved as much as possible for Government purposes, and if a different system is now authorized, not only must the State be prepared to pay a higher price for building materials, but in some cases there may be a difficulty in executing masonry works at all.

3. It is true that for the last few years a practice of selling the trees indiscriminately has been established, but increasing difficulty in obtaining fuel has been felt in consequence, and it seems to me of much more importance to the people that their bridges and other works should be easily and speedily constructed, than that the petty improvements which can be carried out with the Avenue fund should continue.

4. I need not observe that Tanjore contains no forests, and the Public Works Department is dependent either on the Avenues, the few trees found on waste lands bordering the rivers or the purchase of wood from Meerassidars, and as fuel must be cut *as it is wanted* a large work may be and often has been endangered by delay in procuring this essential article, and the only way I can now see to meet the probable difficulty of future years is to enhance the rates of all estimates, sufficiently to command supplies from private gardens, although it is not desirable to cut fruit trees for such purposes.

5. In some places black mimosa wood can be obtained in sufficient quantities, but even this is private property and it may depend on the caprice of an influential Meerassidar, whether an important work can be constructed, or not.

6. I do not clearly understand whether it is intended by Government that any fresh Avenues are to be planted by the Public Works Department along the roads in Tanjore, or whether that duty devolves on the Revenue Officers. If the trees considered as belonging to the Meerassidars are replaced by others planted by Government there will be a prospect, however remote, of improving the supply of fuel for Public Works, but otherwise, I anticipate an annually increasing scarcity.

No. 73. ORDER THEREON, No. 2613; dated 4th December 1858.

Referred to the Collector of Tanjore; who will be good enough to favour Government with his opinion on the objections raised by the Chief Engineer in pp. 1-5; and on the point discussed in Para. 6. The necessity of renewing the Avenues *by some one*, is obviously of the first importance.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George
3rd November 1858.

No 5959

From
The Offg Chief Engineer
To,
The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir,

Public

1. In acknowledging the receipt of Fy. Mins. Cons., No 2288, dated 29th October 58, I have the honor to state that as very little use for brick tiles, the permission to purchase and store wood, which may be cut from Avenue trees in Tanjore at any season, will not meet the wants of this Department.

2. So long as the public works remained under the control of the Revenue Officers, the wood of the Avenue trees was reserved as much as possible for Government purposes, and if a different system is now authorized, not only must the State be prepared to pay a higher price for building materials, but in some cases there may be a difficulty in executing masonry works

works at all.-

3. It is true that for the last few years a practice of selling the trees indiscriminately has been established, but increasing difficulty in obtaining fuel has been felt in consequence, and it seems to me of much more importance to the people that their bridges and other works should be easily and speedily constructed, than that the petty improvements which can be carried out with the avenue fund should continue.-

4 I need not observe that Tanjore contains no forests, and the Public Works Department is dependent either on the Avenues, the few trees found on waste lands bordering the rivers or the purchase of wood from Mettrashidars, and as fuel must be cut as it is wanted a large work may be and often has been endangered by delay in procuring this essential article, and the only way I can now see to meet the probable difficulty of future years is to enhance the rates of all estimates, sufficiently sufficiently to command supplies from private gardens, although it is not desirable to cut fruit trees for such purposes.-

5. In some places black mimosa wood can be obtained in sufficient quantities, but even this is private property and it may depend on the caprice of an influential Mettrashidar, whether an important work can be constructed, or not.-

6. I do not clearly understand whether it is intended by Government that any fresh avenues are to be planted by the Public Works Department along the roads in Tanjore, or whether that duty devolves on the Revenue Officers. If the trees considered as belonging to the Mettrashidars are replaced by others planted by Government there will be a prospect, however remote, of improving the supply of fuel for public works, but otherwise, I anticipate an annually increasing scarcity.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servant
Lawford Hall
Offg Chief Engineer

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George
3rd Nov 1858.

x 2880.

Cons 29th Oct 1858 No 183-184

PWD 1856 Dec 11th
Dft to Govt 7th Dec
No 2599.

From.
The Offg Chief Engineer

To
The Secy to Govt PWD

Dated 3rd Nov 1868
Received 4th
From the Collr of Tanjore 2/12
Feby 59 No 239 59 59
In Cons
No 2613 4th Dec 1858.

Stating with reference to Govt Min of Cons: No 2288 dated 20th October 1858 that as dry fuel is of very little use for Brick Kilns the permission to purchase and store wood which may be cut from Avenue Trees in Tanjore at any season will subserve the wants of this Dept

With an Order

No 72 & 73.

Recd 23 Nov 1230

No 264

Referred to the Collector of Tanjore; who with the good Sense & favour God with his Opinion on the Objection raised by the Chief Engr in ¶¶ 1-5; & on the point discussed in ¶ 6.

From Lt Govr & Secy 4th Decr 58

The necessity of preserving the avenues by some one, as seriously as the Forest Department

Copy to the Collr of Tanjore Dispatch

WWS