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M.R.O. 1-82,400-23-11-80.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. & S. S. 105

G.O. No.	947	Press Mis.
Dated	19-5-	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 25th May 1858.

No. 6. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department, dated 28th April 1858, No. 540.

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Financial Railway Department, under date the 29th March 1858, No. 164.

Read Extract from Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department.

Communicating copy of a letter from Dr. Cleghorn, Conservator of Forests, expressing his opinion as to the utility of the Conservancy Department, to carry out the views of Captain Johnston, Consulting Engineer of Railways, on the supply of Sleepers. } (Dated 16th March 1858, No. 342.)

From the above letter, it will appear that the Conservator of Forests is not favorable to the project of working the Salem and North Arcot Forests by means of the Conservancy Establishment for the provision of timber to the Railway Department and Department Public Works.

2. He notices that the difficulty adverted to lies principally in the carriage of the timber. A matter altogether foreign to his duties. If the road was opened as proposed in Captain Johnston's letter the timber could be removed either by the Railway Department or Department Public Works, by contract or by their own establishment, and this it appears to him is all that is necessary or desirable under the circumstances.

3. With a view to give every assistance in furtherance of the object proposed, Dr. Cleghorn has ordered Mr. Williams to proceed to the jungles now proposed to be worked, and to mark, number and register all trees of the specified kinds that may with advantage be removed, keeping a register of all timber so marked and numbered, and distinctly recording the exact localities for the guidance of those who may be employed to remove them.

4. In regard to the best mode of obtaining the timber so marked, the Villagers might under proper supervision be authorized to fell and prepare the logs in lengths suited for Sleepers, certain restrictions being made for the due Conservancy of the Forests. It will then rest with the Railway Department to make their own arrangements for purchase and conveyance. The seignorage of 3 annas a Sleeper being then paid directly by them to the Forest Department. To prevent confusion, certain tracts of forests might be set apart for the time being for the requirements of the Railway and the Department Public Works.

5. The Conservator has much pleasure in assenting to the transfer of Mr. Williams to the Railway Company, to which, as appears from Captain Johnston's letter, he has offered his services. He observes that Mr. Williams' practical acquaintance with the timber trade and the circumstances of his having been himself engaged in supplying Sleepers for the Railway would recommend him as an able Assistant in that Department. Dr. Cleghorn would be glad of an early settlement of the question, as Mr. Williams' services are not required by him at Madras.

6. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to furnish a copy of the above letter to the Acting Consulting Engineer for Railways, in reference to his letter under date 27th November 1857. He agrees with Dr. Cleghorn that such an Establishment as that proposed by Captain Johnston for working the Cotaputty jungles should not be maintained by the Forest Department, and that if the road with them be opened, a subject which will be considered in the Public Works Department, the timber which would be brought down by the Villagers might be removed by the Railway Department. The steps taken and arrangements proposed by the Conservator in paras. 10, 11, of his letter seem judicious.

7. With regard to Mr. Williams, there would be no objection to his entering the Railway service if so disposed, but if the Establishment suggested in Captain Johnston's letter is not to be entertained, and the Government are certainly of opinion that it would be better that the carriage of the Sleepers should be effected by hired bandies or by Contractors, it does not appear what appointment could be given him.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

Ordered to be communicated to the Conservator of Forests, with reference to his letter of the 24th February last, No. 283.

2. The attention of the Public Works Department will be requested to the road referred to in para. 6 of the above Extract.

(A true Extract.)

W. H. Bayley

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.
,, Department of Public Works.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 25th May 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Conservator of Forests, with reference to his letter of the 24th February last, No. 283.

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(A true Extract.)

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, No. 947; dated 19th May 1858.

Ordered to be referred to the Chief Engineer, for report on the road to the Cotaputty jungles referred to in para. 6 of Extract Minutes Consultation 28th April 1858, No. 510, in the Revenue Department.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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St. Michaels 11-17-11

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