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Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 19-4-89

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73-74

Dated 16-4- 1889.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 73. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 15th April 1859, No. 9602.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from Colonel Lawford, Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, on Special duty at Jackatalla, under date 6th April 1859, reporting the great difficulty towards the speedy completion of the new Barracks at that Station that exists in procuring a sufficient quantity of good seasoned planking for flooring and ceilings.

2. Captain Morgan promised to send up from Goondelpett 20,000 square feet of planking independent of joists, girders, &c., but this supply is totally inadequate, and to complete the two unfinished Barracks, Married Men's Quarters, and other buildings urgently required, a further supply of 50,000 square feet at least will be required.

3. Paulghat and Mysore were the most likely sources of supply, but the Railway competition has interferred in the former place, and it only now remains to make efforts to procure timber at Mysore.

4. As the speedy completion of the works is of such importance, I have [pending a reference to Government] requested Colonel Lawford to direct Captain Morgan to proceed to Mysore to expedite the purchase by every exertion in his power.

5. Captain Morgan's unaided efforts will not be sufficient to secure an adequate and rapid supply of timber. I have the honor therefore to solicit the aid of Government that a request may be made to the Commissioner of Mysore to direct his Officials to render every possible assistance to that Officer.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, on Special duty; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Jackatalla, 6th April 1859.

SIR,

Among the greatest difficulties to the speedy completion of the Jackatalla Barracks is the want of good seasoned plank for flooring and ceiling, and it seems impossible by any means to increase the supply from present sources beyond a limited amount.

2. Captain Morgan has verbally engaged to send up from Goondelpett within six months 20,000 square feet of plank, independently of girders, joists, &c., from the Forest, but at least 50,000 square feet more are required to enable Captain Campbell to proceed as rapidly as possible with the two unfinished Barracks, the Married Men's Quarters, and other buildings still urgently wanted.

3. Palghaut and Mysore offer the two most likely sources of supply for this essential material, but the Contractors at the former place have failed in their engagements and the Railway works are a great obstacle, and it only remains to make what efforts are feasible at the large Town of Mysore.

4. In securing punctuality and vigour in the fulfilment of Contracts, I have no doubt that the aid of the Officers of Government is of the greatest importance, and I would most strongly recommend that the Commissioner of Mysore be requested to allow it to be rendered in this case by the Superintendent of Astagram, to such reasonable extent as to facilitate the operations here, without in any way influencing the fair purchase of the wood which Captain Campbell is anxious to make in person, merely depending on the Government Officers for assistance in securing its prompt supply.

5. The case is one of real urgency affecting the health and discipline of European Soldiers and the proper construction of these costly buildings for the partial use of green wood in block No. 3, which has been rendered necessary by the want of better material is to be regretted.

6. If my proposition meets with the approval of Government and of the Mysore Commissioner, I would permit Captain Campbell to proceed to Mysore to make his own arrange-

ments, in communication with the Officers of the Mysore Government, for forwarding the planks he may purchase in that market.

7. The Government may be assured that I do not offer this suggestion without a full conviction of its urgent necessity, if this Station is to be occupied as at present, but though I cannot enter into all the particulars of the difficulties now experienced, the works commenced and still unfinished, afford convincing proof of the pressing want of material for their completion.

8. There are at present no seasoned planks ready on the works, nor are there Sawyers enough to prepare one-fourth of the quantity required in proper time.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON, No. 909; dated 16th April 1859.

Referred to the Conservator of Forests, who will be pleased to advise the Government at his earliest convenience as to the best means of readily obtaining the timber required for the Jackatalla works.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

3—

Jackatalla
6th April 1859.

From
Lieutenant Colonel Lawford
Superintending Engr. S. Circle
On Special duty.

To
Colonel C. E. Faber
Chief Engineer P. W.
Fort Saint George

Sir

Among the greatest difficulties to the speedy completion of the Jackatalla Barracks with the want of good seasoned planks for flooring and ceiling and it seems impossible by any means to increase the supply from present sources beyond a limited amount.

2. Captain Morgan has verbally engaged to send up from Goondlepett within six months 2,0000 Sq^re feet of planks, independently of girders joists &c. from the Forest but at least 50,000 Square feet more are required to enable Captain Campbell to proceed as rapidly as possible with the two unfinished Barracks, the married men's quarters, and other Buildings still urgently wanted.

3.

3. Palghaut and Mysore offer the two most likely sources of supply for this essential material but the contractors at the former place have failed in their engagements and

[illegible]

[illegible] Buildings for the partial use of [illegible] which has been rendered necessary by the want of good wood in Block No 3 which has been rendered necessary by the want of better material is to be regretted.

6. If my proposition meets with the approval of Government and of the [illegible] Commissioner, I would permit [illegible] Mysore