M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 870 — Press ~~Mis.~~

299. 300

Dated 18 — 4 — 1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 299. Read the following letter from Captain H. R. MORGAN, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 30th March 1861, No. 422 :—

SIR,

1. In reply to the Order of Government, dated 19th November 1860, No. 2,179, calling for a report on the destruction committed in the Déva forest by the charcoal contractor, as stated by Mr. Lascelles in his letter, dated 8th September 1860, paragraphs 11 and 12, I have the honor to report that I have inspected the Déva forest in company with Major Babington, my Assistant.

2. I could not see the "abominable destruction," which it appears Mr. Lascelles saw ; it is true that in making a road some four miles long through the forest some years ago, it was necessary to fell many trees, these in falling carried others with them where the ground was steep, hence the appearance of destruction; but had not Mr. Lascelles been blinded by the wish to share the wood gains with Government (paragraph 7) he could easily have distinguished between the damage committed in making the road and that by the charcoal burner.

3. Major Babington has impressed upon the contractor the absolute necessity of burning his charcoal in an economical manner, and compels him to sell it at a fair market rate, 5 Annas a parah.

4. I observed two or three trees cut in the ravines ; this practice I have most strictly forbidden as tending to interfere with the springs.

5. There were many trees on the sides of the road which the contractor might have cut for bark charcoal, and there is no reason why he should have left these to cut others at a distance, in a jungle covered with dense underwood.

6. As sites for Cinchona are now becoming of importance on these Hills, I would bring the following proposition to the notice of Government.

7. I propose that a road of a gradient not steeper than 1 in 18 be made to this forest.

8. That the trees in this forest be cleared out for the supply of the Ootacamund market ; thus two objects will be gained, an excellent supply of wood for the next four or five years, and the ground cleared for Cinchona.

9. The forest consists of more than 2,000 acres of the finest soil on these Hills. The superstratum from one and a half to two feet of vegetable mould, the substratum of yellow decayed felspar with traces of fine quartz, mica and hornblend, the rock is gneis.

10. There is a good stream of water and five or six small branches, the ravines are admirably suited for the Cinchona. I saw thousands of the Orchid Calanthe Periottei, various ferns and the ground rattan, all inhabitants of moist places, the intervals between the ravines appeared slightly dry—but I saw the forest at the end of the driest season of the year.

11. There is a good level bridle-path through the centre of the forest, some four miles in length, the mean height of this by the Aneroid is 6,600 feet, the lowest part of the forest is about 6,000 feet, the highest 7,400 feet, thus affording a range of about 1,400 feet. The thermometer at 2 P.M. was 73° Fahr. in the shade ; on the road, outside of the forest, it stood at 68° Fahr. The shape of the forest is a horse-shoe, the largest area faces the north and east, but a small portion faces the south. Thus owing to the great range of elevation and peculiar shape we have many climates.

12. With two thousand acres to plant out, a glass-house for seeds and cuttings, a trained gardener and an establishment would be necessary. The forest being situated in the midst of Burgher villages, labor would be abundant.

13. At present the forest is infested with Sambur and perhaps a few Tigers, whom it would be necessary to destroy. By cutting out trees and clearing away the dense underwood, which prevails everywhere, wild beasts would soon abandon the forest.

14. It would take three or four years to make any impression on this large forest, by which time we should be in possession of plants to plant out, and possibly of a yearly supply of seeds for the nursery.

15. My Assistant, Major Babington, might trace and cut the road; paying for it out of wood and charcoal sales. The cost would probably be about 4,000 Rupees.

No. 300. ORDER THEREON, 18th April 1861, No. 870.

1. In this letter the Acting Conservator of Forests reports, in obedience to an Order of Government,* on Mr. Lascelles' allegation as to extensive destruction of timber in the "Déva Shola," by the person who holds a contract to make charcoal of the dead wood in it.

* *November* 19*th* 1860, *No.* 2,179, *Para.* 7.

2. Captain Morgan states that he inspected the Shola, in company with his Assistant Captain Babington, but did not find any symptoms of the wholesale destruction of which Mr. Lascelles spoke in his letter. He appears to consider (paragraphs 2 to 5) that the contractor is acting fairly. The Government desire, however, that Captain Morgan will impress on Captain Babington the necessity of keeping a watch on the contractor's proceedings. The contractor engaged to build bridges over two Nallas on the road to the forest;† and Captain Morgan will be desired to report whether he has fulfilled that engagement, and in what manner.

† *From Conservator, August* 6*th* 1860, *No.* 89, *Para.* 1.

3. With respect to the propositions contained in paragraphs 6 to 15, the Acting Conservator will be again informed that the Government will not at present make any alteration in the system for supplying fuel to Ootacamund, established last year. It should be Captain Morgan's endeavour, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Order of Government, dated 19th November 1860, to work that system to the best advantage, and to eradicate, and prevent for the future, any abuses which may have found entrance into it on its first introduction.

4. With regard to the plan of converting the Déva Shola into a Cinchona plantation; the Government do not think it expedient, for the present, to add to the number of the sites which have been selected for the Cinchona.

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

Rev Depart

No 870

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 18th April 1861

Read the following letter

from the Offg Conservator

of Forests-

Reporting on the

statement made by Mr Lascelles

regarding the destruction com-

-mitted in the Deva Forest

by the charcoal Contractor (Here enter 30 March/61 No 422)

and disproving the same and

lays before Govt the feasability

of converting this Forest for

the propagation of the Ein-

dians-

In this letter

the Acting Conservator

of Forests reports, in obe-

-dience to an order of

Govt, on Mr

Lascelles' allegation as

to extensive destruction

of timber in the "Déva

Shola", by the person

who holds a contract

to make charcoal of

the

* Nov 19/60 No 2179 Para 7

the deadwood in it.

2 Captain Morgan states that he inspected the Shola, in Company with his assistant Captain Babington, but did not find any symptoms of the wholesale destruction of which Mr. Lascelles spoke in his letter. He appears to consider, (Paras 2 to 5) that the contractor is acting fairly. The Government desire, however, that Captain Morgan will impress on Captain Babington the necessity of keeping a watch on the contractors proceedings. The contractor engaged to build bridges over the nullahs on the road to the forest, and Captain Morgan will be desired to report whether

* From Conservator Aug. 16/60 No 3 Para 1

whether he has ful-
-filled that engagement,
and in what manner.

3 With respect to
the propositions con-
-tained in Paras 6 to 15,
the Acting Governor is
will be again informed
that the Government
will not at present
make any alteration
in the system for sup-
-plying fuel to Colora-
-mund, established
last year. It should
be Captain Morgans'
endeavour to work that
system to the best ad-
-vantage, and to eradicate
and prevent for the
future, any abuses which
may have found entrance
into it on its first
introduction.

4 With regard to
the

In accordance with
Para 8 of Secret
& Govt dated 19th
November 1840,

I &c

the plan of converting the Deva Shola into a Cinchona plantation; the Government do not think it expedient, for the present, to add to the number of the sites which have been selected for the Cinchona.

Regarding the alleged destruction in the Deva Forest

4 Copies to the
Conservator of Forests Circ. 19
13 " Bd. of Rev. 18
10 " Chief Engr.
1 " Coll. of Coimbatore 19

40/60

Gov. Hon

C. 12 April 85

324-327
19-11-60
286-287
22-5-60

Revenue 1861 Dept.
Pro:- of Govt for April

No 870.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dated April 1861.

~~From the Ch: Engr~~
2nd Dr 1861 Ct:- 2806

Respecting extensive
destruction of timber in
the Deva Shola, committed
by a Charcoal contractor.

No 299 & 300.