M.R.O. 1—77,006—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1264 Press / Mis.

95-97.

Dated 5-6-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

AD / 25-8-52

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 5th June 1862.

Read the following papers :—

No. 95. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. CARPENDALE, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 9th May 1862, No. 319.

SIR,

1 Letter from the Assistant Commissary General Madras, No. 3,629, dated 24th April 1862.
1 Do. do. No. 48, dated 3rd May 1862.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge Order of Government, No. 958, of 5th instant, communicating an Order in the Military Department directing that such portion of the Teak timber which belongs to the Commissariat Department as can be turned to account in the Department Public Works shall be taken at market price; and also calling on me to expedite the report referred by Government in their Order No. 739 of 11th April.

2. It was not until the 25th ultimo that I learned from the Commissariat Department that the quantity of timber for sale was 200 tons at 100 Rupees a ton of 50 cubic feet, or 2 Rupees a foot; when I immediately communicated with the District Engineers of the Presidency, North Arcot and Madras, as well as the Executive Engineer of Bangalore; instructing them to communicate direct with the Commissariat Department regarding such quantity as they required, and to inform me of their proceedings at the same time.

3. I was at that time under the impression that the timber was surplus stock, and was unaware that it had been rejected by the Gun Carriage Manufactory, and that its quality was such that it had been described by the Controller of Military Finance in his report* to Government, on the authority of the Commissary General and the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, as being of "an inferior description" " and if sold could realize almost nothing," or I should certainly have inspected the timber before passing on to the District Engineers the offer of it at 2 Rupees a cubic foot.

* 11th April A paragraphs 2 and 3.

4. One Officer only has yet replied. The District Engineer of the Presidency, who reports that he does not require any at present, having recently supplied himself with a quantity. I do not think, and I informed the Executive Officer of the Commissariat Department so at the time, that any of the Public Works Officers would consider it advantageous to purchase at the rate offered, as the market price for good timber has been 80 Rupees a ton, with a tendency to fall; much less, can they be expected to take it, when they find it is so much below the average quality. My own opinion of the timber from inspection on the Beach is, that the greater portion of it is so very inferior, owing to flaws, shakes, holes in the centre, and irregularity of section, that the loss in working it up would be enormous, and that the large *per centage* (30) recently sanctioned by Government on that account would not suffice.

5. I therefore respectfully protest against the Department Public Works being obliged to take over the timber unless at a rate which the Officers of that Department consider fair, and it appears to me that such rate would be best fixed by a Committee composed of an Executive Officer of the Commissariat Department. The District Engineer or his 1st Assistant, and a third gentleman unconnected with either, say Mr. Gibson of the Pier. They need only value three good and three bad logs, and at such rate as they fix, there would be no objection, in my opinion, to the whole quantity being transferred to the Department Public Works to be paid for as used, the only inconvenience being, that there is scarcely room in the District Engineer's Yard to receive it. If this arrangement should meet the approval of Government, I would further suggest that the timber should not be allowed to remain in log, but be sawn up into such thicknesses as is most commonly required for rafters, joists, door and window frames, &c, for the purpose of seasoning, which it never can do in the log, and for facility of transport to neighbouring Districts when wanted.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 5th June 1862.

No. 96. Endorsement of the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, dated Chepauk, 15th May 1862, No. 594.

From Captain A. HUTCHISON, Assistant Commissary General, Madras, to the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, Chepauk, dated Madras, 12th May 1862, No. 140.

SIR,

1. In reply to your letter* regarding the Teakwood which has formed the subject of our recent correspondence, I have the honor to inform you, that the Commissary General has no objection to your proposition that the timber be taken over at a valuation, but it must be clearly understood, that he reserves to himself the right of accepting or rejecting the rate which may be fixed by the three parties you name.

* No 330, dated 9th May 1862.

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1. Communicated for the information of Government who will observe that the Commissary General accedes to Colonel Carpendale's proposal,* with a reservation.

2. The course indicated, viz., valuation by arbitration would seem to be the only one to be adopted; and in effect it can matter nothing to Government how the loss is carried to account (if loss there be) provided the public property is used to the utmost advantage for legitimate State purposes.

1 Letter from the Assistant Commissary General, No. 140, dated 12th May 1862.
† *Vide* letter to Government No 319, dated 9th May 1862.

(Signed) J. OUCHTERLONY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle.

No. 97. ORDER THEREON, 5th June 1862, No. 1,264.

1. The Government approve of the proposition to form a Committee, composed of an Officer of the Commissariat Department, an Executive Officer of the Public Works Department and a third party unconnected with either, with a view to examine the Teak timber offered for sale and to fix a fair valuation thereon with reference to the present market rate.

2. The Commissary General and the Chief Engineer will accordingly be requested to arrange for an Officer from their respective Departments being appointed to this duty, and mutually to nominate one unconnected with either branch of the Service, and report to Government the result of the Committee's proceedings, when orders will be passed as to whether it would be desirable to purchase the timber for use in the Public Works Department at the rate fixed by the Committee.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

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1 / 3

Deputy Chief Engineer's Office
Central Circle
Chepauk
9th May 1862.

No 319

From
Lieutenant Colonel J. Carpendale
Acting Deputy Chief Engineer C.C.

To
Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Horsley
Secretary to Government P.W.D

Sir,

Enclosure 2

1 Letter from the Assistant Commy Genl Madras No 3629 of 24th April/62
1 do Do No 48 of 3d May/62

I have the honor to acknowledge order of Government No 958 of 5th instant, communicating an order in the Military Department directing that such portion of the teak timber which belongs to the Commissariat Department as can be turned to account in the D.P.W. shall be taken at Market price; and also calling on me to expedite the report referred to Government in their order No 739 of 11th April

2. It was not until the 25th Ultimo that I learned from the Commissariat Department that the quantity of timber for sale was 200 tons at 100 Rupees a ton of 50 Cubic feet

or

or 2 Rupees a foot, when I immediately communicated with the District Engineers of the Presidency - North Arcot, and Madras, as well as the Executive Engineer of Bangalore; instructing them to communicate direct with the Commissariat Department regarding such quantity as they required, and to inform me of their proceedings at the same time.

3. I was at that time under the impression that the timber was surplus stock, and was unaware that it had been rejected by the Gun Carriage Manufactory, and that its quality was such that it had been described by the Controller of Military Finance in his report to Government, on the Authority of the Commissary General and the Superintendent of the Gun Carriage Manufactory, as being of an inferior description" and if sold would realize "almost nothing" or I think certainly have inspected the timber before passing on to the District Engineers the offer of it at 2 Rupees a Cubic foot. 11th April A paras. 243

4. One Officer only has yet replied - The District Engineer of the Presidency who reports that he does not require any at present having recently supplied himself with a quantity - I do not think, and I informed the Executive Officer of the Commissariat Department so at the time, that any of the Public works Officers would consider it advantageous to purchase at the rate offered, as the Market price for good timber has been 80 Rupees a ton, with a tendency to fall; much less, can they be expected to take it, when they find it is so much below the average quality. By own opinion of the timber from inspection on the beach is that the greater portion of it is, to very inferior, owing to flaws, shakes, holes in the Centre and irregularity of section, that the loss in working it up would be enormous, and that the large per centage (30) recently sanctioned by Government on that account would not suffice.

5. I therefore respectfully protest against the D.O.P. being obliged to take over the timber

timber unless at a rate which the Officers of that Department Consider fair, and it appears to me that such rate would be best fixed by a Committee Composed of an Executive Officer of the Commissariat Department The District Engineer or his 1st Assistant, and a third Gentleman unconnected with either, say Mr Gibson of the Pier: They need only value 3 good and 3 bad logs, and at such rate as they fix, there would be no objection, in my opinion, to the whole quantity being transferred to the D.P.W. to be paid for as used, the only inconvenience being, that there is scarcely room in the District Engineers yard to receive it. If this arrangement should meet the approval of Government, I would further suggest that the timber should not be allowed to remain in log, but be sawn up into such thicknesses as is most commonly required for rafters, Joists, Door and Window frames &c.

For

for the purpose of seasoning, which it never can do in the log and for facility of transport to neighbouring Districts when wanted.-

Deputy Chief Engr's Office C.C. Chepauk 9th May 1862.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
J Gaisford Lt Col
Actg Dy Chief Engr C.C.

To
Lieutenant Colonel W. N. Horsley
Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

Public Works Dept. and they
resolve to communicate this decision
to the Military Department with reference
to the
5 April 62 No
1st May " No 1584
letter issued by that Department
for the entire quantity
Major Gaisford to be
General to this
Marriage.

Lt Col

To Military 2 Sills
Dy Ch Engr C Circle

No 110

To The Secretary Chief Engineer
The Acting Superintending Engineer
Central Circle
Chittagong

Sir

I am directed to forward letter noted in the margin from the Conservator of Forests, Eastern Circle, Chittagong, on the subject of our recent correspondence regarding the Timber which has formed the subject of our recent correspondence.

2. I have the honor to inform you, that the Commissary General has no objection to your proposition that the timber offered for sale by the Forest Department, should be taken over at a valuation, but he considers that it would be desirable that the rights of the Department to dispose of the timber should be reserved to himself, the Government, the right of rejection or rejection, the ratio which may be fixed by the Government from time to time.

3. I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
[illegible]
Secretary to Government

No 330 dated 9th May 1862.

Pro: 10th April 1862 Nos 211-212 Cy 3

5th May — 958 Copy

No 1862 Department (from No 1383 June)

From
The Acting Dy Chief Engr
C.E.

To The Secretary to Govt
W.P.

dated 9 May 1862.
Rec'd 10 May 1862.
2 Encls. Estimates

No 319

Report that the timber offered for sale by the Comy Department ought not to be taken by the Govt except at a valuation to be fixed by an Officer from each Department and a third Gentleman who is competent to form an opinion and is unconnected with either Department.

With an Order
No 1264 - 5 June.

Copies

From the foregoing letter the Govt observe that the District Comr Presidency is not in want of timber having recently supplied himself with a stock

The Acting Dy Chief Engr Central Circle, moreover reports that owing to the many flaws, shakes, and holes in the teak offered for sale, the loss in cutting would far exceed the large percentage recently sanctioned on that account and thus the loss to Government would probably be greater for the use of the timber in this Department than by its sale to the Public.

Under these circumstances the Government do not consider it desirable to authorize the purchase of the Timber in question by the Public

Pro: of Govt No 579 dt 26th March 1862

No 95

22nd May 1828

No 594

Endorsement

Communicated for the information of Govt who will observe that the Commissary Genl accedes to Colonel Carpendale's proposal*, with a reservation.

The course indicated, viz: valuation by arbitration would seem to be the only one to be adopted; and in effect it can matter nothing to Govt how the loss is carried to account (if there be) provided the Public property is used to the utmost advantage for legitimate State purposes.

Exclosure 1
1 Letter from the Quarter Master General
* with Letter & Encl.
Rx. 319.
dated 9th May/62

Deputy Chief Engrs Office
Central Circle
Chesapeake
15 May 1862.

Mechlenburg Lt Col
Acting Dy Chief Engr CC

To
Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Bonaley
Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

Engrs Office
Chesapeake
15 May/62

The Asst Commy Genl
Charleston.

Dated 12th May 1862.
Recd 15th May 1862.

No 319.

Commy Genl Clarke
Commanding Charleston
requests the instructions
of the Engr Officer
how the Engr Officer
may act in valuation &c

Proceedings of the Board assembled under date the 5th June 1862.

Present: Lieut. Colonel Wilkie, Deputy Chief Engineer, Officiating Chief Engineer, Colonel Mackenzie, Deputy Quarter Master General, Lieut. Colonel Dundas, Assistant Quarter Master General, Captain Scott, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, Captain Hall, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, Captain Wilkinson, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, Captain Hall, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, Captain Wilkinson, Deputy Assistant Commissary General.

Referred to the Board the accompanying letter from the Deputy Chief Engineer C.C. dated 15th May 1862 No. 5794, forwarding a letter from the Assistant Commissary General C.C. dated 13th May 1862 No. 1264, with enclosures, relative to the proposal of Colonel Carpendale to value the timber by arbitration and recommending it for adoption.

The Secretary read the letter from the Deputy Chief Engineer C.C. dated 15th May 1862 No. 5794, forwarding a letter from the Assistant Commissary General C.C. dated 13th May 1862 No. 1264, with enclosures, relative to the proposal of Colonel Carpendale to value the timber by arbitration and recommending it for adoption.

The Government

[illegible] of the proposition [illegible] to form a Committee, consisting of the Chief Officer of the Commissariat Department, Officer Commanding Engineers, Officer of the Quarter Master General's Department, and a third [illegible]

C.E. 1862 Despatches
Pro. Min. dated 1st of June

From No. 1484
The Acting Deputy Chief Engineer C.C.

To The Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

dated 15th
Rec'd 17th May 1862
No 5794

Forwards a letter received from the Assistant Commissary General according to Colonel Carpendales proposition to value the timber by Arbitration and recommends it for adoption.

No. 96

22nd May 1862

No. 1264 - 5th June

party unconnected with either, with a view to examine the timber offered for sale and to fix a fair valuation thereon with reference to the present market rates.

The Commissary General and the Chief Engineer will accordingly be requested to arrange for an Officer from the respective Departments being appointed for this duty and mutually to nominate one unconnected with either Branch of the Service, and report to Govt the result of the Committee's proceedings when orders will be passed as to whether it would be desirable to purchase the timber for use in the P.W.D. at the rate fixed by the Committee.

15th Nov

Encl

7 Copies

To

The Secy to Govt Canada with 2 Encls. disp[d] 6th June

Chief Engineer

Commissary General

Military Secretary

305

Nos 96. 97.

97

Regarding the timber offered for sales by the Commissariat Department.

G. W. 1862. Despatch

Proc: of Govt: for June

No 1361

Proc: of the Madras Govt

dated 9th June 1862.

Opening of the proposal for the formation of a Committee to examine and fix the value of Teak Timber offered for sale by the Commissariat Dept and requesting the Commissary General and Chief Engr to appoint the Committee and to report the result of their Proc: