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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2402 Press ~~Mis.~~

116-117

Dated 8-10-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 8th October 1862.

No. 116. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 25th September 1862, No. 2,084:—

Referring for consideration the remarks of the Secretary of State on the report of the Conservator of Forests, regarding the inability on the part of the Public Works Department to furnish an Overseer for clearing Kalamuddy on North Canara. } (Vide Revenue Proceedings, 25th September 1862, Nos. 470-471.)

No. 117. ORDER THEREON, 8th October 1862, No. 2,402.

Communicated to the Chief Engineer, who is requested to report on the point noticed by the Secretary of State in paragraph 8 of his Despatch recorded in the above Proceedings.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India (Revenue), to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 14th August 1862, No. 31:—

SIR,

1. I have considered in Council the letter from your Excellency in Council, numbered 25, and dated the 25th April last, which transmitted the Report of the Conservator of Forests for 1860-61.

2. As you have properly noticed the extreme delay which has taken place in submitting this Report, to which I also adverted in my Despatch of the 22rd of January, No. 3 of this year, I trust that the Report for 1861-62, will be received by the time you have fixed, so that you may have the opportunity of issuing any instructions which you may deem necessary before they are too late to be of any real use.

3. Although the actual financial profit of the year was much less than that of the year 1859-60, I am willing to allow that the advantages enumerated in paragraph 23 of the Conservator's Report, if obtained, as they seem to have been, may be fairly taken as counterbalancing the diminished receipts.

4. I am glad to see that the Overseer of the Madura Forest was able to report that the prohibition of coomree, which formerly was very prevalent in this District, had been "a perfect success." In other Districts, also, it seems to have been successfully discouraged. I entertain the hope that the authorities, by judiciously setting their faces against this destructive process of cultivation, will before long wholly stop it. The increasing demand for wood, both as fuel and timber, caused by the introduction of railways, makes the conservation of the forests and their economical management more than ever necessary. With reference to the remark in paragraph 22 of your Order of the 25th of April last, and to the accounts given by several Officers of the Forest Department of the waste now committed in preparing the timber of the forests for use, I think that it would be highly desirable that you should separately consider whether it might not be expedient to introduce one or two easily moveable steam sawing machines for use in those forests in which there is most difficulty in procuring labor, and where the timber is most valuable. With regard to the apprehensions of Captain Morgan, on the score of the prevalence to fever in the Annamallais, it seems to me that, if the machines are of a simple construction, and easily moveable from place to place, they ought not to require any great amount of skill to keep them in working order, and that the much larger amount of work which they are capable of executing in a short time would obviate the necessity of so long a stay in feverish localities as is requisite in the case of manual labor. At all events, though the subject is not free from difficulty, I recommend to your notice to consider whether such machines could not be profitably employed in the forests.

5. The establishment of one of these machines at Ootacamund, to be worked by water power, is supported by Captain Morgan on the grounds that it would be a boon to the public and a saving to your Government, and, as it could be worked apparently at little expense, seems highly desirable.

6. The suggestion made by Captain Morgan in paragraph 18, as to the expediency of placing the avenues under the charge of the Collectors, and making the heads of villages responsible for the proper care of the trees, appears to me judicious, and I trust that you will have acted on it. I presume, too, that your next letter on the Forest Department will inform me of your decision on the proposal to take a perpetual lease of the Mudumallai forest, for which, supposing it to be obtainable on reasonable terms, Captain Morgan seems to assign good reasons.

7. The accounts of the cultivation of tea on the hill ranges of your Presidency in this Report, as well as in the letter and enclosures from your Government of the 26th of May last, No. 37, which I received on the 5th ultimo, are gratifying from their favorable character. Nevertheless, as the plantations are not in that state to require the assistance of the skilled manufacturers whom Dr. Cleghorn two years ago suggested for them, I approve of your decision not to obtain the services of any such persons from Bengal.

8. I cannot conclude this Despatch without calling your attention to the complaint of the Officiating Conservator of Forests, contained in paragraph 15 of his Report, where he attributes the delay in clearing the Kalamuddy to "the Department of Public Works being unable to "furnish an Overseer for the work." With the considerable establishment at the disposal of the District Engineer of North Canara, the inability appears unaccountable, but if it really existed, it was the duty of the Head of the Public Works Department, to provide, from other Districts, or by some other means, for the completion of a work sanctioned for execution during the year, and from which an immediate large return was expected.

ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1862, No. 2,084.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Officiating Conservator of Forests and Board of Revenue, with reference to the Proceedings of Government 25th April 1862, No. 894.

2. The Conservator's Report for the year 1861-62, referred to in paragraph 2, has been received and considered by Government in Proceedings 19th instant, No. 2,040. It will immediately be forwarded to the Secretary of State with the Order just quoted.

3. Captain Beddome will be requested to report on the suggestion in paragraph 4 for the introduction of steam sawing machines for use in the forests; as also on Major Morgan's recommendation noticed in paragraph 5 for the establishment of a sawing machine at Ootacamund to be worked by water power.

4. The Board of Revenue, in communication with the Chief Engineer, will be good enough to submit their views on Major Morgan's suggestion in respect to the avenues referred to in paragraph 6.

5. The question of the renewal of the lease of the Mudumallai forest, noticed in the latter part of the same paragraph, is now under the consideration* of Government.

* G. O. 17th September 1862, No. 2,015.

6. Referring to paragraph 7, it is observed that in supersession of their former Order on the subject, the Government have recently † applied to the Government of India for two Tea manipulators for service in this Presidency. This proceeding has been brought to the notice of the Home Government in Despatch of 12th instant, No. 62.

† Proceedings of Government, 29th August 1862, Nos. 404—407.

7. The subject of paragraph 8 will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
" Board of Revenue.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Public Works 1862 Depto
Pro: of Govt for October
No 2930.
Pro: of the Govt in
the Revenue Deptt
Dated 25th } Sept 18/62
Received 29th }
No 2084.

Referring for consideration
the Remarks of the Secretary
of State on the Report of the
Conservator of Forests regarding
the inability on the Part of
the P.W.D. to furnish an
Order for Clearing
Kalamuddy in North
Canara.

With an Order
No 2402 - 8 October -

No 2402.

Communicated to the Chief
Engineer who is requested to report on
the point noticed by the Secretary of
State in para 8 of his Despatch as
recorded in the above Proceedings.

Chepauk
8th October 1862

7 Copies.

To The Chief Engineer with Copy of the report. 6 to Copies
7 " " Chief Engineer Central Circle - the Revenue Dept with 4 Copies Sept 9
of the Govt

Further Cir 3080 of
1863

No 116. 117

No 87