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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1308 Press / Mis.—

127-128

Dated 6—3—1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th May 1864.

No. 127. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department:—

Communicating letter from the Conservator of Forests explaining the cause of the non-receipt of any income from the Anamalay Forests, Coimbatore District, up to the end of January last, and making certain suggestions in connection with the same. } (Here enter 26th April 1864, No. 720.)

No. 128. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1864, No. 1,308.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, whose attention is requested to paragraph 4 of the letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
To all other Superintending Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th April 1864.

No. 413. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 15th April 1864, No. 883 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to your Official Memorandum, dated 1st ultimo, No. 34, calling upon me to explain why only the small sums entered in my Statement of Receipts for January last, were collected in the Nellumbúr Plantation and Madura forests and none at all in the Anamalay, I have the honor to submit the result of my enquiries on the subject as follows.

2. NELLUMBUR PLANTATION—It was calculated that out of upwards of a lac of saplings cut, about 60,000 would be floated to the Calicut Depôt and sold this year, the Officer in charge of the Plantation succeeded with much difficulty in getting a contract for the delivery of 40,000 at the Depôt on or before 15th December 1863. The contractor however failed in his engagements, and up to the 1st of last month delivered 30,500 saplings only, though not until after the performance of his contract had been enforced by the Collector of Malabar on Mr. Ferguson's application. A considerable quantity of jungle timber was also prepared, but, owing to scarcity of labor, could not be conveyed to the Depôt in time for the floating season. A portion only of the saplings and of the timber cut on fresh sites for planting was sold at the end of February by public auction ; but in consequence of the absence of the Arab Merchants who were expected to attend, and an apparent combination of the Moplahs to keep down the prices, the sales were stopped, to be resumed on the 22nd ultimo, when it was hoped better offers would be obtained. The Sub-Assistant Conservator adds that the amount likely to be realized during the remainder of the current official year is Rupees 17,053.

3. MADURA.—The falling off in the revenue of these forests is ascribed by Mr. Overseer Sperchneider partly to the rates of seignorage put in force which have tended to diminish the demand for wood from the Government forests, as many timber merchants obtain their timber on lower terms from Zemindars, who are owners of more than half of the forests in the Madura District, and who work them on a very wasteful system ; and partly to the large quantity of timber that is now brought into the Madura market from the Tinnevelly hills. The Overseer in charge hopes to be able to dispose of about 2,000 cubic feet before the close of the year, but the total income from all sources will not, he thinks, exceed Rupees 2,500.

4. ANAMALLAY.—In explanation of the non-receipt of any income from these forests up to the end of January last, the Assistant Conservator observes that purchases of timber by the Bombay Dockyard and by the Railway Department for sleepers and building purposes, which in former years formed the chief source of the Forest revenue, have ceased, whilst other Public Departments from erroneous principles of economy have recourse to private merchants for timber, and he suggests that these Departments should be directed first to make application to the Forest Department for their timber, or to send in indents for their prospective wants in the same manner as they provide for their expenditure in their Budget Estimates for each official year, in order that the Anamallay Forests might have a choice of refusal. Mr. Spring states at the same time that the sums likely to be collected during the current year amount to Rupees 45,000.

No. 414. ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1864, No. 720.

1. The Government desire further information as to the practicability of renting the private forests in Madura, and conserving those of Tinnevelly.

2. Paragraph 4 of the Conservator's letter will be communicated to the Military and Public Works Departments.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Acting Conservator of Forests.
„ the Military Department.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 127. 128

1864 Depte
Pro. of Govt for May
No. 1882

Rec'd of Govt in the
Revenue Depte

Dated 26 } April
Received 28 }

No. 720.

No. 1308. 6th May 1864.

Communicating letter
from the Conservator of Forests
explaining the cause of non-
receipt of any income from
the Anamalay Forests,
Coimbatore Dist., up to the end
of January last, and making
certain suggestions in connec-
tion with the same.

Letter and Order

No. 1308.

Communicated to the Su-
perintending Engineer 7th Division
whose attention is requested to para-
graph of the letter from the Officiating
Conservator of Forests.

Chepauk 23
6th May 1864.

To The Supg Engr 7th Dn
To All other Supg Engineers

Dept 7th Chief