M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 670 — Press ~~Mis.~~

453. 454

Dated 27 — 3 — 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th March 1865.

No. 453. 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, 27th February 1865, No. 1,213:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from Mr. Foord, Acting Collector of Ganjam, together with the original* Petition, containing the docket of the Overseer referred to in Mr. Foord's letter, also copy of an Official Memorandum of the Collector's and the Overseer's explanation.

To be returned.

2. By these documents Government will perceive that the Collector has suspended the Forest Overseer Mr. Guiezelar, for his insubordinate conduct, and insists upon his removal from office. I lay the papers before Government for their orders on the subject.

3. Mr. Guiezelar received the strictest orders (when first appointed to the charge of the Gumsur forest) that he was to work entirely under the orders and advice of the Collector. I believe he did so whilst Mr. Forbes was Collector; Mr. Forbes mentioned him in high terms, but stated that he was inclined to be over-zealous. Mr. Guiezelar has done good service since he has been appointed to this District; he has worked the forests with great zeal; he is a foreigner, and I am inclined to attribute his insubordinate conduct to ignorance and over-zeal in the supposed performance of his duty rather than to any intentional insult.

4. Gumsur is a District so remote, that the Conservator can but seldom visit it; and it is quite essential that the officer in charge of the forests (whether Overseer or Assistant Conservator) should be entirely under the orders of the Collector.

No. 454. ORDER THEREON, 27th March 1865 No. 670.

Forests, No. 11.

1. The Governor in Council is willing to accept Captain Beddome's explanation that Mr. Guiezelar's highly insubordinate and improper conduct is attributable to ignorance and excess of zeal, but he cannot be retained in the Ganjam District, and the Conservator must therefore transfer him to some other District. Pending such an arrangement he must continue under suspension.

2. The oppressively rigorous manner in which the operations of the Forest Department have been conducted in Ganjam was represented to His Excellency the Governor when he lately visited the District, and though no doubt Mr. Guiezelar was only doing what he conceived to be his duty, it is essential that in first applying the Forest Rules in such tracts and dealing with half-reclaimed races, discretion and judicious leniency should be exercised. The petty revenue derived from bamboos, with which the District is overrun, will be given up, and the Conservator will report, after communication with the Collector, in what other respects the Rules need reconsideration, in order to adapt them to the circumstances of the Ganjam District.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Offg Conservator of Forests

No 22.

Sanyaw District Collectors Office
Russelcondah 26th January 1865

Official Circular.

The acting Collector has received several complaints of the alleged oppressive conduct of the Forest Department in the Sunderbunds.

It would appear that timber has been confiscated and in some instances sold by the Forest Overseer without any proper enquiry being made into the cases.

The bamboo stakes and baskets brought down by the Khoods from the country above the Chaut were also, the acting Collector has received reliable information in one occasion seized and sold by auction. The acting Collector desires that the Forest Overseer will take an early opportunity of seeing him in order to explain these matters. In the meantime he directs that no articles confiscated by the Forest Department be sold without his orders.

(Signed) E. B Ford.
Acting Collector.

True Copy.
(Signed) B Pouy Surgelar.
Overseer Soonadah Sunderbunds

True Copy.

R. H Beddome Captain
Offg Conservator of Forests

No 196.

To.

Forest Department office
Camp. Berhampore 30th Aug. 1865.

E. B. Foord Esqre
Acting Collector of Ganjam.
Chellerpore.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official Memo No 22 of 26th instant, and to say that I shall as desired by you avail myself of the earliest opportunity of waiting on you. This an honor I had long desired but fear of being considered obtrusive made me refrain.

As to "the alleged oppressive conduct of the Forest Department in the Gumsur Taluq," alluded to in your said Memo, you will respectfully beg to say observing what matters are explained and the specific nature of these "Several complaints" closely looked into, that it is nothing more than the strict enforcement of the new Forest rules, If I had in any way deviated from, I am fully conscious to myself, it has ever been on the side of lenitency alone, and by that amount of discretionary power which is de jure vested in every public Servant, I have always endeavoured when no question of compromising the interests of Government existed, to smooth down any points of asperity in the new rules, being aware that the Gumsur people, having long had the most reckless and uncontrolled run of the Government forests will naturally consider and feel, their restriction, as an insupportable hardship and oppression, I am therefore not in the least surprized at the view they have taken of the proceedings of the Forest department, I must however in justice to the Gumsur people and to myself state here that the inference they have drawn, respecting "the oppressive conduct of the Forest department" in that Taluq, as simply by

identifying

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identifying and reminding it with the benchmarks of the same alluded to, new code of forest rules in their operation. It is therefore as you will see, absolutely against my power and province to modify these to make them suitable to the wishes of these people. This is consequently a matter for the consideration of Government and the Civil administration of District; although I am of opinion that if Government desire that their forests should be properly conserved, and a fair revenue derived from wood a single code in the said rules should be subjected to alteration.

Regarding hara-e of your Honour under reply I beg most deferentially to observe that I had never in any instance confiscated timber or wood unless undoubted proofs of fraud existed. During the whole time I have had charge of the department I remember telling in the month of August last, about six confiscated timbers. I refer you to my monthly Cash returns, regularly submitted to your office; will hope, at once satisfy of this. The Amount Rs 61. 13–0 shown in the "Abstract of Cash returns" for the said Country under the head of "by Sale of confiscated timbers", name been mostly realized by sale of timbers & Seized charge of together with my office; and said to have been confiscated by the late Overseer of Forests.

As to the bamboo hats and baskets I never, till this moment, understood they had come from the country above ghats, both by the report of the people who had lodged them, and by the acknowledgment of the parties concerned, they had been brought from some villages near Bellagoom ia, in Soonda. I shall notwithstanding these facts, refrain making any comments, but leave you to judge what value is to be attached to the representations of the

of the persons who made it appear to you that timber and wood have been confiscated and sold by the Forest department in Soondur Taluq, without any proper inquiry being made and that the hats and baskets in question had come from the country above ghats &c.

Shane. " "

Signed B. Pouy Lieutenant
Overseer Sunda & Soondur Forests

True copy.

Signed B. J. Sheppeard
Overseer of Forests

True Copy.

J. R. Maddock Captain

Officiating Conservator of Forests

No 37

Ganjam District
Collector's office Chatterpore.
13th February 1865.

From

C. B. Ford-Lopez
Acting Collector of Ganjam.

To

Captain G. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests
Madras.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that I have been obliged to suspend from his employment Mr Turiglar overseer of the Sooradah and Goomsur Forests for the following insubordinate and unsoldierly conduct.

2. On the occasion of my visiting Russelcondah about the middle of last month I was informed by the Sub Magistrate that 3 persons / the owner and the other two Sandy drivers / had been sent to him for trial by the Sub Magistrate of Berhampore on a charge of having in their possession at Berhampore 3 boats hollowed out of logs of Sal timber without a pass from the Forest department. The Sub Magistrate also told me that he had ascertained from the overseer's writer that the owner of the said boats had obtained a pass, and he also showed me a copy of the same which he had got from the Writer. The Sub Magistrate also told me that although these 3 persons had been several days in arrest no one had appeared on behalf of the Forest department to prosecute. Under these circumstances I directed the Sub Magistrate to dismiss the case at once under the concluding sentence of Section

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Rec. 5/3/65

From a letter from the Collector of Ganjam to the Secretary to Government, dated 13th February 1865 & Enclosures

188 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and to pass an order that the confiscated boat should be returned to the owner.

3. Mr Quiegelar was not then at Russelcondah but when he called upon me at Berkumbore on the 4th instant told him strongly he had acted wholly illegally in the matter and that he had no right whatever to confiscate the boat. Of course thought that the matter was ended, but on returning to Chittoor the enclosed petition was presented to me by the owner of the boat in which he complained that although the Collr Suzerain had passed an order that they should be given up to him, the overseer had refused to comply therewith

4 Accordingly handed the enclosed petition and told the petitioner to take it to Mr Quiegelar who would give him his boat. Such however of obeying my order he appended the insubordinate and insolent remarks at the foot thereof and returned it to the petitioner.

5. You will observe that this man who holds the subordinate post of an overseer in the Forest Department presumes with the utmost insolence to criticise the decision of a Magistrate in a case not open to appeal, and to set his orders at defiance.

6 I had of course had no alternative but to order the Police to put the party in possession of his property, and in indication of my authority which has been so insolently set at nought by my subordinate to suspend Mr Quiegelar from his employment as overseer of the Sooradah and Gunnoor Forests.

7. Independent of the present case, when at Russelcondah, I had complaints from all quarters both European

European and Native, of the oppressive conduct of this overseer, and as an instance he seized and sold by auction the little bamboo hats worn (as umbrellas) by the Rhonds who frequent the weekly market at Belligoonta near Russelcondah because they were made of bamboos on which the Seignorage had not been paid!! The Rhonds (as you are doubtless aware) are an excitable race and we have but lately had to maintain the authority of Government over them by force of arms, and such an act of wanton oppression and abuse of authority is as calculated to cause a breach of the peace.

8. I had intended to pass this over being willing to attribute it to the overseer's zeal (however misdirected) in the performance of his duty, but now that he has behaved in an insubordinate and insolent manner towards me I have no alternative but to insist upon his removal from the office of overseer of the Sooradah and Gunnoor Forests.

9. I have in the meantime directed my junior assistant, stationed at Russelcondah, to assume temporary charge of the Forests, and shall myself be to the shipment to Madras of the timber required by the Ordnance Department.

True Copy

F W Beddome Capt[n]

Offg Conservator of Forests

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servt

Pelignery 6th Feby

Acting Collector and
Magistrate

Rec'd 5/3/65

Copy of letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests to the Secretary to Government C.P. & Berar, dated Nagpur the 15th April 1865.

Office of Conservator of Forests.

No. [illegible] *Comp* [illegible] 186[illegible]

From

[illegible]

To *Officiating Conservator of Forests*

Sir,

[illegible]

I have the honour [illegible]

For Orders.

8

In f.O 11 March 1864 fm C
Sheridan directed that "the
Reserve should be placed
immediately under the orders
of the Colr"

When in Jacksonville I was told
by Capt Whitcher - Capt Stuart
& Mr Minchin that the forest
operations were conducted
with far too great prodigality
& waste - with a view to the
District is over-run - the
trees be being all cut and
& very freely lopped & I would
suggest therefore that the
Felling licenses from the C
Inspr. G. be given up - they are

[illegible] Lieut in the 1st of Lancashire Fusiliers and Henry Lewis Maddock late Captain Lancashire Fusiliers

[illegible]

I hereby certify that Lieutenant Edward Hawkins Langley, late of the 1st Battalion 7th Regiment, has this day exchanged into the 2nd Battalion of the same Regiment with Lieutenant Thomas Langley, late of the 2nd Battalion, who has also exchanged into the 1st Battalion and the words him, Lieutenant Langley, have been substituted for the name of the said Lieutenant Edward Hawkins Langley, and the words him, Lieutenant Thomas Langley, for the name of the said Lieutenant Thomas Langley, and the words him, Lieutenant Edward Hawkins Langley,

1862.. Department.

Pro: of Govt of Madras.

From

The Officiating Conservator of Forests.

To

Dated 186.

Received

No.

Enclosure

No.

Subject.

No 453

Revenue Department

No. 670.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 27th March 1865.

Read the following letter from the officiating Conservator of Forests.

Requesting to lay before Government the enclosed papers for their orders on the insubordinate conduct of Mr. Griezelar.

(Received 27th February 1865 No. 1213)

The Governor in Council is willing to accept Captain Beddome's explanation that Mr. Griezelar's highly insubordinate and improper conduct is attributable to ignorance and excess of zeal, but he cannot be retained in the Ganjam District and the Conservator must therefore transfer him

him to come other District.
Pending such an arrangement
he must continue under
suspension.

The oppressively rigorous
manner in which the operations of the Forest Department have been conducted
in Ganjam was represented
to His Excellency the Governor
when he lately visited the
District, and though no
doubt Mr. Gruzelier was
only doing what he con-
ceived to be his duty, it
is essential that in first
applying the Forest rules
in such tracts and dealing
with half-reclaimed races,
discretion and judicious
leniency should be exercised.
The petty revenue derived

from

from Bamboo with which
the District is over-run will
be given up and the Conserva-
tor will report after com-
munication with the Col-
lector in what other respects
the rules need reconsideration
in order to adapt them to
the circumstances of the
Ganjam district.

4 To the Conservator of Forests with Managing
endo Des 28 March

Revenue 1865 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt. for allwd
No 670.
Pro: of the Collector Dtd
27. March 65

From the Offg. Consl. for Trl
15 Augt 65. No 2260

Ordering the removal
of Forest Overseer Guierzolan
from Guntur for insub.
& ordinate conduct.

No 453 & 454.