M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 2

(2) Date of repair 2-1-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 321
672 – 678
Dated 21 – 1 – 1938.

Press ~~Mis.~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 26th January 1866.

No. 672. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department:—

Passing orders on certain correspondence submitted by the Conservator of Forests, having reference to an application from Mr. J. W. B. Money, to purchase out-right, on arbitration, the timber on 400 Acres of Devah's Shola, sold to him in February 1865. } (Here enter 9th January 1866, No. 67.)

No. 673. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1866, No. 321.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 58. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th January 1866.

Read the following letters:—

No. 129. From the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 2nd January 1866, No. 1,530.

1. I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of Government, an application* from Mr. J. W. B. Money, dated 23rd December 1865, to purchase outright on arbitration, the timber on 400 acres of Devah's Shola, sold to him in February last, under the special orders of Government (*vide* G. O. 1,791, dated 28th September 1864).

*A.

2. The circumstances connected with this Shola are known to Government, but they may be briefly stated. The Devah Shola has always been considered a special forest reserve, and was kept intact by the late Collector, Mr. Thomas. A cart road was made in 1861 or 1862 at the cost of about 6,000 Rupees, with a view to the fallen wood being brought into this station, and in 1864 a firewood contractor gave 5,000 Rupees for permission to fell trees in a portion of this Shola.

3. In September 1864 the proposal of Mr. Money, a gentleman with capital, to form a Chinchona plantation on part of this fine forest, received the favorable consideration of Government, and the sale took place with certain restrictions as to the wood, which were agreed to by Mr. Money (see copy of Agreement signed by the Collector and Mr. Money). The reservation of the timber by Government was made, because the wood was urgently required in connection with the building of the Lawrence Asylum, and the clause prevented competition for the Shola, which was sold at the upset price.

B.

4. I proceeded on the 27th December, in company with Mr. Grant, Collector of the District, to inspect the Shola, and found a large portion of the 400 acres already felled, and a pile of lopped branches (estimated by Mr. DeFacien, Mr. Money's Superintendent, at 150 bandy loads) near the upper side of the road passing through the Shola. The wood is being carted away by Major Morgan to a convenient depôt outside the Shola, from whence the Public Works Department remove it to the site of the Lawrence Asylum.

5. An agreement exists between the Forest and Public Works Departments the latter paying, by transfer, for the firewood at the rate of eight Annas per bandy load of 1,000 pounds. The road has been repaired by Major Farewell, and a number of bullocks are employed specially for removing the wood, and in Proceedings of Government 22nd November 1865, No. 2,854, a transfer of funds (4,000 Rupees) was sanctioned for the same purpose.

C.

6. By the enclosed correspondence (C) with Major Farewell, Executive Engineer, it will be seen that at least 12,000 bandy loads of wood are required from the Devah Shola, the money value of this quantity, as assumed between the two Departments, would be 6,000 Rupees; it is believed that at least 2,000 Rupees could be realized from other sources, and to prevent further correspondence, I would

agree (as far as this Department is concerned) to dispose of the felled timber to Mr. Money for 8,000 Rupees, to be devoted to planting near the Lawrence Asylum and Ootacamund.

7. It is necessary, however, to look at the question in all its bearings, and as the Engineer of the Lawrence Asylum cannot obtain in any other direction the fuel required for present and future wants, except at an immensely increased cost, I am unable to recommend the proposal for arbitration.

8. By a long correspondence between the Forest Officers and Mr. Money's Attorney, enclosed for reference, if necessary, it will be seen that during Mr. Money's absence in England there appears to have been very little disposition to fulfil the terms of agreement, which doubtless involve considerable expense, but it must be remembered that Mr. Money purchased the Shola, at a nominal value.

9. An early reply will oblige, as Mr. Money is desirous of having the decision of Government, and he has instructed the Superintendent of his plantation to stop the stacking of the wood pending this reference.

No. 130. From the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 8th January 1866, No. 1,538.

1. In continuation of my letter* regarding Mr. Money's proposal to purchase the timber felled by him in Devah Shola, I beg to forward a further correspondence with this gentleman; and submit that much of the information solicited is entirely irrelevant.

* No. 1,530 of the 2nd instant.

2. Mr. Money has gone to Calcutta, and requests that my reply should be sent to Mr. McIvor, as his Attorney. I would be in an anomalous position as a Government Officer, if I were to continue the correspondence during Mr. Money's absence with Mr. McIvor, both of us being Government servants.

3. If Mr. Money agrees to pay 8,000 Rupees, and gives over the wood at the Shola to Major Farewell, at eight Annas per load, he will be re-imbursed to a large extent.

4. Considering the object Mr. Money has in view, I have been anxious to meet his wishes as far as possible.

No. 130A. ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1866, No. 67.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Conservator of Forests has not placed Government in a position to pass orders on Mr. Money's application.

2. As to the value placed on the timber, the Government remark that the price charged in account against the Educational Department by the Forest Department is not necessarily the fair market value of the wood. Again, it is said that the Lawrence Asylum works require 12,000 cart loads of fuel from the Shola. This quantity is valued on the principle above stated, at 6,000 Rupees, and a further sum of 2,000 Rupees is expected "from other sources." What these sources are is not explained. Probably wood is meant, and if so, this sum would represent 4,000

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th January 1866.

cart loads, making in all 16,000 cart loads; but looking at the extent of Mr. Money's grant, this must be very far short of what his estate contains. What the Government wish to have is a reasonably accurate estimate of the wood in the Shola, and its fair value. The Conservator will furnish this as soon as possible.

3. In paragraph 7 of his letter the Conservator raises the most important question of all, viz., the effect which a compliance with Mr. Money's request would have on the Lawrence Asylum. As already stated, the Engineer in charge of the works requires 12,000 cart loads, and Dr. Cleghorn states that "he cannot obtain in any other direction the fuel required for present and future wants except at an immensely increased cost." If this be really the case, the objection is fatal. Although desirous of affording Mr. Money every reasonable encouragement and assistance in his enterprize, the Government could not assent to an arrangement which would entail great loss on the State, and retard the construction of very important Public Works. It would be some time before plantations could be formed to supply the future wants of the Asylum, and, meanwhile, Government would have to pay whatever price Mr. Money or other vendors might demand, or fell elsewhere at increased expense. Dr. Cleghorn will discuss this part of the question further with Major Farewell, and both Officers will then give opinions on it in detail.

4. The Government observe allusion in the enclosures of Dr. Cleghorn's letter to a fire in the forest, and wish to know whether this occurred from culpable carelessness, and the quantity and value of the wood consumed. This matter does not appear to have been previously reported to Government.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

1866 Dep.t
Pro.s of Govt. for January
No 330
Pro.s of Govt in the
Revenue Dep.t
Dy 9 Jany
Rec.d 24
No 67

With
No 321. 26 January 1866.
Passing orders
on certain correspon-
dence submitted
by the Commissioner
of Trees, having
reference to an
application from
Mr. G. W. B. Money to
purchase outright or
arboriculture, the timber
on 400 acres of Devahi
Shola, sold to him in Feb.y 65

No. 672. 670

List

Established

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No 321

Commd. to the
Supy Engineer
of the 7 Divn

Fort St. George
26 January 1866

7 Divn

Dep.t 29th January