M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-51.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Reference _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. _____ Press Mis.

Dated _____ 18 _____.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
7th October 1867.

No. 119. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department:—

Approving of the measures adopted by the Conservator of Forests, with the view of facilitating the transport of Sâl timber to the coast. } (Here enter 2nd October 1867, No. 2,301.)

No. 120. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1867, No. 3,105.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 17.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers, and the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineers.
To Captain Kennedy.
To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 44. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Chepauk, 23rd September 1867, No. 247 :—

G. O., 3rd April 1867, No. 772, Revenue Department.
G. O., 20th May 1867, No. 1,853, Military Department.
G. O., 7th June 1867, No. 1,710, Public Works Department.
G. O., 8th August 1867, No. 1,832, Revenue Department.

1. With reference to Proceedings of Government noted in the margin, I beg to offer some observations on the present state and prospects of the export trade of Sál timber from the forests of Goomsoor.

Year.	Revenue.	Charges.
1862-63	1,197	743
1864-64	1,480	1,368
1864-65	6,446	1,747
1865-66	2,656	8,740
1866-67	11,057	2.993
Total...	22,836	15,591
Balance in favor of Government... Rs.	7,245	

2. It will be seen by the annexed statement of receipts and charges since these forests were first worked by this department, that there has been a steady but slow development of our operations in a wild and difficult country, which is without a convenient port for the shipment of large timber.

3. As the extent of the Sal-producing tract in the Northern Division of this Presidency is large, and the character of the timber is good, a greater export trade has been anticipated, and the Officiating Conservator's Report, dated 14th February 1867, was communicated to the Military and Public Works Departments, that it might be ascertained what permanent demand for Sál timber might be expected from the Public Works, Railway, and Ordnance Departments, to warrant the Forest Officer in working on a more extended scale.

4. In Proceedings of Government, dated 20th May 1867, No. 1,853, the opinions of the Inspector General of Ordnance and Superintendent of Gun Carriage Manufactory are given. The former states that the demand for Sál wood at the Gun Carriage Manufactory is about 200 tons per annum, *i. e.*, 10,000 cubic feet, and adds that "very great difficulty has hitherto been experienced in bringing timber "from the northern ports to Madras, consequent on the almost impossibility of "procuring proper vessels, at the port of delivery, for the shipment of large logs."

The Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory states that "if the Conservator "would undertake the future supply of 10,000 cubic feet of Sál to the department, "he would make arrangements for its reception, but until that time the present "course of obtaining the timber from Burmah should be continued."

5. The replies of the eight Superintending Engineers and of the Agents of the Railway Companies are recorded in Proceedings of Government, 7th June 1867, No. 1,710, and may be summarized thus :—

Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, Waltair.—Will take 11,900 cubic feet if price does not exceed Rupees 1-4-0.
Do. 2nd Division, Masulipatam.—Supplied without difficulty in the local market.
Do. 3rd " Bellary.—Sál timber of Goomsoor not now required.
Do. 4th " Madras.—Sál cheaper in the local market.
Do. 5th " Cuddalore.—Sál of Goomsoor not in demand.
Do. 6th " Tanjore.—Sál timber will not be required.
Do. 7th " Coimbatore.—Not likely to be in demand.
Do. 8th " Madura.—No permanent demand for Sál timber from Goomsoor.

Agent, Madras Railway Company.—Will cost much more at Madras than is now paid for this timber.

Agent, Great Southern of India Railway Company.—Not likely to want any Sál from Goomsoor.

* *Note.*—The Sál of Goomsoor is not known, and can be procured at a reasonable cost only in the Northern Division.—H. C.

6. The tenor of these replies* explains the cause of previous failure, and appears to indicate that there is little to be done at present, but to watch the tide of events and the progress of commercial advancement. One shipment of Sál from the Mahanuddy has been made to Calcutta. The Irrigation Company's operations will extend the facilities for internal navigation.

7. Having consulted Mr. Gordon Forbes, of the Board of Revenue, late Governor's Agent in Ganjam, and Mr. Carmichael, who has lately succeeded to that charge, I have decided upon constructing four stronger timber carts and purchasing four pairs of buffaloes* to facilitate the transport of larger scantlings to the coast. I fear that the maintenance of an establishment of elephants would entail too much expense. One or two might be lent hereafter by the Commissariat as an experiment.

* At a total cost of 480 Rupees.

8. In paragraph 4 of the Despatch of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, recorded in Proceedings of Government, dated 8th August 1867, No. 1,832, the introduction of Sawyers into the forests is recommended to facilitate the transport of logs to the coast. This suggestion shall be steadily kept in view, but with the rude and uncivilized tribe of Khonds, it cannot be expected that any rapid progress will be made in the use of mechanical appliances hitherto unknown in the forests: but the saving of wood will of course be very great, and eventually the sawn wood will be cheaper than that cut by the axe.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, 2nd October 1867, No. 2,301.

Forests, No. 3.

1. The Conservator's proceedings as reported are approved.

2. It is evident that the demand for Sál timber from the Northern Districts has to be created, but the Government see no reason to doubt that when large scantlings of this fine timber are available on the coast, a remunerative demand will spring up, and they will look with interest for reports of the results of the experiment now to be tried.

(True Extract.)

S. T. Augustin

Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Department Public Works.
,, the Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Lid

No. 3105

Consd. by the Surveyor, and the Com: Engr per Rys:

M.

Fort St George 7th Octr 1867

To Engr
" Cart Commt
" C E for Rys

Desps 8/10/67

Rec'd 1867 Octr
Rec'd of Govt for Octr
£ 3755
Rec'd of the Master Gen'l
Revenue Office

Do 2d } Octr 67
Cust's } £ 2301

No 3105 - 7th Octr 67

Approving of the
measures adopted by the
Conservators of Forests
with the view of facilitating
the transport of Sal-
timber to the Coast

Write an Order

Lr. 119-120

