M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 12

(2) Date of repair 15-3-44

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

T.M.N

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1127-28 Press ~~Mis.~~

405-07

Dated 28 4 1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 405. Read the following circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Irrigation,) dated Fort William, 16th March 1870, No. 15 :—

Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, Punjab, Oudh, Central Provinces, British Burmah, Mysore, Hyderabad, Central India, and Rajpootana.

COPY of the following correspondence forwarded to the local Governments and Administrations marginally noted in the Public Works Department for consideration and report.

(By order)

(Signed) J. C. ANDERSON, Colonel, R. E.,
Offg. Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 123-I., dated 9th March 1870.

COPY forwarded also to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, with reference to entry Nos. 22—4 in its Proceedings (Miscellaneous) for the month of March 1869, for any further remarks it may wish to offer on the subject.

(Signed) J. C. ANDERSON, Colonel, R. E.,
Offg. Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Office Memorandum from the Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 28th February 1870, No. 1,075.

THE increasing scarcity of forage available for the mounted branches of the Army, both in cantonments and on the line of march, having of late been frequently pressed on the notice of the Government in the Military Department, the undersigned has the honour to request that he may be favoured with the opinion of the Government in the Public Works Department as to the possible utilization for this purpose of the banks of the State canals, and of a reservation by the Government of a right to cut grass along the channels and rajbuhas which may be constructed by the Irrigation Department in the neighbourhood of Military cantonments.

2. In the same way the grass growing alongside the lines of State Railways might, it is suggested, be reserved, under certain conditions, for the use of the State.

3. It is stated that the grass along the Imperial roads is already disposed of by the local Governments through whose provinces they run ; but the Military Department, having no specific information on this point, can offer no remark except that it was to this source from the earliest times the grass-cutters of regiments on the line of march looked chiefly to procure the necessary supply of forage.

(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Colonel,
Depy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Memorandum from the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated 9th March 1870, No. 122-I.

IN acknowledging receipt of Colonel Burne's Memorandum, No. 1,075, dated the 28th ultimo, inviting the opinion of this department as to the possible utilization of grass along canal banks and rajbuhas, etc., for providing forage for the mounted branches of the Army, the undersigned is directed to enclose an extract* from the Proceedings of the Government of the North-Western Provinces in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, on the subject, and to state that there is not likely to be any objection on the part of local authorities to grant leases for the cutting of grass, provided the objections noticed by the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works,

* Nos. 22—4 (Miscellaneous), March 1869.

North-Western Provinces, can be removed; but that, instead of looking to canal or rajbuha banks as the proper source of a supply of forage, it would seem preferable that the Military authorities should take up waste lands at convenient distances from cantonments and grow grass thereon, with the aid of canal water.

2. As to the reservation of grass along railway lines for forage, the undersigned is directed to observe that the State Railways are at present in their infancy; but, even when completed, it is very doubtful whether the land could be used as suggested for like reasons to those given in the case of the canals.

3. The letter under reply has nevertheless been sent to all local Governments and Administrations in the Public Works Department for consideration and report, and the results will be duly communicated hereafter.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of the North-Western Provinces in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, Nos. 22—4, (*Miscellaneous,*) *March* 1869.

Memorandum from the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, General, (Revenue) Department, to the Joint Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, dated 8th February 1869, No. 37-B.

THE undersigned is directed to forward in original to the Joint Secretary to this Government in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, an endorsement, No. 958, dated the 20th January 1869, with its annexures (to be returned) from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, regarding the difficulties experienced in providing with grass the mounted troops stationed at Meerut, and to request that this department may be informed whether there would be any objection to making over to the Military authorities both margins of the canal bank for the use of the regimental grass-cutters.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor in this department is disposed to view the proposal favourably if arrangements can be made for a proper system of cutting the grass and protection against injury to the canal banks, trees, fences, etc., and also for payment to the Canal Department for the grass. It is understood that the grass is generally let out to the neighbouring Zemindars on contract, so that some compensation might be required if the system were at once introduced.

3. The favour of an early reply is requested.

Memorandum from the Joint Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces in the Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, General Department, dated 12th March 1869, No. 734-I.

THE undersigned is directed to acknowledge the receipt of Junior Secretary's No. 37-B., dated 8th ultimo, on the subject of making over to the Military Officers portions of the Ganges Canal banks for the supply of grass for the Artillery horses at Meerut, and to forward, with the approval of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of report by the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, No. 337-I.—C., dated 28th February 1869, disapproving of the proposed arrangement.

2. The original letter, No. 958, dated 20th January, and annexures, which accompanied memorandum under reply, are herewith returned.

Report by the Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, North-Western Provinces, dated 28th February 1869, No. 337-I.—C.

THERE would be no sort of objection to selling the grass crop of any number of miles of canal bank to Officers Commanding Regiments, provided they agree that it should be cut with the "drantee" or sickle, and not dug up by the roots with the "khoorpah" or spade, which is the condition under which banks are let to Zemindars. But I believe exception would be made to the quality of the grass that could be thus afforded, and that what is wanted is a supply of "dhoob" grass, fresh and fresh, from day to day; and, as this can only be obtained by digging up the roots, I cannot recommend that any part of the canal banks shall be devoted to its supply.

2. For this dhoob grass is the only attainable protection to the banks from the violence of tropical rains, and we are at great pains to cherish and foster it; were it removed, the exposed soil would be pulverized in the dry weather and cut up in the wet, the banks would always be in bad order, and a constant and considerable outlay in repairs would result.

3. Moreover, such daily digging can only be done by regimental grass-cutters, whom it is most desirable to keep off the banks, for their reckless carelessness and the browsing of their ponies would utterly destroy the young plantations which the Government is anxiously endeavouring to promote and extend.

4. Nothing less than an agreement on the part of a Commanding Officer to pay monthly any claim of damage to plantations on the length of banks assigned to him that might be brought against his regiment would avail, and that very imperfectly, to protect the plantations; and such an agreement, if entered into, would be a constant source of misunderstanding and difficulty. It would be impracticable for canal establishments, however supplemented, to undertake to detect and bring up for punishment the individual grass-cutters who committed mischief.

5. On these grounds I beg to recommend that the consent of Government may not be given to Mr. Forbes' proposal to make over a certain number of miles of canal bank for the use of the mounted branches of the service at Meerut.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department.

No. 406. ORDER THEREON, 28th April 1870, No. 1,127.

IRRIGATION, No. 25.

ORDERED that the following letter be sent:—

(Here enter No. 1,128, dated 28th April 1870.)

(True Extract.)

Major, R. E.,

Acting Joint Secretary to Government.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated April 28th

Recd.

G. O., 28th April 1870, No. 1,127.

APRIL.

Nos. 405-406

Utilization of Grass along Canal Banks, etc.—Passing orders on the circular from the Government of India regarding the utilization of grass along canal banks, etc., for supplying forage to the mounted branches of the Army.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, *28th April* 1870.

No. 407.

No. 1,128.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION, No. 26.

SIR,—In reply to your circular, No. 15, dated 16th ultimo, I am directed to state that it appears to this Government to be essential that the grass grown on the embankments of rivers, canals, tanks, and other similar public works should be cut and not dug up by the roots, and it would not, therefore, be advisable to allow the grass-cutters of Cavalry Regiments to obtain grass themselves from such embankments. The cutting of grass in such situations is usually leased or rented under certain conditions, and it is of the first importance that these conditions, which are intended to secure the embankments from injury, should be strictly enforced. His Excellency the Governor in Council is, I am to say, of opinion that no effective control could be exercised by Public Works Officers over grass-cutters. Whenever necessary the Executive Engineers in charge of embankments would be instructed to aid the Officer Commanding a Cavalry Regiment in obtaining forage, and His Excellency thinks that in this way such grass as might be available on ground in charge of the Public Works Department would most conveniently be obtained for the use of Cavalry. The question is of no practical importance in this Presidency, as there are only five Batteries of Artillery and one Regiment of Native Cavalry cantoned in it.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Major, R. E.,
Acting Joint Secretary to Government.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Copies

P. W. Department. 3

1127

Proceedings of the Madras Govt &c.

Under date the 28 April 1770

Read the following.

From. Offg: Sy: Secretary to the Government of India

1123

H. E. Cir No 15 of 16 March 1770

Ordered that the Fol-
lowing letter be sent.

1128

To The Secys to the
Govt of India.

Sir,

In reply to your Circular,
No 15 dated 16 Ultimo, I am
directed to state that it appears
to this Government to be
essential that the grass
grown on the embankments
of Rivers, Canals, Tanks, and
other similar Public Works,
should be cut and not
dug

Troops do not move
at a season when there
is a scarcity of grass in the
Presidency - for grass is the
grain of it Cattle
W. Mc C.

dug up by the roots, and it would not therefore be advisable to allow the grass-cutters of Cavalry Regiments to obtain grass themselves from such embankments. The cutting of grass in such situations is usually leased or rented under certain conditions, and it is of the first importance that these conditions, which are intended to secure the embankments from injury, should be strictly enforced. His Excellency the Governor in Council is, I am to say, of opinion that no effective control could be exercised by Public Works Officers over

grass cutters. Whenever necessary the Executive Engineers in charge of embankments would be instructed to aid the Officer commanding a Cavalry Regiment in obtaining forage, and His Excellency thinks that in this way such grass, as might be available on ground in charge of the Public Works Dept., would most conveniently be obtained for the use of Cavalry.

Un. 2/4/70

I would add.

"The question is of no practical importance in the Presidency as there are only 5 Batteries of Artillery & 1 Regt of Native Cavalry entertained in it."

JJS
Dis W. Mel

15

Despo. 2/7/70.

(3)

I thank the Sec. for
H.E. the Com-in-Chief,
also.

D.
(on behalf
of Com-in-Chief)

C.5 April 1870 Q-8

Cue 1223

Govt. of [1870] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Secretary to the Govt of India

Dated

Recd. Read.

G. O. 25 Sept 1870, Nos. 1127 & 1128

Nos. 405-406 & 407

Utilization of grass along Canal banks &c.

Papers on the subject of Circular from the Govt of India regarding the utilization of grass along Canal banks &c. for supplying forage to the mounted branches of the Army.

Utilization of grass along Canal banks &c.

The Govt of India forwarded with the opinion of the Madras Govt on the subject of the utilization of grass along canal banks, &c., for supplying forage to the mounted branches of the Army.

C. 5 April 1870 No. 8