M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-33

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1305 Press ~~Mist.~~

38-39

Dated 27 - 9 - 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 38. Read the following letter from Mr. G. WILLIAMS; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government Revenue Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras 5th September 1859.

I submitted under date 2d July 1855 a proposal for working the Forests of the Wynaud country in the Western Ghauts and in so doing ventured to offer a few suggestions of a general nature explaining the advantages to be realized by Government from their Forest resources which were hitherto overlooked and in a great measure left unprotected: at the same time I tendered my services to Government deeming it essential that a journey into the Wynaud Forests to ascertain their actual resources in timber and the means of communication &c., would be productive of much benefit to the state and the public, particularly, as it was just then sanctioned that the Railroad from Madras was to penetrate the Mysore cuntry whence the timber from those Forests was marketed to Bangalore and other places.

2. In the 7th para. of my letter from which I take the liberty to extract a passage given in margin, offering my services to proceed at once to the Forests in question, I stipulated that my travelling expenses and that of a guide should be paid and also that I should be remunerated according as Government might estimate the value of my services: to this letter I received the following reply.

EXTRACT.

"The experience derived in Goomsoor enables me to form a "judgment that the enquiry is worthy of being carried "out for the benefit of the state and the public; and if "these suggestions be entertained by Government I would "most respectfully tender my services to proceed at once "to the Forests here alluded to, and bring such Informa- "tion as may be depended upon as to length of road to be "made, expense of making; the quantity of timber to be "had, &c., and leave the remuneration to depend upon the "value of the services when rendered sufficient if my tra- "velling expenses and that of a guide be provided."

"I am directed by the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of "the 2d July last, offering certain suggestions respecting the Forests of the Western Ghauts, "on the frontier of the Mysore country with the object of eventually obtaining permission to "work them; and tendering your services to proceed at once, to the Forests and to bring infor- "mation respecting the quantity of timber to be had, the means of communication and other "particulars on the condition that your travelling expenses and that of a guide be provided.

"It is not clear from your description whether the Forests to which you allude are situated "in the Mysore or in the Coimbatore country and if in the latter, whether they belong to Go- "vernment or to private proprietors. But as it is understood that you have already left Madras "for the purposes of your investigation, the Governor in Council has forwarded instructions to "the Collector of Coimbatore, to give you all the information in his power, and after personal "communication with you to advise the Government as to the precise nature of your proposi- "tions and to state his opinion how far it will be desirable to comply with them. The Go- "vernor in Council desires me accordingly to request that you will communicate with the Col- "lector of Coimbatore upon the subject of your application."

Your reply above quoted intimates that it was understood I had "already left Madras for "the purposes of my investigation;" but this was a mistake for I waited here and left Madras only after your letter came to hand. On receiving it, I lost no time in proceeding to the Wynaud, and on my return to Bangalore, I made my report to the Collector of Malabar on the 26th November 1855; having journeyed through the Wynaud forests from Mysore to Calicut, and Brimagherry on the Coorg frontier, to Gunapudivuttum commonly known as Sultan battery across the jungles, emerging on the Goondalpet road leading to Nunjengoad in Mysore; a copy of this report was despatched on the same day to Government.

The Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2 under date 3rd January 1856, on my report on the Wynaud forests, evinces the interest felt by Government as to the hints and suggestions communicated by me. It is there stated that "the Government are fully alive to the waste "commited in the valuable Government forests under this Presidency, in the absence of any "sufficient system of conservation and they do not believe there is any exaggeration in Mr. "Williams' description, &c., &c. My travelling expenses as stipulated in my proposal vide para. 2 was sanctioned, but no allusion was made to the remuneration I should receive for the risks I had run in carrying out the wishes of Government; the Collector of Malabar was called

upon for an early report respecting the proprietary rights of Government to the forests in question; and it was at once resolved to call on the Home Government to authorize the creation of a Forest Conservancy Department. The orders were speedily sent out from Home and on the organization of the department, it pleased Government to give me an appointment as Assistant Conservator, to have charge of the Wynaud forests; but which appointment I was not to take up until the Collector of Malabar made his report: the duty meanwhile assigned to me was to travel from one forest to another as the Conservator might direct and report on them.

I held the appointment of itenerant Assistant for 17 months and resigned it in the hands of Government from whom I received a favorable testimonial for the services I rendered during my incumbency, accompanied by expressions which gave me every hope of re-entertainment in the Public service as soon as an opportunity occurred; but thirteen months have passed away and my hopes are not realized. Seeing now that the report called for in 1855, has at length been received by Government from the Collector of Malabar I would respectfully beg to draw the attention of Government to the remuneration I am justly entitled to, as this was a part of the stipulation in my original proposal, from the consideration of which I am fully satisfied, emanated those ulterior proceedings (however the subject may have been formerly mooted) which resulted in the creation of the present Forest Department; a department on which the Government spend no less than between 45 and 50,000 Rupees annually.

I leave the matter entirely in the hands of Government assured that as my services were accepted in the way proposed, the remuneration will not be less than is adequate to the risks and privations I endured in travelling through a jungle noted for its deadly atmosphere, and for being the haunt of Elephants and other wild beasts.

No. 39. ORDER THEREON, 27th September 1859, No. 1305.

The duty for which Mr. Williams seeks compensation occupied him just two months, and was performed to the satisfaction of the Government. When afterwards employed as an Assistant in the Conservancy Department his pay was 450 Rupees including travelling allowances. On the occasion now in question his whole travelling charges were paid, and the Governor in Council is of opinion therefore that remuneration at the rate of 350 Rupees a month will be suitable. Seven hundred (700) Rupees will be disbursed to Mr. Williams accordingly.

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

Ex: 4th Jany/58 No 163.
18th Sept/55 — 23 6/7.

Revenue 1859 Dept.
Rec: 4th October

No. 1623

From Mr. G. Williams

Dated 5th September 1859
Rec'd

Draws the attention of Govt to the remuneration he is entitled to under the stipulation in his original proposals of 2nd July 1855 for working the forests of the Kyarad Country —

No. 1305-27. 5 September 1859

Withdraw Order

Rs. 1842-0

Rs.

The duty for which Mr. Williams seeks compensation was undertaken at his own request, and was performed to the satisfaction of the Government. When afterwards employed, at my request, in the Kyarad and Candeish Districts, he was engaged on the condition that he was to receive 450 Rupees per mensem including travelling allowances. On the occasion of my making no question on his whole travelling charges were passed, and the Government is of opinion that Mr. Williams remuneration at the rate of 350 Rupees a month will be sufficient. Seven hundred Rupees will be disbursed to Mr. Williams accordingly. —

Rec'd 1st Dec. 1859 / 700 /
Paid 2nd Dec. 1859.
Mr. Williams Dept. 27
Rec'd Comp. — 28
Sent Comptroller
Comptroller informed