Revenue Department

No 270

Dantzig 3—3—1857

Read the following papers.

No. 15. From Colonel A. McCALLY, Commissary General, Madras; to the Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 18th January 1859, No. 10.

SIR,

No. 2, dated 3d January 1859. Adverting to the 1st para. of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, I have the honor to report for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that having referred the subject to the Officer in charge of the Public Cattle Department, I am of opinion that the dam of the young Elephant, may be transferred to the Public Cattle Department, but as the young one will not be fit for work until 18 years of age, it would be advisable to dispose of the same at Madras.

No. 16. From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government Fort St. George; dated Ootacamund, 21st January 1859, No. 5.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 3rd Instant, No. 2.

2. The young Elephant referred to in Mr. Thomas' letter to the Board of Revenue dated 10th December 1857,* though not exactly white, as the term used, implies, has a peculiar appearance at present, and will it is said by those experienced in such matters, change to a curious colour, as distinguished from that of the ordinary black Elephant.

* *Not* 1858, *as alluded to in the Government Minute under reply.*

3. The parties who were employed in previous Hunts in this District asserted that it is of the *same* colour as the one which was sent to Madras in 1836 as directed by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 25th October 1836.

4. The appropriate term for its colour is perhaps that used by Mr. Drury in his letter to the Board of Revenue dated 5th December 1836, No. 103, viz. *Bhura* ("signifying fair auburn or a light tan colour") a copy of which communication I enclose as it explains why the animal on that occasion was called "white."

5. It is this fact, I conclude that induced Mr. Thomas in the first instance to call the present one "white" too, and though I had all along doubts as to the correctness of the designation and made every enquiry on the subject, I did not feel justified in deviating from the use of a term, that had been made adopted by the local Authorities, and accepted by Government, on a similar occasion formerly.

From G. D. DRURY, Esq., Principal Collector; to the President and Members of the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George; dated 5th December 1836, No. 103.

GENTLEMEN,

1. Agreeably to the instructions conveyed to me in your Secretary's letter dated 3d November last, I have the honor to inform the Board that the young white male Elephant together with the female Elephant from which it was bred, proceeded to the Presidency on the 4th Instant in charge of Allah-O-Deen, Darogah of the Elephant Sibbendy in this District, who received injunctions to use every means to secure the arrival of the animals at Madras in good condition.

2. Considering the importance which is attached to the colour of this animal I may be excused from adverting to it. If it is expected that the Elephant is white in the proper ac-

ceptation of the word it may be necessary to explain that its whiteness is considered remarkable as it respects the colour of Elephants generally. By all persons who have been employed in the management and care of Elephants, it is confidently asserted that one of so light a colour was never seen before, and that it is the more remarkable from being born in its present state and from not having been rendered white by disease. The most appropriate term for its colour is perhaps that used by the Native establishment, viz. *Bhura*, signifying fair auburn or a light tan colour, and when contrasted with other Elephants it may be anticipated that its appearance will realize the expectations to which it has given rise.

3. I beg leave to suggest that the keeper who has always taken care of it, and by whom it has been rendered very docile, may be allowed to accompany it to Rangoon together with the servants who assist him in its journey to Madras, as they have expressed their readiness to attend it if required, and will be satisfied with any donation besides their usual pay which may be considered adequate. The Darogah of this establishment who takes charge of the animal will also be prepared to proceed to Rangoon if directed, superintending the purpose of its feeding and proper management.

4. The Elephant was born on the 1st April 1834, and is now two years and eight months old, it is not strong enough to bear a long journey without much precaution, and it will accordingly march only five miles every day. It may not therefore be expected to reach Madras before the beginning of February 1837.

5. An estimate of charges is submitted of which the particulars will be furnished hereafter.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. CHERRY, *Acting Collector.*

No. 17. Memorandum from Colonel A. McCALLY, Commissary General; to the Chief Secretary to Government Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 9th February 1859, No. 27.

With reference to the Memorandum from the Chief Secretary to Government dated 5th Instant, the Commissary General has the honor to state that, on particular inquiries being instituted, it appears that it would be injudicious to remove the young Elephant from his dam for the present, as he is still sucking, and it may prove injurious to the dam to have him separated from her for a few months longer. The most prudent course would therefore be, to send both the Elephants to Hoonsoor where care would be taken of them, and the young one removed from the dam at the proper period.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, No. 270; dated 3d March 1859.

The Commissary General having in his Memorandum recorded above reported that it would be injudicious to remove the young Elephant from his Dam at present, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to order the female Elephant to be kept at the Central Museum until the young one shall be weaned, when the former may be transferred to the Commissariat Department.

2. The Officer in charge of the Museum will address the Government at a future time regarding the colour of the young animal when it is fully decided. A copy of Mr. Cherry's letter dated 21st January 1859, will be furnished to him.

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

Rev Dept

No 270

Extract from the Minutes of Consultations
Under date the 3d March 1859.

Read the following
Papers.

The Commissary
General.

(Here enter 18 Jany 59 No 10)

J. W. Cherry Esqr
Acg Coll. of Coimbatore.

(Here enter 21st Jany 59)

from the Com.t Genl.

(Here enter 9 Feby 59)

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the young animal when
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copy of Mr Cherry's letter
dated 21 January 1859
will be furnished to
him -

I respect to the Art. of Stat
Qrs. 4
for Cole of Coimbatore
for Coorg Circle
for Officer in charge of the
Museum with Mr Cherry's letter.