

27 <sup>9</sup>/<sub>99</sub> RH

~~8805~~  
~~RH - 99~~

Revenue Department

No 324

Intro 15 — 3 — 1859

No. 65. Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; Vellum, 7th February 1859, No. 42.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated the 4th December last, No. 2613, calling for my opinion on a communication from the late Officiating Chief Engineer on the subject of Avenue Trees in Tanjore.

2. In the first para. of his letter, Colonel Lawford states "that as dry fuel is of very little use for brick-kilns, the permission to purchase and store wood which may be cut from Avenue trees at any season will not meet the wants of his department." With regard to this statement I would only observe that Avenue trees *alone* have never met and never will satisfy, under any circumstances, the wants of the Public Works Department; we must therefore depend, as we always hitherto have done, on the other sources of supply to which Colonel Lawford refers in the 4th paragraph of his letter.

3. It is asserted that "so long as the Public Works remained under the control of the Revenue officers, the wood of the Avenue trees was reserved as much as possible for Government purposes and if a different system is now authorized, not only must the State be prepared to pay a higher price for building materials but in some cases there may be a difficulty in executing masonry works at all." This remark would seem to imply that when the executive was under the Collector, Avenue trees were cut down at pleasure to meet the wants of the moment, and that they were the only source of fuel available. If such had really been the case I conceive that at the present moment there would have been no avenues, or what appears to me more probable we would have had no Public Works. Fortunately, however, we have not been so dependent, and although Tanjore possesses no forests there are perhaps few Districts which are generally so well wooded and fewer still in which the renewing and maintaining of the avenue trees have received so much attention from the officers of Government. If the existence, at the present moment, of unbroken avenues along the principal lines of communication notwithstanding the destruction to which according to the late Officiating Chief Engineer they must have been subjected, is owing to the trees being renewed faster than they are destroyed. I submit that a better argument could not be adduced for the continuance of a system which has produced such results and which has already received the approval of Government. In fact the avenue trees have been reared at some trouble and expense, and Colonel Lawford during his long and intimate acquaintance with the District can scarcely have failed to remark the thriving state of the Avenues generally, and that it is only the decayed and useless trees which are cut.

4. In para. 3 Colonel Lawford, I observe, states "that for the last few years a practice of selling the trees indiscriminately has been established." If by "indiscriminate selling" Colonel Lawford means that the trees are sold at any season of the year and to any one willing to buy them, I freely admit that his statement is correct. Such trees as are found to exhibit signs

of decay are at once removed and sold to the highest bidder, a system to which I submit exception cannot be taken, and which appears to me in accordance with the wishes of Government.

5. If, however, by "indiscriminate selling," Colonel Lawford means to imply that the sales which take place are not confined to useless trees, I must deny that such is the case, and as regards the part of the District which was lately under my immediate charge, and with which I am best acquainted, I can only state that no tree was allowed to be felled till inspected and marked by myself.

6. It is moreover somewhat remarkable that while the late Officiating Chief Engineer denounces a supposed indiscriminate destruction of Trees by the Collector's Department, he would seem to be desirous of making the Avenue trees, under the superintendence of the present Executive, the chief if not the only source of supply. I am inclined to think that if the Avenues are to be had recourse to by the subordinates of the Engineer's Department on each and every occasion when wood is wanted for "immediate use" the avenues will soon altogether disappear.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th March 1859.

Para. 4. 7. Colonel Lawford further observes that "a large work may be and "often has been endangered by delay in procuring this essential article "(fuel)," and the only way he can see "to meet the probable difficulty of future years is to, "enhance the rates of all estimates sufficiently to command supplies from "private gardens", and that after all "it may depend on the caprice of an "influential Meerassidar whether an important work can be constructed "or not."

8. I am not aware that any large works have been endangered by delay in procuring fire-wood in this District, but as the fact is so unequivocally stated by Colonel Lawford, he will doubtless be prepared to name the works, should the Government desire to be informed on the subject.

9. In a District where the Meerassidars have the entire control of nearly all the available labour, and where consequently we are more or less dependent on them for coolies for Government works, the Professional Department consider themselves, as recently intimated to me by Captain Moberly, perfectly able even in an emergency such as has lately arisen to secure labor without having any difficulty or caprice to encounter on the part of influential Meerassidars. Such being the case, I apprehend that the fears of the late Officiating Chief Engineer as to the stoppage of masonry works from the probability of the owners of trees refusing to sell fuel are altogether unfounded.

10. As to an enhancement of the rates of all estimates, Government are perhaps aware that since the transfer of the executive to the Professional Department the estimates have been framed on a much more liberal scale than formerly, and should fuel hereafter become more scarce and higher in price, the Government have in the Minutes of Consultation noted in the margin already laid down the rules by which they are to be guided.

Ex. Mins. of Cons. 12th Jan. 1856, No. 53.  
Do. 2d October 1856.  
Pages 234, 235, 386, and 387 of Grant's Book.

11. My own opinion is that the fears expressed by Colonel Lawford are far from being well founded; the Tamarind and the black Mimôsa are the trees most used for brick-kilns, and these, though very rarely forming Avenue Trees in Tanjore, can always be obtained for fair prices, as has all along been the case during the past fifty years.

12. Further, it will always be in the power of the Engineer's Department to buy, if they please, such useless Avenue trees as may be ordered to be sold, due notice of which is and always will be given.

13. Besides, as the Government are aware, the Anicut plantations are and have been for some-time past under the exclusive control of the Engineer's Department, and ought if properly looked after to yield abundance of fuel. Special establishments are employed at these plantations who for many months in the year have nothing to do, and whose labor might and ought to be turned to the best account by making and keeping up nurseries and plantations of quickly growing trees for fuel to meet the wants of the Department.

Vide C. O. 29th May 1854, pages 101 and 102  
of Grant's Book.

14. With regard to the concluding remark of Government that the necessity of renewing the avenues by some one is obviously of the first importance; it seems only necessary to remark that for years past it has been the invariable practice to require that when one tree is cut another sapling (generally either Portia or Banien) is to be immediately planted in its place. Of late years considerable attention has been directed to this point, and I may mention that in the Sub-division alone during the 3 years ending 31st December 1857, 19,594 Portia saplings besides about 18,000 fruit trees were reared in the avenues on the principal lines of roads.

15. From long custom the Meerassidars are prepared to give such assistance as may be required of them in rearing and planting these trees, and the Revenue subordinates seeing the interest the authorities have all along taken in the matter, have been accustomed to consider the preservation of the Avenues as a part of their duty. Were these trees, however, made over to

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th March 1859.

the Public Works Department for the expressed purpose of being made use of for their fuel requirements, both the Meerassidars and the Revenue officers would cease to take any interest or concern in the matter and as I have already said the Avenues would soon cease to exist.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

No. 66. ORDER THEREON, No. 324; dated 15th March 1859.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, with reference to Colonel Lawford's letter of November 3d 1858, No. 5959. The Governor in Council concurs in all that Mr. Cadell says on the subject of the Avenue trees and the supply of fuel for Public Works, and sees no reason to modify in any respect the orders to which Colonel Lawford took exception.

2. The Governor in Council takes this opportunity to call the attention both of Engineer officers and of Collectors to the orders noted in the margin, which contain the views of Government as to the means by which officers of the Public Works Department are to obtain timber and fuel. It is the desire of Government that those orders should be strictly adhered to by both Departments.

3. As respects Avenue trees, these are placed, except in Tanjore, under the care of the Officers of the Public Works Department; but the tenor of Colonel Lawford's letter makes it necessary for Government to repeat here that those officers have not authority to fell or lop any tree, except strictly for purposes of conservation and improvement to the tree or avenue, without the special permission of the Collector. It will be the duty of the latter officer to prevent the Engineer Department from looking to the Avenues as a source of supply for timber or fuel; and should this be found to be the result of the present arrangement, the Governor in Council will be quite prepared to cancel it and to replace the Avenues under the exclusive charge of the Collector.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

Supply of fuel for Public Works

Revenue Dept

No 324

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Order dated the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1859.

Read the following  
letter from the Collector  
of Tanjore.

/ Here enter 7<sup>th</sup> February 1859 N<sup>o</sup> 42

Ordered to be  
communicated to the  
Chief Engineer with re-  
ference to Colonel Lawford's  
letter of November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1858  
N<sup>o</sup> 5959. The Governor  
in Council concurs in all  
that Mr. Cadell says  
on the subject of the  
avenue trees and the  
supply of fuel for Public  
works

H  
T  
L

B

Ind

works, and see no reason  
to modify in any respect  
the orders to which Colonel  
Lawford took exception.

2. The Governor in  
Council takes this opportu-  
nity to call the attention  
both of Engineer Officers  
and of Collectors to the  
orders noted in the  
margin, which contain  
the views of Govt. as to the  
means by which Officers  
of the Public Works Dept.  
are to obtain timber  
and fuel. It is the  
desire of Government  
that those orders should  
be strictly adhered to  
by both Depts.

3. As respects  
Avenue trees, these are  
placed

Jan'y 12. 1856 Ch. 53.  
Octr 2. — " — " 1793  
Pages 234 & 386  
Prints C.O. Cooke

placed, except in Tanjore  
under the care of the  
Officers of the Public  
Works Dept; but the  
tenor of Colonel Lawford's  
letter makes it necessary  
for Govt. to repeat here  
that those Officers have  
not authority to fell or  
lop any tree, except  
strictly for purposes  
of conservation and  
improvement to the  
tree or avenue, without  
the special permission  
of the Collector. It will  
be the duty of the latter  
Officer to prevent the  
Engineer Dept. from  
looking to the Avenue  
as a source of supply  
for timber or fuel; and  
should this be found  
to

to be the result of the pro-  
-sented arrangements, the  
Governor & Council will  
be quite prepared to  
cancel it and to replace  
the avenues under the  
exclusive charge of the  
Collector.

*JA*

W. C. Smith  
To

Chief Engineer Dist. 16  
Board of Revenue  
Collector of Sanford  
& the other Colonies  
except Madras.

June 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 27/58 42 72 43.

Revenue 1859 Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

June 15<sup>th</sup> March.

210 324.

Abstract of the

of 15<sup>th</sup> March 159.

From the Chief Clerk of the

Mailed 29<sup>th</sup> March 1859.

From Colls of University of

Exeter 159 10 11 12 13.

Can survey with the Colls of

University of Exeter on the 15<sup>th</sup>

of the Avenue here and the way

of the for the 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

that they see no reason to

the order objected to by Colonel

Sanford, and calling the attention

both of Engineer Officers & of

Colonel to the order specified

which is contained in the

order as to the manner in which

Officers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. are to

obtain timber and fuel.

6-4-14

1865 & 66.

23<sup>rd</sup> March R 11