Revenue Consular Service.

pp. 668

Orders 11th to 17th May 1859

No. 39. Read the following letter from H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D. Conservator of Forests; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department; Fort Saint George, dated 5th May 1859, No. 639.

I beg to intimate for the information of Government that the lease of the Segoor Forest containing a considerable quantity of Teak and Sandalwood* expires immediately. The sub-renter Hoossain Baba and his predecessors have taken the greater part of the ripe wood, and the Forest generally requires careful nursing.

* *30th June* 1859.

2. Considering the great shifts which Government is put to for timber, and the continuing demand for the Public Buildings on the Neilgherries, I beg to propose that this jungle be kept in *Ammanee*, and added to the charge of Captain Morgan.

3. As Segoor lies between Captain Morgan's Bungalow and Moodoomullay, he passes through the Forest in the way to his duty, the arrangement therefore appears to be useful and economical.

4. Captain Morgan considers that exclusive of the sale of teak and sandalwood, the proceeds of other wood would pay the cost of the small Establishment he asks in the accompanying Extract amounting to thirty seven Rupees per mensem.

5. Captain Morgan has not made any allowance for a Mootsuddy, who will be required to keep the accounts, I have therefore included thirteen Rupees (for which sum I believe one is procurable) making the whole monthly expenditure equal to (50) fifty Rupees. From all that I can learn from enquiry, I think a yearly revenue of at least 3,000 Rupees from this Forest may be calculated upon with certainty.

6. The sum of 500 Rupees as an advance for carriage would also be necessary. He could then commence operations on the 1st of July.

7. Captain Morgan is not an officer of the Forest Department, he is working teak in a rented Forest, and I only visit his Karkhana in a friendly way; Government will probably consider that this Forest should also come under the general rules of this Department.

8. The only difficulty which occurs to me is with reference to the adjustment of Captain Morgans' salary which is now debited to the Department of Public Works.

9. As there is much private building in progress at Ootacamund, it would be necessary to supply the market. I would propose that all timber be sold by auction (quarterly?) if any timber be selected the Public Departments should be debited at the rate of preceding sale.

Extract of a letter from Captain Morgan dated 6th December 1858, *Ootacamund.*

"The establishment for the preservation and training of the Teak and Sandal trees of the Segoor Forest may consist as follows:

	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Headman at 7 Rupees a month.....	7	0	0
6 Coorumbers at 5 Rupees each.....	30	0	0
Rs...	37	0	0

"These men would be sufficient for training young and felling decayed trees, it would be requisite to hire a few bandies to convey to Sawyer's village, logs left by Contractors or any trees that may be felled."

"The conservation of the Segoor Forest might be made to pay for itself, and in a few years the effects would be manifest in a superior timber for the market which would command a price sufficient to allow of a larger establishment for the Forest, and get yield a good return to Government."

"As quantities of Sandalwood are yearly stolen by the Moplahs, the fact of there being an establishment for conserving the trees would tend much to limit their depredations. I once

caught a band of 32 Moplahs in the Segoor jungles all supplied with axes for felling and ropes for fastening the bundles of Sandalwood when collected and in my various peregrinations in the Moodoomullay Forest I have tracked large bands hiding in unfrequented places, for the sole purpose of stealing Sandalwood. Their habit is to fix upon a rendezvous in the heart of the Forest, to cross the road into the Sandalwood jungle cut down as much as they can carry and conceal it, until a favorable opportunity offers for carrying it to the coast, in this manner Government loses yearly large sums, a band of 20 Moplahs does not carry off less than 500 Rupees of Sandalwood at a time and I have known of as many as ten bands in a year, who must have carried off nearly 5,000 Rupees of Sandalwood."

A.

From H. CLEGHORN, Esq., Conservator of Forests; to J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore; dated Coimbatore, 16th August 1858, No. 398.

With reference to the letting of the Segoor Teak Forest by Contract, I should feel much obliged by your favoring me at your convenience with a statement of the present and past arrangement under which it has been leased, and at the close of the lease, that you will not renew the agreement without reference to me, as it seems desirable to introduce some alterations in the terms of agreement.

B.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore; to H. F. C. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D. Conservator of Forests; dated Coimbatore, 19th August 1858, No. 47.

With reference to your letter of the 16th Instant No. 398, I have the honor to inform you that the Segoor Teak Forest therein alluded to, was given on Contract for Rupees 2,050-0-0 per year for the two Fuslies 1263 and 1264, the term of the contract was, that large Teak and Blackwood trees being more than one yard in diameter should only be cut and not the young or other descriptions of trees. The Contractor however having felled young trees contrary to the above condition, the Contract was resumed and was given to Mr. Shnarre for 2 years *i. e.* Fuslies 1264 and 1265 at Rupees 2,150 per annum. On the expiration of that period, the Forest in question was rented out to one Doddagowda for three years from 1266 to 1268 on the same conditions, the annual rent being Rupees 3,130, the period of this last Contract will expire on the 30th June 1859, the amount of contract has been fully realized, and carried to the credit of Government during the respective years.

2. The agreement shall not be renewed in future without your previous concurrence as suggested in the latter part of your letter under reply.

No. 40. ORDER THEREON, 16th May 1859, No. 668.

The Conservator of Forests reports the approaching expiry of the Segoor Forest lease, and recommends that the Forest should be taken under Government management. For this purpose he proposes that Captain Morgan, now in charge of the rented Forest of Moodamully, should take the superintendence of that of Segoor also, with a small establishment to cost in the aggregate fifty Rupees a month. It appears from an Extract from Captain Morgan's letter accompanying, that extensive depredations are committed in this Forest by bands of Moplahs, who carry away valuable Sandalwood for sale on the coast. Captain Morgan says that he has known so many as ten bands entering the forest in one year; and he calculates the value of the wood that they must have carried away at no less than 5,000 Rupees.

2. The Governor in Council approves of Dr. Cleghorn's suggestions, including those in para. 9 for the disposal of the timber felled. He also authorizes the entertainment of the proposed establishment as follows:

	Rs.
1 Mootsuddy or Accountant.....	13
1 Headman.....	7
6 Coorumbers at 5 Rupees.....	30
	50

3. The particular attention of the Magistrate of Malabar will be called to Captain Morgan's statement as to the extensive depredations in the Segoor forest, and the consequence of the plunder into and through Malabar; and he will be required to adopt every means in his power to put a stop to these robberies, or to bring the offenders to justice.

4. It is understood that Captain Morgan passes up and down the Segoor pass in going to and fro between his dwelling and the Moodamuly forests, his proper sphere of duty; it seem, desirable therefore that he should have charge also of the Segoor pass and road. On this points the Chief Engineer will be referred to for his opinion, whether superintendence may not thus be economized. There will be no occasion to debit any part of Captain Morgan's salary to the forest department; the greater part of his duties will still be in the Public Works Department

5. The Governor in Council is decidedly of opinion that the rented forest of Moodamully should be brought under the general rules of the Conservancy Department, and that Dr. Cleghorn should exercise the same control over the operations there as in the Government forests.

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

Office
9th May 1859

Dear Mr. Bourdillon

The enclosed copies of letter to Mr. Cleary & his ~~reply~~ will explain ~~explain~~ the ~~to~~ cause of Segoor Forest stands ~~with~~ its antecedents.

The Segoor Jungle contains a good deal of Sandalwood at the East end, and Teak at the Western extremity. The former is low, feverish, and uninhabited but ~~becoming~~ very valuable ~~to~~ ~~Government~~, as Teak ~~rafts~~ ~~are~~ ~~come~~ up for House building purposes ~~that~~ and indeed it is of late the ~~sole~~ source of supply.

3. There never has been any question as to it being Govt's property, and entirely within Coimbatore. The Moyar Valley divides it from Mysore, and another stream from Wood-cornalley, wch is in Malabar.

4 The Forest has been worked by Hoossain Baba (a Kubereuter) for three years, the lease commencing six months prior to my appointment. I abstained from interference.

5. There is no mention therein of Teak in my last years report, except in para 22, where I allude to an extensive system of Teak robbery along the Moyar Valley. The stolen wood captured (twelve?) in one night sold for many hundred rupees.

6. It is very desirable that the cultivation shd be extended on both sides of the trunk road this will of course be with the Collector, but the manage= ment of the Forest [Teak & Sandal wood especially] will be best carried out under Captain Morgan as I have suggested.

Yours sincerely

H Cleghorn

Revenue Dept.

No. 668.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 16th May 1859.

Read the following

letter from T. Oleghorn Esqre.

M. D. Conservator of

Forests.

/Fore enter 5th May 1859

№ 639/

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forests reports the approach-

-ing expiry of the Segoor

forest lease, and recom-

-mends that the forest

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Government management.

For this purpose he

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Old No
Dr Cleghorn
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of Moplahs in
Do the same just
with plundered Sandal
for 200 Rs - he tells
his role is Mr Sandal

61

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1 Head men	7
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	Rs 50

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trol over the operations
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4 Copies to the Conservator of Forests
Dated 16th

4 Copies
To
The Conservator of Forests Dis. 16
Board of Revenue — 17
Chief Engineer —
Magistrate of Malabar —
Accountant General —
Civil Auditor —

Asst Hands

Revenue 1859 Depart.
Cons: 17th May.

№668.

Pro: of the Madras Government
D/ 16th May 1859.
From the Coll.r of Malabar
D/ 23d May/59 C№ 970 inc.

Dr. Cleghorn's suggestions for the disposal of the timber felled, approved - Entertainment of the Establishment proposed, authorized - Magistrate of Malabar to put a stop to the depredations in the Segoor forest - Captain Morgan to have charge of the Segoor pass and Road - Rented forest of Moodamully to be brought under the general rules of the Conservancy Department -