M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1145 Press ~~Mis.~~

122-123

Dated 11-7- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 122. 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 Bangalore, 26th June 1860, No. 43:—

1. The accompanying letter, dated 31st May last, was forwarded to me with a request that I would submit any remarks I may have to offer.

2. With reference to paragraphs 6 and 7 which bear upon the firewood question, I may mention that the road therein referred to has fallen into disuse, as the new trace to Karkúr is expected to supercede it. If either of these roads was opened out for cart traffic, it would throw a large quantity of wood into the market, and carts would be sent 10 or 12 miles, but the great distance of Neddivattam (22 miles) from the station of Ootacamund, renders it questionable whether any firewood would be brought from thence for sometime to come.

3. The construction of roads, except those of a minor nature, such as wheel-tracks, is not within the province of my Department; I shall, however, be most happy to co-operate with the Collector and Tahsíldár at the time of my next visit, if Government approve of Mr. Thomas' suggestion.

4. I beg to forward under a separate cover a summary of the measures adopted for carrying out the Orders of Government, 20th March last, No. 425, regarding the conservancy of the Nílgiri Sholás.

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to W. FRASER, Esq., District Engineer of Coimbatore, dated 9th May 1860, No. 102.

1. I beg to draw your attention to the state of this Bungalow originally an excellent one, and still apparently strong, and of good materials, though now old and dilapidated.

2. It leaks much, the tiles being very old and foul, they want turning over the whole roof. The godowns are fallen down; there is *no* kitchen; fires are now made in the Bungalow *verandah*, for want of a kitchen; on the emergency, and as you probable cannot now do much before the south-west monsoon, I have desired the Tahsíldár to run up a small hut, as a kitchen, and to thatch the "necessary," now uncovered, and fast going to ruin.

3. The godowns, when rebuilt, should be, I think, on the south-west side, where the Hill will shelter *them*, and *they* the Bungalow; the old ones needlessly obstructed the only view from the Bungalow. The place is a good deal frequented, and needs your *early* attention. I slept there, but happily there was no heavy rain, as the Bungalow leaks sadly. A shed for baggage and horses should form part of the godowns in this trying climate.

Estimate of amount required for constructing three Huts.

	RS. A. P.
One Hut, 50 feet long by 10 wide, mud walls, and sticks.....	20 0 0
Thatch, with poles, &c.....	35 0 0
Burgher labor, at reduced rate.....	15 0 0
	70 0 0
For.....	3
Total.....	210 0 0

Coimbatore, 29th May 1860. (Signed) E. B. THOMAS, *Collector.*

From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated 31st May 1860, No. 19.

With reference to the Orders of Government, dated 16th March 1860, No. 396, making over to Coimbatore that portion of the Nílgiri Plateau south-west of Neddivattam, and to the large mass of correspondence quoted by the Board, I beg to state, I visited the locality

Mr. Thomas strongly recommend

lately, to make myself more thoroughly acquainted with it—and while deferring, till I can find leisure, any report on the papers referred to, I deem it right to bring at once to the notice of Government, two minor points, which fell under my observation.

2. I slept at the Neddivattam Public Bungalow, on the high road to Wainád, and found it, though full of excellent material, in a sadly dilapidated and neglected state ; which I have duly pressed on the District Engineer, who will, I hope, procure early sanction for its repair : it is the only shelter for all the travellers and Coffee Planters now passing that way. I enclose copy of my letter to District Engineer.

3. Of the increasing importance of this line of road, the access to Wainád, (with all its increasing Coffee Estates and investment of English and Native capital), the Government will be aware ; especially since His Excellency the Governor's late visit to the Hills. I also saw the vast and noble Valley claimed by Mr. Ouchterlony, with its six or seven flourishing Coffee Estates, held *with* or *under* that gentleman. I have seen the Coffee Estates of Ceylon, of the other parts of the Nílgiris, of Croog, the West Coast, and other places, but never saw a more splendid, wooded, sheltered and watered Valley, than this, lying between the Neddy Betta (i.e., Neddivattam) Peak, south-west, and the Nílgiri Peak on the south. I should say there are at *least* 20,000 acres of valuable forest Coffee land, scarcely one-tenth of which is yet broken up.

4. My present business, however, is not whether this tract belongs to, and should be held under, Government, or the Nellumboor Rájá, but with the *shelter* so urgently required on the route. The numerous coolies frequenting these Estates, draw most of their supplies, as do the planters also, from Ootacamund. There is little or no shelter for 20 miles from Ootacamund to Neddivattam. I met numbers going to and fro, many of whom must have been exposed during the night; one woman and child with fever, lying on the open road, and a heavy hail-storm at hand.

5. Seeing the urgent necessity, and the south-west monsoon close at hand, and having the Tahsíldár with me, I at once selected three spots at practicable distances (about seven miles apart), for erecting three rough rest-houses, or sheds, at about 70 Rupees each ; they will last, well built, five or six years, with a little repair ; the Burghers, who were with me, and who will also benefit by the shelter, will aid in building them, and the planters at once subscribed nearly half the amount. I, therefore, request sanction of Government for the other half, or the small sum of 105 Rupees. There was no time to be lost, the Engineer was not on the Hills, nor could his regular Department have done it so cheaply ; two sheds are already up, and the other in progress.

Vide accompanying Estimate.

6. The other point, of even more importance, is the state of the road along that line, nearly impracticable for wheel-traffic—while the supply of firewood (now *the great* difficulty and desideratum at Ootacamund), is nearly inexhaustible about Neddivattam ; the old line is very steep and faulty in parts, but might easily be turned, at points, and made *passable*, at about 400 Rupees per mile in the worst places, till the new trace (going near the Neddivattam Bungalow), to " Karkúr," be carried out : what I propose and recommend, is, that Dr. Cleghorn be empowered in his Department (or I would gladly assist him and undertake it through the Tahsíldár,) to open out and improve this, and one or two other traces already existing, to forests where large supplies exist, of dead and dying wood, invaluable at Ootacamund ; but now inaccessible and lost ; while the demand, (I may truly call it *outcry*), at Ootacamund for fuel, is becoming daily more loud and urgent.

7. The evil is really a serious one, to all classes of Europeans and Natives ; and the cost of bread, washing, wages, and in fact every supply, is rising in consequence ; 3,000 (unproductive) Rupees have been lately sanctioned for ornamental planting, round the Lake at Ootacamund ; if a like 3,000 were sanctioned to expend in opening roads to forests where fuel is now decaying and being *entirely lost*, it would be of infinite present and general benefit, and would *return* to

Government, I am confident, in 12 months, and be in the meantime an advance (only), of far more *partical* and *urgent* necessity, than the ornamental planting, desirable as it may be. I send this letter *through* Doctor Cleghorn, that he may see it, and add what view he thinks right, regarding the fuel question, a difficult and pressing one.

No. 123. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1860, No. 1,145.

1. The Conservator of Forests forwards a letter addressed to Government by the Collector of Coimbatore, but sent to him to be su bmitted with his opinion, on certain subjects connected with Ootacamund, especially the supply of fuel. Mr. Thomas strongly recommends that the old road from Ootacamund to Neddivattam on the road to Wainád should be immediately made practicable for wheel-traffic, through the Agency of either the Forest Department or his own, in view to the Ootacamund market being supplied with firewood from the forests about Neddivattam. He also proposes, though on general terms (paragraph 6) the opening of roads to other sources of supply of this necessary.

2. Dr. Cleghorn does not give a decided support to the expectation respecting a supply of fuel from Neddivattam, by reason of the distance of that place from Ootacamund, being 22 miles ; he thinks however that carts might go for fuel to a distance of 12 miles if the road were made practicable. The Government resolve to call on the District Engineer, through the Chief Engineer, to report what measures can be taken of the nature proposed by Mr. Thomas, to augment the supply of fuel at Ootacamund at an early date. Such proceedings would be subject to the arrangement sanctioned by Government in the Order of 20th March 1860, No. 425, for regulating the cutting of fuel in Government forests.

3. With regard to the other subjects noticed by Mr. Thomas, the particular and early attention of the District Engineer will be called to the very bad state of the Neddivattam Bungalow in order to its early and efficient repair.

4. The Government approve Mr. Thomas' proceedings with respect to the three rest-houses between Ootacamund and Neddivattam and sanction the grant, out of the repair funds of the District, of the sum of Rupees 105 applied for in paragraph 5.

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

R. D.

No. 1145.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Under date the 11th July 1866

Read the following
letter from the Conserva
-tor of Forests:—

Here enter 26th June 1866
No. 43

Submitting remarks on the recommendation of the Collr. of Coimbatore for opening up the road now fallen into disuse from Neddivattam to Mettupalayam for bringing in firewood into the Cantonment.

1. The Conservator of Forests forwards a letter addressed to him by the Collr. of Coimbatore, but sent to him to be submitted with his opinion, on certain subjects connected with Ootacamund, especially the supply of fuel.

Mr. Thomas strongly

recommends that the
old road from Hatta-
-mund to Neddivattam
on the road to Mainád
should be immediately
made practicable for
wheel traffic; thro'
the Agency of either
the Forest Deptt. or
Missions, in view to
the Hattamund
market being sup-
plied with firewood
from the forests about
Neddivattam - He
also proposes, tho' on
General terms, para-
-llel
the opening of roads
to other sources of
supply of this ne-
cessary. —

Dr

respecting a supply of fuel from Medelinattam,

2.— Dr. Cleghorn does not give a decided support to the ex-pectation, by reason of the distance of ~~Medelinattam~~ that place from Attakammud, being 22 miles; he thinks however that parties might go for fuel to a distance of twelve miles if the road were made practicable. The Govt. resolve to call on the Dist. Engr. thro' the Ch. Engr. to report what measures can be taken of the nature proposed by Mr. Thomas, to augment the

the supply of fuel
at Utakamund at
an early date. Such
proceedings would be
subject to the ar-
rangement sanc-
tioned by Govt in
the order of 20 March /60
No 425, for regu-
lating the cutting
of fuel in Govt
forests.

3 — With regard to
the other subjects
noticed by Mr Thomas,
the particular and
early attention of the
D. Engr will be
called to the very
bad state of the
Neddivattam
bungalow in order
to

to its early and efficient repair. —

4. — The Govt. approve Mr. Thomas's proceedings with respect to the three rest-houses between Utakamund and Neddivattam and sanction the Grant, out of the repair funds of the district, of the sum of Rupees 105 applied for in para 5.

5. — The Govt. having not yet rec^d the summary of ~~the~~ the measures adopted under the order of March 20. N° 425, ref^d to in the last paragraph of Mr. Chaplain's letter.

Issue to be brought to head quarters by the Conservator before he leaves the Nilgiris for the wood to collect the teak required for the Bridges

4 Copies Lieut^t Govt. Engrs
1 " Coll^r of Coimbatore
10 " Chief Engineer

Copy in a Letter to England
10/6.4-61 Ins 45