M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1183 Press ~~Mis.~~

197-198

Dated 18- 7- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 197. Read the following letter from Messrs. PARRY and Co., to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated, Madras, 3rd July 1860:—

1. With reference to the notice in the "Fort Saint George Gazette" of the intended levying of a four Anna tax, upon every bandy load of wood fuel taken from jungles in the neighbourhood of Trichinopoly, &c., we have the honor to enclose copy of a letter to our address from the general Manager of the East India Iron Company.

2. We shall be happy to learn that the explanation the Manager gives of the effect, this tax will have upon the Company's workings, may induce Government to reconsider their decision.

From W. MAYLOR, Esq., General Manager, to Messrs. PARRY and Co., Madras, dated Beypoor, 27th June 1860.

My surprize was only equalled by my regret when I read last night in the "Madras Athenæum" the following notification under the head of "Government Records."

"Government on the 9th June, authorized the levy of a payment of four Annas per bandy "of about 750 for the privilege of cutting firewood in the Government jungles in Trichinopoly. "This rate is to be paid by the East India Iron and Steel Company and other parties not "belonging to the village communities. The Order is also to apply to the Government jungles "in South Arcot, where the Company's lease has expired."

As you are aware, I have recently been cutting down expenses at our Porto-Novo station, and economising to the utmost limit possible, that I might thus be able to make the works self-supporting.

I need scarcely say that this decision of Government, *if strictly carried out*, will have the effect of closing the works. I cannot do the Madras Government such an injustice as to suppose, that it was ever conceived that such would be the result of their decision. They are much better qualified than I am to judge of the great advantages to be derived from the existence of such works as ours in this country; it should not, however, be lost sight of, that this Company secures the services of able and practical Engineers to conduct their several Establishments and it is the duty and interest of these Gentlemen to teach and instruct the Natives in the manufacture and uses of Iron and Machinery, which must be some advantage inasmuch as our Establishments have been *good schools* for converting the crude laborer into a skilled artisan. As a proof of the truth of this, I may mention that I believe many of our oldest and best hands are now employed by the Railway Company and some by Government. Again, our outlay in the jungles is highly beneficial to the poorer Raiyats, and as we clear the ground for cultivation it must contribute in some measure to the large increase of Revenue which has taken place of late years in the South Arcot District.

The levy of a payment of four Annas per bandy of about 750 lbs for the privilege of cutting firewood will be equivalent to a tax of at least £1 per ton of pig-iron made at Porto-Novo! which is of course fatal to the existence of that station and unless Government are prepared to make some concession, I shall be compelled to advise our Board of Directors to *abandon the concern.*

We have a large quantity of *Ore* in stock at Porto-Novo and in case the order in question should be carried into immediate effect, we shall be *great losers,* because we must either melt it to a great disadvantage or lose the value of the stock.

As this is a matter of such vital importance to us, may I request the favor of your bringing the question before the competent authorities who I feel sure will give it all the attention it deserves.

No. 198. ORDER THEREON, 18th July 1860, No. 1,183.

1. The Indian Iron and Steel Company had a lease of the privilege of cutting fuel in certain Government jungles in the District of Trichinopoly, for twenty-one years; paying

nothing the first five years, 500 Rupees yearly the second five, 1,000 Rupees yearly the third five, and 1,500 Rupees yearly the last six years. The lease was renewable for twenty one years, subject to a fine of 2,000 Rupees; and the rent under the renewed lease was to be 2,000 Rupees yearly.

2. The lease expired on the 31st December 1859, and the Company declined to renew it supposing that they would be allowed to cut for nothing, as Raiyats are for their own use in their own villages. This however was not allowed;* it was ordered† that a tax of four Annas should be levied on each cart load of about 750 lbs. The Representative of the Company now protests against this; declaring that it must lead to the closing of the work.

* *Order March* 15*th* 1860, *No.* 384.
† *June* 7*th* 1860, *No* 941.

3. The charge fixed for the fuel by the Order of June 7th 1860, No. 941, is very moderate. But as it is objected to, the Government will allow the Company the option of renewing the lease of the jungles. The new lease will not be for a fixed term but from year to year, and at the rate of 1,500 Rupees a year, being that paid by the Company for the last six years of the expired lease; the Government will also dispense with the fine stipulated on renewal. The engagement to commence from the 1st January 1860, and to be terminable at the end of any calendar month by either party on written notice of not less than six months.

4. On receipt of intimation that these terms are accepted, the Government will cancel the Order of the 7th June. It is requested that the reply on behalf of the Company may be given with as little delay as possible.

5. The Government will also allow the Company the option of taking a lease for the jungles in South Arcot on the same terms as the above, in renewal of the lease which they formerly held to the same purport as for the Trichinopoly jungles, and which expired at the same time.

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

Rev: Dept.

No. 1183

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 18th July 1860.

Read the following letter from Messrs Parry & Co. Agents to the East India Iron Company.

Submitting a letter from the General Manager of the East India Iron Company in the hope that the explanation therein given of the effect upon the Company's workings of the tax of four annas recently ordered to be levied on every cart load of fuel cut from the Government jungles will induce the Government to re-consider their decision.

(Here enter 3rd July 1860)

1. The Indian Iron and Steel Company had a lease of the privilege of cutting fuel in certain Government jungles in the district of Trichinopoly, ~~Tanjore and South Arcot~~ for twenty one years; paying nothing the first five years

year, 500 Rs yearly the second
five, 1000 Rs yearly the third
five, and 1500 Rs yearly the
last six years. The lease was re-
-newable for twenty one
years, subject to a fine of
2001 Rs; and the rent under
the renewed lease was to
be 2001 Rs yearly.

2. The lease ~~appearing~~
~~of Vicharoopoly and South Ar-~~
~~-cot~~ expired on the 31st Decem-
-ber 1859, and the Company
declined to renew it, sup-
-posing that they would be
allowed to cut for nothing,
as Ryots are for their own
use in their own villages.
This however was not
allowed; it was ordered*
that a tax of four annas
should be levied on each
cart load of about 700 lbs.
3. The Representative
of the Company now protests
against

* Order March 15th 1860 No 384

* June 7th 1860 No 941.

against this, declaring that it must lead to the closing of the work.

3. The charge fixed for the fuel by the order of June 7th 1860 Rs 941, is very moderate. But as it is objected to, the Government will allow the Company the option of renewing the lease of the jungles. The new lease will not be for a fixed term but from year to year, and at the rate of 1500 Rs a year, being that paid by the Company for the last six years of the expired lease. The Govt will also dispense with the stipulated fine on renewal. The engagement to commence from the 1st January 1869, to be and to terminable at the end of any Calendar month by either party on written notice of not less than six months.

4 On receipt of intima-

tion

Fuel for the East Indian Iron and Steel Company

-tion that these terms are accepted, the Government will cancel the order of the 7th June &c &c &c. It is requested that the reply on behalf of the Company may be given as with as little delay as possible.

5. The Govt will also allow the Company the option of taking a lease for the jungles in South Arcot on the same terms as the above, on renewal of the lease which they formerly held to the same purport as for the Trichinopoly Jungles, and which expired at the same time.

List — Under Mem —

1 Copy Messrs Parry & Co. Dispt 19
2 " Board of Revenue
4 " Conservator of Forests

16/7/60

Copy in a Letter to Engd
d/ 30th January 1861 No 5

602-18

33/ 9 85:3.6

20-3-60

781/60 15:16

~~Post 1860~~

75:16

June 1860

15:16

30-4-60

No 197 & 198

Revenue 1860 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt for July.

No 1183.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
d/ 18th July 1860.

Rd a letter from the Agents to the East India Iron Company protesting against the tax ordered to be levied on every Cart load of fuel cut from certain Government Jungles in Trichinapoly.