M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No 160 Press ~~Mis.~~

120 - 121

Dated 31 — 1 — 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 120. Read the following letter from Captain W. F. MARRIOTT, Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay; to the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George; dated Bombay Castle, 10th January 1860, No. 35.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying copies of a despatch from the Secretary of State for India, No. 87, dated 14th October 1859, of its enclosure and of a report by the Conservator of Forests, No. 1418, dated 1st December last, and to request that under the orders of the Government of Fort Saint George, you will have the goodness to obtain from the Conservator of Forests for Madras and his Assistant, a report as to the quantity of Agnee timber likely to be procured from the forests of Malabar and Canara.

From the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Secretary of State for India; to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Bombay; dated India House, London, 14th October 1859, No. 87.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Herewith is transmitted to you the copy of a letter from the Store-keeper General of the Navy, making enquiry respecting certain timber named "Aynee" or "Angelee," stated to be the produce of the district of Malabar, of a good and desirable kind for purposes in ship-building, for which large straight timber of great length and strength is applicable, and of the dimensions specified in his letter, and requesting to be informed if the timber in question is known to possess these alleged qualities, and whether it is procurable in sufficient quantities to allow of its importation into this country to the extent of at least 3,000 loads per annum, for the use of Her Majesty's Dockyard.

2. I have to request that you will furnish me with an early report on the subject to enable me to afford the information required.

From R. DUNDAS, Esq., Store-keeper General of the Navy; to J. C. MELVILLE, Esq., &c. &c. &c. India office, dated Admiralty 27th September 1859.

Mr. Turner, the master ship wright of Woolwich Dockyard, who was formerly employed to superintend the building of Her Majesty's ships at Bombay, having stated that a ship,—building timber called "Agnee" or "Angelee," the produce of Malabar, is a good and desirable timber for the purposes in ship-building, for which large straight timber of great length and strength is applicable, and that it can be supplied at the minimum size of 16 inches and upwards, square averaging 35 feet in length, that it is used at Bombay for the Indian service and might be procured for the Queen's service in England. I have the honor to request you will state whether this timber is known to be of the description and dimensions stated; and is used in the yard at Bombay; also if it is procurable in sufficient quantities to allow of importations into Her Majesty's Dock Yards of not *less* than 3,000 loads a year, if considered desirable for the Naval service.

From A. GIBSON, Esq., Conservator of Forests; to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department; dated Camp Chas, 1st December 1859, No. 1418.

REPORT.—In reply to the Secretary's letter, No. 4701 of 25th ultimo, the Conservator of Forests has the honor to state:

1st. That the term "Aynee," applies to timber of Pentáptéra Coriacea, known in our Presidency by the name of "Aeen and Sadura," while the term "Aergalee" is applied to jungle timber generally.

The Conservator believes he is right in supposing the first of these to be the timber meant.

It is a strong heavy wood fit for much of the strongest interior work of ships, but not bearing such exposure as it would be subject to as side planking.

Another wood nearly allied to it, however, would appear to bear exposure better, as the old Cruiser *Aurora* (which has long since disappeared from the list) was entirely built of it.

This wood "Keendul" is furnished by the Pentáptéra Paniculata.

Both of these trees formed what might be called the staple of the Soonda and northern Canara forests, when the Conservator visited them in 1844-1846-1849 and 1854, and as will be seen from his reports, the supply was then large enough to have with ease afforded the 3,000 loads annually required for Her Majesty's Navy.

He would, however, hesitate to aver that such is still the case, as he observed so much destruction from cultivation fires, when he passed through Soonda in January 1858, that he apprehends that this wasteful expenditure, joined to that caused by the cuttings of parties from the Goa country, and the heavy drafts made by railway contractors for sleepers, &c. must have considerably norrowed the supply.

In Malabar again, particularly towards the foot of the ghâts, leading to the Cúrg country and on the lower ⅓d of the Koorg hills, it appeared to the Conservator when he passed through that country in January 1858, that the supply of growing Aeen and Keenjul was then so large, that there could be no difficulty in furnishing 3,000 loads per annum.

The tenure of land in Malabar, however, is such that the whole is private property,

Therefore a full supply of the woods growing thereon can only be obtained by making advances through the Collectors to the generally embarrassed and always needy proprietors.

The Conservator also has no recent information as to how the cultivation clearings have been carried on there during the last two years.

The burning of trees for coffee plantations may also have caused a considerable diminution of the supply.

On the whole, the Conservator thinks that the Conservator of Forests for Madras and his Assistant for Soonda and Canara, M. S. Müller, should be referred to, as they are likely to know the present state of their forests better than the undersigned.

The remarks of Mr. Müller will be valuable as regards Soonda and North Canara.

The undersigned will also refer to Mr. Keys, his assistant agent at Calicut, as that officer can collect information (not always true, however,) from the timber dealers there.

Finally, the Conservator begs to offer his opinion:

That three other of the jungle timbers would be found valuable in ship-building, probably even more so than the Aeen and Keenjul.

These are "Yerool" or Iamba (Mimosa Aylocarpa) a strong reddish wood and Koombha (Careya Arboria) a tree, the wood of which stands any amount of wet, but is generally crooked and fitted only to afford curves or knees from 3rd class downwards.

There is a large supply of both of these in the forests of the southern ghâts.

The third is a wood which belongs to the same natural family as the African teak, and is generally used as resisting water.

Name Asun or Asana (Briedelia Montana) generally runs in long straight logs but seldom or never having a diameter of more than 1¼ feet.

This also is rather a common tree in the forests of Canara.

No. 121. ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1860, No. 160.

Referred to the Conservator of Forests for early report.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

From Conservator of Forests
Read the following letter from the Govt of Bombay & forwarded
Letter dated 10th January 1860

No. 35

Marine Department.

To

The Secretary to the Government
of Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying Copies of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for India No. 87 dated 14th October 1859 of its enclosure and of a report by the Conservator of Forests No. 1418 dated 9th December last, and to request that under the orders of the Government of Fort Saint George you will have the goodness to obtain from the Conservator of Forests for Madras and his Assistants a report as to the quantity of Aynee Timber likely to be procured from the Forests of Malabar and Canara.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obt Servant

Bombay Castle
10th January 1860.

W. J. Maunsell Captain
Actg Secy to Govt

Revenue 1860 Dept.
Pros. of Govt. 31st. January.

No. 108

From the Acting Secretary
to the Govt. of Bombay.

Dated 10th January 1860.
Recd. 16th

Requesting to obtain
from the Conservator
of Forests his assistt.
a report as to the
quantity of Agnee timber
likely to be procured
from the Forests of
Malabar & Canara.

No. 120 & 121.

No. 160. 31st January
With an order &

No. 160.

Referred to the Conservator of Forests for early report.--

Fort St. Geo.
31st Jany. 1860.

A Copies to the Conservator of Forests. Dispt. 1st.