M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 806	Press ~~Mis.~~
113-119	
Dated 19-5- 1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootakamund, 19th April 1860, No. 989:—

I had the honor of receiving Proceedings of Madras Government, No. 160, dated 31st January 1860, when travelling on the Western Coast, and have taken every means of ascertaining the quantity of Angelee Timber procurable. With a view to obtain the fullest information, I addressed the Resident of Travancore, the Collector of Malabar, and the Assistant Conservator of Forests in North Canara. Their replies having now come to hand, I beg to submit a summary of them. The communication of Mr. Maltby and its enclosures I annex entire, being full of interest.

2. TREE, LOCALITIES WHERE PROCURABLE.—The tree, *Artocarpus hirsuta* of Botanists is of great size. It is confined to the Western Coast, and is particularly abundant at an elevation of 3,000 feet in Malabar, Cochin and Travancore, where it is much used for Canoes, Ferry Boats and House Building. In habit, it resembles the Jack tree, to which it is allied. The Dutch Governor of Cochin, *Henricus Vow Rheede*, figured the tree in his *Hortus* Malabaricus*, and praised the Timber. In Canara, the tree is now scarce and of insufficient size. This year great difficulty was experienced along the Coast in obtaining a sufficient number of logs for the preparation of 103 Government Ferry Boats.† In Malabar‡ and Wainád, the tree is abundant and is largely felled by European settlers when clearing land for Coffee cultivation. There is no trade, however, to enable me to judge of the quantity procurable, and the localities are almost inaccessible.

* *Printed in* 1686.

† *There called Aynee.*

3. PRICE.—The Market§ price at Quilon was 3 to 4 Rupees, but now it is 6 to 8 Rupees per candy. The present|| price at Allepi is 8 to 10 Rupees per candy, of large size, 12 Rupees. The quantity annually available of the stated size at Allepi and Cochin will seldom¶ exceed 230 loads.

‡ *Vide Appendix G.*

§ *Vide Appendix B.*

|| *Vide Appendix E.*

4. QUALITY AND QUANTITY.—Angelee stands next to Teak in the estimation of Ship-builders, and the demand for this wood is increasing. The present annual supply in the Territories of Cochin and Travancore averages from 6,000 to 7,000 candies, but not more than one-tenth** part would square to the required dimensions. This appears to arise chiefly from the difficulties of transport, as the trees are of great size. No difficulty is anticipated in providing annually 3,000 tons along the Travancore Coast. Mr. Crawford suggests a contract at Rupees 14 per candy, and Mr. Kohlhoff proposes an Agent to give advances to Contractors, and to arrange for shipment.

¶ *Vide Appendix E.*

5. It will be observed that the Estimates vary considerably, however, there is one opinion as to the abundance of the tree in the Southern Provinces, and the opening up of two new Roads (which have been for some time under the consideration of Government), I refer to the Carcúr Ghát in Malabar, and the proposed road from the Ánamalai Hills to the Cochin Backwater, would facilitate the delivery of the wood. These great lines, (the latter especially), would open up dense Forests, and throw much Angelee Timber into the market. On the whole, I think that, if considered desirable, 3,000 loads of the dimensions stated might be exported annually at a cost not exceeding 14 Rupees†† per candy.‡‡ The greater portion being obtained in Cochin and Travancore and a smaller quantity in Malabar.

Malabar.
Cochin.
Travancore.

** Note.—Probably less on an average, but as all kinds of labor are rising, I take Mr. Crawford's valuation.—H. C.

†† Equal to 13½ cubic feet.

6. If the Dockyard Authorities require planking as well as beams, and specify the size, in all probability it would facilitate the supply; as defective wood would be left behind, and the planks would be more portable, the carriage of large Timber being almost impracticable in many parts of the country.

7. If a steady trade in Angelee was established it might be advisable to form plantations on the banks of navigable Rivers.

8. It is worthy of remark that the wood referred‡‡ to by Dr. Gibson, Conservator of Forests, Bombay, is not the same as that to which I allude. The Aynee (Terminalia Coriacea) is common in North Canara, and a useful wood it is, but not to be compared to the Angelee of Travancore for Ship-building purposes.

‡‡ *No.* 1,418, 1*st December* 1859.

A.

From F. N. MALTBY, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin, to H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests, Ootakamund, dated Trivándaram, 4th April 1860, No. 614.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter,* of the 2nd March, No. 925, and to state that on its receipt I applied to the gentlemen most likely to be able to afford information on the subject of the supply of Angelee wood which these States can yield† and I beg to annex their replies.

* *Enclosure herewith returned.*
† *Mr. Crawford, Commercial Agent, Travancore.*
Mr. Kohlhoff, Conservator of Forest, Cochin.
Mr. Munro, Timber Merchant, Cotyam.
Mr. Kohlhoff, Conservator of Forests, Travancore.
(Answer not received.)

2. You will observe that they vary a good deal in their Estimates. As far as I can learn, this Timber is very abundant in theseProvinces, but as is so commonly the case, all the Forests which are most accessible have been denuded, by the common Timber Dealers, of all trees of a large size.

3. But there are forests both in Cochin and Travancore, which the Timber Dealers cannot work with profit, but which, if worked on a proper system by opening out Roads, would yield a large supply.

4. Mr. Kohlhoff describes one large tract of this kind in the Cochin territory, and there are many others.

5. I believe that if the British Government should be able to ensure a market for Timber of such size as is described in your letter at the rate of 12 or 14 Rupees per candy, to the extent of say 1,000 loads per annum for the next five years, the jungles might be worked in systematic manner to the great advantage of these Territories.

B.

From H. CRAWFORD, Esq., Commercial Agent, to F. N. MALTBY, Esq., British Resident in Travancore, dated Allepi, 16th March 1860, No. 69.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No. 475 of the 13th instant with enclosure from Doctor Cleghorn. The quantity of Angelee yearly exported from this is not under 4,000 candies which is only a moiety of what is cut down in these Forests yearly, the principal portion goes to Cochin. The price is now Rupees 8 to 10 per candy. The wood is well suited for the floors and bottom planking of Ships as high as the bends, but the fastenings, where not treenailed, must be of copper, as, unlike Teak it corodes Iron rapidly. There will be no difficulty in providing 3,000 tons along the coast yearly.

The price in planks from 25 to 30 feet long by 12 to 14 inches broad and 2½ to 3 inches thick is from Rupees 120 to 170 per corge.

C.

From H. CRAWFORD, Esq., Commercial Agent, to F. N. MALTBY, Esq., British Resident in Travancore, dated Allepi, 17th March 1860, No. 77.

In continuation of my letter No. 69 of the 16th instant, I beg to state that if Her Majesty's Government would enter into a contract with this Sirkar for the regular purchase of say 3,000 tons of Angelee yearly, it might be worth while our undertaking the supply at say Company's Rupees 14 per candy unsquared.

D.

From J. S. A. KOHLHOFF, Esq., Conservator of Cochin Forests, to F. N. MALTBY, Esq., British Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated Trichoor, 26th March 1860, No. 125.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 474 of the 13th instant, enclosing copy of a letter No. 925 of the 2nd instant, from Dr. Cleghorn, calling for information regarding the probable quantity of Angelee wood obtainable annually in the Cochin Forests.

I beg to state in reply that owing to the high rate that Angelee wood sells at in the market, and it being considered more durable than Teak for building Boats, &c., such great quantities of it have been annually taken away by Timber Merchants, that the greater portion of these Forests are almost exhausted of Timber of this description.

There is, however, a tract of magnificient virgin Forests at an elevation of nearly 3,000 feet, about 40 miles South-East of this place, extending to the South and West of the clains of Hills marked *Nocoon hund* on the Survey Map No. 62, which have never been penetrated by Timber Merchants, where I have observed the Angelee growing in abundance, and many of them of the largest dimensions, and have been informed by the Kanders (or Hill men), that the tree is very numerous in all the sholays (or dense jungles) on those Hills. I have reason to believe, therefore, that this tract of Forest is fully capable of yielding at least 2,000 candies of Angelee Timber annually of superior quality and dimensions, as also a good supply of Poone Spars for Ships' Masts.

As the Rivers that traverse these Forests are intersected by numerous cataracts, and other natural obstacles to the floating down of rafts, and as it will not only be very expensive, but also difficult to procure a sufficient number of Elephants to work this Forest on a large scale, the best mode for ensuring the regular transmission of a fixed quantity of Timber to the Coast annually, would undoubtedly be to open a *good* Cart Road to it from these Forests, which would not only be advantageous for the transmission of Teak, Blackwood, Poon Spars and Angelee for the Sirkar ; but as many Timber Merchants would also avail themselves of it for the removal of common jungle wood, the fee for these and the toll they may be called upon to pay for the use of the Road, would in a very short time pay the cost of its construction. And should this road be carried northwards to the British Frontier, it would open out a traffic between Cochin and Coimbatore direct, which would add another item of Revenue to the Sirkar in the duties which might be levied on articles exported from and imported into the country.

E.

From J. MUNRO, Esq., to F. N. MALTBY, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated Cottayam, 26th March 1860.

I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of your favor of the 13th instant, giving cover to a copy of a letter from Dr. Cleghorn, on the subject of Angelee wood, which I regret my absence on the Hills prevented replying to earlier.

With reference to the annual supply of Angelee from the Forests of Travancore and Cochin of the size mentioned by Dr. Cleghorn ; I beg to state that though the annual supply of this wood averages from 6 to 7,000 candies, yet I doubt whether on selection a tenth of this quantity would be found of sufficient dimensions to cut up the minimum size required by Dr. Cleghorn, viz., 35 feet by 16 inches square.

Angelee logs of this size as first class Timbers, find a ready sale in the Allepi and Cochin markets at 12 Rupees per candy, but the quantity annually available will seldom exceed 230 loads. Logs of smaller size vary in price from 5 to 12 Rupees per candy in the above markets.

F.

From F. N. MALTBY, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin, to H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests Ootakamund, dated Trivándaram, 7th April 1860, No. 622.

In pursuance of my letter to you No. 614 of the 4th instant, I have the honor to annex copy of the reply, bearing the same date, No. 2, which I have since received from the Conservator of Forests, Travancore, on the subject of the supply of Angelee wood.

G.

From C. F. KOHLHOFF, Esq., Conservator of Forests, to F. N. MALTBY, Esq., Resident of Tarvancore and Cochin, &c., &c., &c., dated Quilon, 4th April 1860, No. 2.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 473, dated the 13th ultimo, which its enclosure copy of a letter No. 925, from Dr. Cleghorn ; and in reply beg to state, that the Angelee wood trade in Travancore is an open trade, wherein the Sirkar have no dealings whatsoever. Merchants entering on this trade have to obtain a permit for felling trees in the Forest, and pay the Sirkar a Fee or rather a nominal price of 12* Chuckroms per candy, and a year's time is allowed for taking away the wood paid for, and the logs they bring down vary in dimensions from 14 inches to 2½ feet in diameter, and from 20 to 35 feet in length, with merely the sap-wood clipped off. Larger Timbers are obtainable, but as the expenses and labor attending their transit are great, they are converted into Canoes and floated down the Rivers. The Angelee stands in estimation next to the Teak, and the demands for this wood for Ship-building purposes has of late years increased. The market price of the wood a few years ago was only from 3 to 4 Rupees per candy, it has since risen from 6 to 8 Rupees, and if I may venture an opinion, I should say, it will still further rise. If however, the Timber required by Her Majesty's Government is expected to be free of the heart of the tree, comparatively little wood will be secured, since in that case the wood will have to be taken from between the heart and the sap-wood, and to admit of such selection the trees must be upwards of 44 inches in diameter. Only a small number of such sized trees will be found, and the attendant expenses and labor will be proportionably increased.

* 6 *Annas* 8 *Pice.*

But if no objection to the core exist, and the Government are willing to take such Timber as is generally considered merchantable in the markets of this country, doubtless, on an average, about 2,000 logs might be procured annually of the specified dimensions, by entering into contracts with Merchants, and making the necessary advances, and to effect this the Government should appoint an Agent.

But as it is presumed that all the wood for Her Majesty's Navy will not be required in thickness of 16 inches, I beg to observe, that Timber Merchants are in the habit of bringing down planks from 25 to 35 feet long, 15 to 20 inches wide and 2½ inches thick, and they might be got to supply planks of greater thickness as may be agreed upon.

From H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootakamund, 26th April 1860, No. 1,000.

In continuation of my letter No. 989, dated 19th current, I subjoin* Extract of a communication from the Collector of Malabar relating to the price of Angelee Timber.

* *Appendix H.*

H.

Extract of a letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated 14th April 1860, No. 1,089, to H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests.

"The price (of Aynee or Angelee) at present is about Rupees 7 per candy, but what quantity of the Timber could be supplied at this rate, must, I conceive, be learnt from experience—once a demand in the export trade has been created."

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. CLEGHORN, M.D.,
Conservator of Forests.

ORDER THEREON, 19th May 1860, No. 806.

Ordered that these Reports and their enclosures be forwarded to the Government of Bombay in reply to their letter, dated 10th January 1860, No. 35, they will also be communicated to the Chief Engineer for his information.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Chief Engineer.
„ Conservator of Forests.

Exd. Wm. Thomas.

A 2.

Fort St George
12th May 1860.

No. 807.

To Secretary to Govt
Bombay

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 10th January No. 35 and in reply to forward copies of two reports from the Conservator of Forests, and of their enclosures, containing the required information regarding the quantity of Angelee timber procurable for exportation.

† making enquiries respecting

* Dated 19th April 1860 No. 989
" 26th " 1000

† eight in number.

Fort St. Geo. 19th May 1860.

Revd 31st Jany/60 No 120-121

Rev. 1860 Dept
Proc of Govt 20 May
From No 863
The Conservator of Forests
To The Chief Secy to Govt
Revenue Dept
Fort St George

Dated 19th
Rece 25th } April 1860
1 Encls No 989

Enclosures A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

No

Submitting Report on the Angelee Timber of the Western Coast and the quantity procurable, as directed in Proc: of Govt dated 31 Jany 1860. No 160.

No 806. 19th May
Written order

No 806

Pro: of the Madras Govt Under date the 19th Inst
Read the following letters
from the Conservator of Forests
Nos enclosed 19 & 20 Sept/60 Nos 989 & 1031
Ordered that these
reports and their enclosures
be forwarded to the Govern
ment of Bombay in reply
to their letter dated 10th Janu
ary 1860 No 35 they will also
be communicated to the
Chief Engineer for his infor
mation.

10 Copies to the
Chief Engineer Civil Dept
4 — Conservator of Forests
3 — Govt of Bombay