M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1105 Press / Mis.

349-355

Dated 19-5- 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th May 1862.

Read the following papers:—

No. 349. From Major H. R. MORGAN, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Deparment, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 5th May 1862, No. 4.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will bring the following case to the notice of Government for their decision.

2. Certain reports not having been furnished by Mr. R. Morison, Assistant Conservator in charge of Cuddapah Forests, and certain rumours to his prejudice having reached me, I requested * Captain Beddome, my 1st Class Assistant, on his route to Kurnool, to inquire into Mr. Morison's conduct.

* Nos. 869, 904 and 933, dated 30th March, 4th and 30th April 1862.

3. Shortly after this a letter from Overseer Webb reached me, containing grave charges against Mr. Morison. I then wrote † to the Magistrate of Cuddapah, requesting him to depute an Assistant Magistrate to inquire into Mr. Morison's alleged misconduct. I suspended ‡ Mr. Morison, and my Head Clerk, Mr. T. Spring, was ordered by me to take temporary charge of the District.

† Nos. 913, 932 and 1, dated 11th March, 28th April and 3rd May 1862.

‡ No. 915, dated 11th April 1862.

4. On the 20th of April last, Mr. R. Morison wrote a letter, enclosed, resigning his appointment, but as I had not learnt the decision of the Assistant Magistrate, I could not recommend Government to accept his resignation.

5. As (whatever the result of the inquiry may be) I understand that Mr. R. Morison is physically incapable of carrying on his duties, I would recommend that an Assistant be appointed to the charge of the Cuddapah Forests. Mr. T. Spring, my Head Clerk, who is acquainted with the conservation of jungles is in temporary charge.

From Mr. RODERICK MORISON, to Major H. MORGAN, Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated Circumbady, 20th April 1862.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to bring the following circumstances to your notice touching my health and inability to conduct the duties devolving on me in this District, and beg you will lay my resignation before the Government at as early a date as convenient, and at the same time appoint an Officer to relieve me with the least practicable delay.

2. At the beginning of the year, I have the honor to state that from serious and repeated attacks of fever, my medical attendant despaired of my being ever fit for the discharge of my duties, as the fever had affected not only my general constitution, but had seriously injured my mental faculties. Nevertheless being under the impression that time would have worked a change, I endeavored to resume my duties which I did in January last. Scarcely had I been in the district a week when I became bed-ridden, and from that time have been totally unable to write even a letter, but conducted the business through my native writer, a convert of the Free Church Mission.

3. Whilst under complete prostration of both body and mind, I was necessarily obliged to trust in a great measure to the writer, who taking advantage of my position proceeded to issue some licences in his own name without my concurrence or authority. When called upon by you to furnish returns, I discovered that the writer could not give me satisfactory accounts, and on my urging the production of the same he committed suicide. Thus leaving the accounts in such inexplicable confusion, that it would take me some time to forward them to your Office in proper form.

4. I shall be prepared to pay into the Táluq Kacheri all the sums which have been misappropriated by my subordinate at the time of giving over charge to my successor, who, I trust,

will be instructed to afford me assistance in ascertaining the exact number of licences granted by the deceased without authority and not bearing my signature.

5. As my health is in such a precarious state that immediate removal and early medical attendance can alone offer to me hopes of recovery, I beg to urge that you will take the matter into your immediate consideration, and obtain for me permission from Government to resign my appointment.

No. 350. From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Muddenpully, 7th May 1862, No. 12:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report to Government the result, up to this time, of my Head Assistant's inquiries regarding the proceedings of Mr. Morison of the Conservancy Department. From his report and from depositions taken from the writer who afterwards committed suicide, and from Mr. Overseer Webb, and from several Contractors, who had received licenses, and from an examination of the License book of the Forest Department, which was produced by the said native writer, there appears to be strong grounds for the belief that Mr. Morison has been guilty of glaring dereliction of duty, if not worse, that for some months past, if not previously also, he has been incapacitated for duty, and has been in the hands of his native servants and subordinates; that he has paid or authorized to be paid, arrears of salary due to his Overseer and Peons, out of the Forest collections; that licenses were issued for that purpose, and not entered in the License book; that he has kept back the pay of his Department, and allowed his servants to re-imburse themselves from Government money; and that Mr. McQuhae is of opinion that about Rupees 2,000 due on licenses, issued by Mr. Morison, or his subordinates, remain to be accounted for to the Treasury; that Mr. Morison has, in defiance of departmental rules, himself received direct the money for licenses, which should have been previously paid into the Treasury, and that the last account rendered of collections by the Forest Department is dated 4th January last. This account cannot yet be checked by me, because there is no specification of the Treasuries into which the money was paid.

2. As Major Morgan has informed me that Mr. Morison has sent in an application to be allowed to resign, I have the honor to advise that such application should not be complied with, and I would further recommend that until the whole matter has been cleared up by Captain Beddome's inquiry and report, the operations of the Forest Department in Cuddapah should be suspended, so far as the issue of licenses is concerned, and that the conservation of the Forests should be made over to the Collector.

3. The Forest Conservancy system has been eminently a failure in Cuddapah. No Covenanted Officer has supervised Mr. Morison's proceedings or visited the District. Proper rules have not been brought into effect. Licenses have been issued in writing, and in English, which is not understood. No receipts have been given by the Forest Department for money collected. Money collected has been paid in lump sums, without specification of the number of licenses issued, the quantity of wood authorized to be cut, or the places and Táluqs in which it was cut; there is consequently the utmost difficulty in ascertaining the true financial results of the Forest operations. Private orders have been issued by the Assistant Conservator in contravention of the printed Circular rules, which were published in the Cuddapah Gazette of the 1st June 1861. The Revenue authorities have thus been prevented from exercising a check over the irregularities of the Forest Department. The distant control of the Conservator has been a nullity, and the Assistant Conservator has gone on in a career of unreported irregularity and behaviour, most detrimental to the character of a Government servant. Unless, therefore, the conduct of the Conservancy subordinates is placed under the immediate supervision of a Covenanted Officer of that Department, I would recommend the removal of the Department from this District, in which it has been a source of expense to Government not compensated by any advantages, and has fallen into a state of confusion in reference to financial operations which will be very difficult to

clear up, from the absence of checked accounts, of receipts to payers for licenses, and of information where these payers are to be found.

4. I informed Government that on the 22nd February last, I prohibited the removal of all wood cut upon licenses, which was not accompanied by a Treasury receipt; but in spite of my Circular published in the Gazette, Mr. Morison and his subordinates continued to grant licenses, without any such Treasury receipts, and these licenses appear in the Forest License book to have been granted up to the 10th of April last, and they may be going on still, unless the Department is checked by a Government Order.

5. Some payments, from evidence taken by Mr. McQuhae, appear to have been made to Mr. Morison, and some, it is probable, were made to his writer, who had the License book and apparently *carte-blanche* to sign Mr. Morison's name to licenses, and to public letters. The knowledge, perhaps, that he had himself embezzled part of the proceeds, was the exciting cause of the suicide of the writer. He had found a field for unlimited embezzlement, by the incapacity and dereliction of duty of his superior; but was awakened to a sense of his perilous situation by hearing that Mr. Morison intended to repudiate the signatures which the possession of the License book and verbal instructions, seem to show that Mr. Morison had deputed him to make.

* To be returned.

6. I enclose Mr. McQuhae's original* reports to me, and copy and translations of depositions taken by him for the perusal of Government, which may thus be enabled to issue such instructions to Captain Beddome as may seem necessary.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Head Assistant Collector of Cuddapah, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated on Circuit at Codoor, 29th April 1862, No. 8.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that James, the writer of Mr. Morison, Assistant Conservator of Forests in this District, appeared before me on the 15th April and gave a deposition, a translation of which I enclose. The same afternoon this man was found dead in the river near this place, having evidently committed suicide by cutting his throat with a razor.

2. I received from him the License book of the Forest Department for this year and enclose a copy of it. From this book it appears that since the 23rd December last, sixty-one licenses have been granted to cut wood, paying seignorage to the amount of Rupees 2,136. I also find that fifteen licenses have been granted this year by Mr. Webb, Overseer in the Forest Department, to cut wood, paying seignorage amounting to Rupees 464. The licenses are in writing and are exact counterparts of the entries in the License book.

3. Nearly the whole of this wood was to be cut in the Rajampett Táluq, and the sum received in the Rajampett Treasury up to the beginning of April are as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
4th January, paid in by Peon Vencatpaty of the Overseer's Department...	431	13	0
Remitted by village Officers in January on account of firewood.....	47	13	0
17th March, paid into Táluq Treasury by a license-holder.....	20	0	0
Total Rupees...	499	10	0

4. Many of the holders of these licenses have cut their wood and carried it away, and as they are inhabitants of distant parts of the country and their names are not correctly known here, some difficulty is experienced in finding them out. I have examined all the holders of licenses who have been found up to the present time, some depose that they paid the seignorage due on their wood to the writer James, but five say they paid the money in Mr. Morison's presence. I enclose translations of their depositions. None of the license-holders have receipts for money paid to the Forest Department.

5. I think, in the first place, Mr. Morison should be required to give an account of sums received by him this year. I have never seen Mr. Morison, and I cannot find him any where. His people say he has gone to Madras.

I am also uncertain whether an Assistant Conservator of Forests is a public servant coming under the provisions of Section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

6. Licenses granted after the order published in the Cuddapah Gazette of the 22nd February last, have not been allowed to cover timber, unless accompanied by the Tahsíldár's receipt for the seignorage. Nearly all the wood cut under these licenses is now lying in the villages. In June 1861, an order was published in the Gazette by Mr. Morison, that all seignorage due an account of wood should be paid into the Táluq Treasury. But he afterwards sent to the Tahsíldár and Reddies several orders forbidding them to interfere in any way with wood cut under his licenses. The village officers allowed wood to pass without a Tahsíldár's receipt in obedience to Mr. Morison's repeated orders, and under the impression that Mr. Morison was authorized to collect the seignorage due on wood, and I was under the same impression myself.

7. I am making every enquiry which can throw light on the conduct of the Forest Department, but Mr. Morison's presence or his explanation of what has occurred is absolutely necessary.

The deposition of Mr. James, Writer in the Assistant Conservator of Forests Department, dated 15th day of April 1862 at Codoor.

I now produce the License book for this year. Mr. Morison signed the licenses numbered 2, 3 and 4 with his own hand and gave the licenses himself to the applicants. All the other licenses have been signed by me, with Mr. Morison's name as he ordered me to do so. He had sores on his hands and could not write himself, so he ordered me to sign his name for him, and I did as he told me.

I signed his name in this manner to all licenses issued between 15th January 1862 and 10th April. On this day all the servants of Mr. Morison were sitting together and looking at me. They laughed and whispered to each other, and kept telling me that I would be done for the next day. I wondered what could be the meaning of this, and on asking them was told that the Butler's daughter had gone to Cuddapah, and had boug t cloths worth 100 Rupees giving herself out to be my wife. I had been signing Mr. Morison's name to the licenses by his order. His servants had sent for cloths under my wife's name without any reason, and the bearers and others had told me I would know all about it to-morrow. So from all those things I feared that I would be charged with the crime of embezzling, without Mr. Morison's knowledge, the money collected on the licenses not signed by Mr. Morison, and buying cloths as mentioned above with the money.

At all times when I granted licenses to the people I took down their names and the amount to be collected upon a bit of paper, and when I had time I wrote these particulars in the book which is now in the Court. Up to the date neither the Memorandum I wrote at first nor the fair book have ever been seen by Mr. Morison. I showed him very often, but he did not look and only said "*very good.*"

After I became suspicious in April, there were two licenses to be signed, I took them to Mr. Morison for his signature, he told me to sign his name myself. Then I said "as you have "recovered from your sickness you can do it yourself." Upon this he spoke some angry words. Afterwards I signed his name in those two licences also.

I do not know whether the money was collected according to the book or not, and I never saw receipts given to the holders of licenses.

I not only have signed Mr. Morison's name in the said licenses but in the letters addressed to the Collector, and to Mr. Morison's superiors in the Forest Department.

I have made a mistake in the first instance, I now come and make it known beforehand, fearing that Mr. Morison may bring some criminal charge against me.

(Signed) JAMES (in Tamil.)

(True translation.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Head Assistant Magistrate.

The deposition of Makaraz Ramudu of Yerraguntla Cota, Táluq Royempett, dated 26th April 1862 at Codoor.

About a month ago, I required some bandy loads of red wood; as Mr. Morison who has charge of that Department was in Mamioor, I went there and obtained from him two licenses, one for two bandy loads and one for ten bandy loads. Mr. Morison was sitting in his Palanquin, and the door of the Palanquin being open he was looking out. I paid Rupees 72 in his presence. One of the bearers counted the money there, tied it up in a bundle and placed it near the gentleman. His writer then prepared the two licenses which I now produce, handed them to the gentleman, who looked at them and gave them into my hand. I did not see whether Mr. Morison signed the licence or not. I have not cut the wood mentioned in this license. I asked for three months and do not know what time they have given. I cannot write English. Mr. Morison promised to give me more time if I wanted it when he came to Coedoor. I did not pay the Rupees 72 to the writer James.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Head Assistant Magistate.

The deposition of Tummula Basannah of Yerraguntla Cota, dated 26th April 1862 at Codoor.

On the 28th March last, I obtained a license from Mr. Morison at Mamioor to cut six bandy loads of red wood and two bandy loads of jungle wood. I paid 36 Rupees for the red wood and two Rupees for the jungle wood; in all Rupees 38. Mr. Morison was lying in his Palanquin, and I counted out the money before him in heaps of six Rupees for each bandy of red wood, and two Rupees for the jungle wood. A bearer who was there took up the money. A writer wrote out the license there, and showed it to Mr. Morison, who handed it over to me. I have not sent off any of the wood yet, but some of it is cut in the jungle. Mr. Morison was lying in his Palanquin in a tope at Mamioor. There is no Bungalow.

(True translation.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Head Assistant Magistate.

The deposition of Penugonda Ramasamy of Mimbaka Calahastry, North Arcot, Táluq Nelavai, dated 26th April 1862, at Codoor.

About two months and a week ago I got a license from Mr. Morison for eight bandies of red wood at Circumbady; I paid 48 Rupees for the license. I paid the money in the Travellers' Bungalow at Circumbady. Mr. Morison was lying down on a mat early in the morning. A Peon named Nagappa counted the money and placed it near Mr. Morison. Mr. Morison's writer gave me the licence in the verandah. I did not go inside, but saw Mr. Morison through the door. The writer took the license inside the bungalow, and then brought it out. I did not see if Mr. Morison took the license in his hand or not. I did not see Mr. Morison receive the money into his hands, but I with some others who came for licenses were standing at the door, and Peon Nagappa took the money given by all of us, and I heard the sound of money counting inside. I was told by Mr. Morison to remain at the door of the Bungalow. The wood is not yet cut.

(True translation.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Head Assistant Magistrate.

The deposition of Samy Naidoo of Villadi Cottah, Táluq of Nelavai in Calahastry, Chittoor Zillah, dated 29th April 1862, at Codoor.

About twenty days ago that is to say on the 8th April last, I went to Mr. Morison, who was then in Sidhout, and asked for a license for four bandy loads of Chendanum wood. I paid 24 Rupees and received the license which I produce now. None of the wood has yet been sent off. One bandy will be ready in a few days. I paid the 24 Rupees near a Temple in Sidhout. Mr. Morison was seated in his palanquin inside the Temple, and I paid the money in his presence to Peon Nagappa, who counted the money and offered it to Mr. Morison. Mr. Morison said "keep the money by you, and when we go to Pallempett pay it into the Táluq Treasury." Mr. Morison spoke in Telugu. Some other men came for licenses along with me. A writer prepared the licenses and gave them into the gentleman's hands. He had a pen in his hand, but I do not know whether he signed the licenses or not. We paid the money at the Temple a little before dark. We did not receive the licenses there but near a Tent in the river. The servants gave out the licenses. After we paid the money Mr. Morison went away to the Tent, but the writer remained at the temple and prepared the licenses, and when it was near sun-set we went with the writer to the Tent and received the licenses there. Mr. Morison was lying down on a cot outside the Tent, and the writer gave the license into his hand with a pen. Mr. Morison said "you must sign it yourself" and gave him back the pen. I do not know what else occurred. The Peons afterwards gave us our licenses. The following men went with me to Mr. Morison, and two of them got licenses, the others got passes for wood already cut.

1. Hanumantu of Nagary in Chittoor, received a license for four bandy loads of jungle wood, and four bandy loads of Chendanum.
2. Yambaka Ramudu of Nagalapuram in Chittoor received a license for three loads of Chendanum.

(True translation.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Head Assistant Magistrate.

The deposition of Vencatsamy of Yerragunttla Cota, dated 29th April 1862, at Codoor.

About two months ago, I went to Circumbady to the public bungalow, where I found Mr. Morison lying down, and I went up and said I had brought money for two bandy loads of Chendanum wood. He called the writer and spoke to him. Then the writer called me outside the bungalow, and received from me 12 Rupees and gave it to a bearer, a servant of Mr. Morison. He took the money and went towards Mr. Morison. I did not see Mr. Morison receive the money, but remained with the writer who wrote out the license and took me to the gentleman and obtained his signature and gave me the license. I saw Mr. Morison sign the license with his own hand.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Head Assistant Magistrate.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Head Assistant Collector of Cuddapah, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated on Circuit at Codoor, 1st May 1862, No. 11.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to enclose copy of a deposition taken from Mr. Webb, Overseer in the Forest Department, as requested in your Memorandum of the 20th April.

2. Mr. Webb is unable to give much information regarding the proceedings of the Assistant Conservator of Forests; but it appears from his deposition that he and his Peons have received their pay very irregularly, and that they have made up deficiencies out of the money collected by them as wood-tax, taking this means of procuring their pay apparently by Mr. Morison's order. If Mr. Morison has been drawing the whole pay of his establishment from the Treasury a great part of the money drawn as the pay of Mr. Webb and his Peons must have been misappropriated.

3. I have not yet received information of the total amount paid into the different Treasuries of this District on account of wood-tax up to the end of April; but as far as my present information goes, fully two thousand Rupees of the Forest collections for this year have not reached the Treasury. The total collection by the Treasury accounts up to the end of March amounts to Rupees 802-8-0, none of which has been remitted by Mr. Morison.

4. As far as I have discovered, all licenses granted by Mr. Morison up to the 10th April last are entered in the License book, a copy of which accompanied my report of the 29th April. But the licenses granted by Mr. Webb to make up his own and his Peons' pay are not numbered, and do not appear in any account. As yet I have only obtained possession of two of these licenses.

5. Mr. Morison has been taken to Madras by his friends, and as far as I can learn, he has been for some months in a state bordering upon insanity. Mr. Webb deposes that he has never seen Mr. Morison perfectly sober, and for some time past his servants must have been able to do exactly as they pleased with him. He has not signed his own name more than three or four times this year, and all the license-holders who paid money in his presence describe him as lying down on a cot or in his palanquin. As I have never had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Morison I have no personal knowledge of his state, and unless he is in a state of mind which renders him unaccountable for his acts, he seems liable to prosecution for Criminal Breach of Trust, but I suppose the previous sanction of Government must be obtained under Section 167 of the Procedure Code.

6. As yet I have no distinct evidence of sums misappropriated last year, though grounds for grave suspicion exist. The total collections of last year amount to Rupees 6,920-14-11.

The information and deposition of Henry Webb, Overseer of Forests, Cuddapah, taken upon oath before the Head Assistant Magistrate of Cuddapah on the 30th day of April 1862, who on oath saith.

I have received no written order to collect money due on Timber from Mr. Morison. Mr. Morison gave me verbal orders to grant licenses to all that required them, and either to collect the money myself or to receive a Tahsíldár's receipt as a voucher that the money had been paid into a Treasury.

Last January, I received an order from Mr. Morison to come down to Puttoor and to bring all my accounts with me and to leave no papers connected with my work behind. I went to Puttoor, and then Mr. Morison told me to go to Madras if I pleased. I went to Madras and returned in a few days. Mr. Morison would not see me for several days, and at last I was told to go away. Mr. Morison gave me no Memorandum or other acknowledgment that my accounts were correct. Next morning, I forced my way into the public Bungalow at Puttoor where Mr. Morison was, and I told Mr. Morison that there was part of seven months' pay due to me, and that my Peons also were in arrears of pay. Mr. Morison's answer was "I have no money, but "you may go back to Coedoor and issue licenses for the amount of your own pay and your Peons' "pay up to the end of December, and put no numbers to the licenses and take no account of them. "If you are not there when the wood is cut, I will grant passports to pass the wood away." This was in the month of January, but I cannot say on what day. I did as he ordered me. I granted licenses at Balpully and Codoor for this purpose, and I collected Rupees 341-5-4 on these licenses. Of this I paid arrears due to Peons amounting to Rupees 131-5-4, and arrears due to myself Rupees 210. I did not enter those licences in the book, nor did I keep any account except a pencil memorandum of the sums I paid the Peons and myself. My pay is 60 Rupees a month, and there are ten peons at five Rupees a month, who are supposed to work more especially under my orders. I joined the Cuddapah District in the early part of June, and I received all my pay from Mr. Morison up to the end of December 1861, except Rupees 210

which I paid myself according to Mr. Morison's orders. I cannot tell whether Mr. Morison got the money to pay me. I believe he draws the money on a general abstract for the Department. I have received 97 Rupees of pay this year out of my pay for January and February. The remainder of my pay is due still.

I have never received any orders for bidding me to collect money. Mr. Morison's verbal orders were that I was to collect money due on licenses myself. I have reported Mr. Morison, because he refused to give me my pay, but I have no personal knowledge of his proceedings as I have always been at a distance from him. I have no knowledge that Mr. Morison has converted money to his own use except from the report of the Peons, and the fact that I cannot get my pay from him, and now I have only got 97 Rupees out of Mr. Morison for this year with great trouble. I have reported Mr. Morison's conduct to the Conservator of Forests. I have never gone to Mr. Morison without finding him either intoxicated or suffering from the effects of past intoxication; and I have no proof that Mr. Morison has converted to his own use money collected, but I have reason to suspect that all the money collected is not remitted. I think from what I have seen of Mr. Morison's state that his servants do very much as they please with him.

I have no rules to go by in my work. I never get any written orders, and only a few verbal orders from Mr. Morison.

(Signed) H. WEBB,
Cuddapah Forests.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Head Assistant Magistrate.

No. 351. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Codoor, 8th May 1862.

SIR,

1. With regard to the Proceedings of Government dated 2nd May 1862, No. 962, I have the honor to report that when I arrived at Codoor, I found that Mr. McQuhae had already fully investigated the charges against Mr. Morison, Assistant Conservator of the Cuddapah District.

2. From the 1st of January to the 10th of April 1862, Mr. Morison's private writer has entered in the License book of the Office, licenses to the amount of 2,136 Rupees; these licenses have also been proved by the depositions of the men who received the licenses, and who state upon oath that they paid the money to Mr. Morison. Other men have come forward with licenses to the amount of 66 Rupees, whose licenses were granted subsequent to the 10th of April, and whose names have not been entered in the License book of the Office, owing, I imagine, to the writer having committed suicide; there are probably more outstanding. The whole of this sum has been embezzled by Mr. Morison, as nothing has been paid by him into the Táluq Treasury since the 1st of January.

3. Mr. Morison was appointed Conservator of the Cuddapah jungles in August 1860. From that date up to the 1st of May 1861, he paid into the Táluq Treasury the sum of Rupees 2,477-2-6; from May 1861 to December 1861 he paid in monthly, sums varying from 19 to 431 Rupees. These were probably only a small portion of the amount that he received monthly for seignorage, so that his embezzlement has gone on since he entered the Department.

4. Mr. McQuhae has sent a warrant to Madras for the apprehension of Mr. Morison.

5. From the evidence that I have collected Mr. Morison is a confirmed drunkard, he has been suffering from repeated attacks of delirium tremens, and has for months past been in quite an imbecile state.

6. Mr. Morison took up his residence in the public bungalows of Puttoor, Circumbaddy and Codoor, but never left the precincts of the bungalows, or attempted in any way to attend to his duties; he was almost always in a state of intoxication, and from the evidence of the Peons

he used often to throw the money which he received for licenses to dancing girls and other Natives by whom he was generally surrounded.

7. The orders of our Department were simple, monthly report should have been forwarded to the office.

No licenses should have been granted until the amount of seignorage had been paid to the Tahsíldár and his voucher brought for the amount, they should then have been in a printed form. None of these orders have ever been attended to.

8. Shortly after Dr. Cleghorn appointed Mr. Morison to the charge of these Forests he had to leave for England on sick Certificate, and I was compelled to follow him almost immediately. I have not seen Major Morgan since I took charge of the office, but I cannot understand how matters have been allowed to go on as they have in this District, or how all the orders of the Department have been allowed to be broken through, month by month, for such a long period. The Collector forwarded departmental complaints against Mr. Morison to Major Morgan some months back.

9. Mr. Morison's brother forwarded me a medical* Certificate, stating that Mr. Morison is in an imbecile state, and unable to attend at any investigation.

* Copy of which is forwarded.

10. Mr. McQuhae informs me that the evidence is quite sufficient to transport Mr. Morison; and if the Commissioner of Police arrests Mr. Morison upon the warrant, Mr. McQuhae will commit him for trial at the next Criminal Sessions, I consider that it is most probable that Mr. Morison will procure a certificate of imbecility, and that the Commissioner of Police will not then enforce the warrant. Under any circumstances Mr. McQuhae informs me that I need not remain here, so as the exploration of the Kurnool forests and Nala Mullay hills before the monsoon sets in is most important, I am proceeding immediately in that direction.

11. Mr. Morison appears always to have drawn his Overseer's (Mr. Webb's) pay upon his abstract and appropriated the same, he directed Mr. Webb to issue licenses in his own name and pay himself and his Peons thereby. I forward herewith a copy of Mr. Webb's statement,† on oath, before the Magistrate, by which Government will see that he acknowledges having issued licenses and appropriated the money to pay himself and his Peons. There is much excuse for Mr. Webb, as he acted under his superior's orders, and probably entirely through ignorance and without any intention of fraud. Overseer Webb, however, should have known that he had no right to appropriate Government money even when ordered to do so by his superior officer. I have, therefore, suspended him from his duties pending the decision of Government upon his case.

† Vide list enclosure in the letter from the Collector of Cuddapah, dated 7th May 1862, No. 12.

12. The two days that I have been up here in these Forests, I have seen sufficient to satisfy myself that there is still much valuable timber, and that these Forests should, after paying the expenses of conservancy, yield a monthly revenue of 700 or 800 Rupees.

13. Much clandestine felling of Red Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus) and other timbers has been and still is being carried on.

14. The seignorage of 6 Rupees per bandy load upon Red Sanders is very low, the timber grows fine in this District, and is cut as a valuable building timber and not as a dye, the Natives sell a bandy load of this timber for building purposes at Madras for 45 or 50 Rupees, so that their profit is very great.

15. It has been brought to the notice of Government by Major Morgan that the seignorage upon Red Sanders in the North Arcot District is only one Rupee per bandy load, this is the case; but in that District the tree has almost disappeared, and what the Natives are paying seignorage upon in the stumps and roots of trees formerly felled, which are now dug up and sold f[illegible]heir dyeing properties. Government will see, therefore, that it would be very unfair to e[illegible]lize the seignorage in the two Districts.

There is Atcha (Hardwickia binata) and other valuable timbers in this District.

Several hundred bandy loads of timber pass through the Circumbaddy pass every month for the Madras market.

Atcha and Red Sanders might be planted in several localities in this district.

16. Mr. Spring, formerly a travelling writer in our Department, has been nominated to act here by Major Morgan, and he is now in charge of that office. On my return from the Kurnool District, where it is important that I should at once proceed, I shall thoroughly inspect these jungles, and shall then be able to forward, Government a well-considered plan for the working of these forests. It should, I think, be on the license system, but the officer in charge, whether an Assistant Conservator or an Overseer, should have some knowledge of forestry, and should be able and willing to spend most of the day in the forests and personally superintend the work and stop all clandestine felling. In the meantime I have ordered Mr. Spring to remain in charge; he is to keep a diary, forward monthly reports, to receive no money himself, but to issue printed licenses when the money for seignorage has been paid to the Tahsíldár.

I, William Nathan Chipperfield, Assistant Surgeon in the service of Her Majesty's Indian Forces, do hereby certify, that Mr. Roderick Morison, Assistant Conservator of Forests, is in a bad state of health, and I solemnly and sincerely declare that, to the best of my judgment he is neither bodily nor mentally fit to proceed to Pootoor for the purpose of being present at any investigation, nor is he capable of performing any of the duties of his office. Mr. Morison was under my medical care, when on sick certificate in July, August, September and October of last year, and he left Madras to take up the duties of his appointment against my wish and without my knowledge at a time when I considered him quite incompetent for business.

Madras, 3rd May 1862. (Signed) W. N. CHIPPERFIELD,
Assistant Surgeon.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Captain,
Officiating Conservator of Forests.

No. 352. From Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Pullampett, 9th May 1862.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that the system prevalent in Cuddapah and some other Districts of charging seignorage on timber by the bandy load is open to great abuse and is much against all systematic conservancy.

2. Wood cutters enter a forest and fell four or five small trees in the place of one large one, as it entails much less trouble; small unripe trees are therefore constantly felled, and full grown trees often left to decay. Large trees in the more inaccessible places are generally passed over; the loads of two bandies are sometimes placed upon one when approaching the Tannah station and seignorage is thereby evaded.

3. The whole system wants revision.

4. Parties requiring to fell timber should pay seignorage upon the number of trees cut (the seignorage upon each sort of tree being at a fixed rate according to its commercial value; the amount of seignorage having been paid into the Treasury, the Tahsíldár gives a voucher for the amount, the Assistant Conservator or Overseer then grants a printed license for the number of trees to be cut, the girth to be fixed according to the growth of the particular timber required, parties cutting trees of a smaller girth than that stated in the license to forfeit their licenses, (paying by the tree intead of by the bandy load will in itself be an inducement to fell only larger trees). After the number of trees paid for have been cut, the party reports to the Overseer that he intends carting them away in so many bandy loads, the stumps are then marked with the Forest stamp, and a passport is granted for the number of bandy loads which are to be off, on the back of the passport as the bandies pass the Tannah station. The Assistant Conservator will under this system be able to find out whenever a tree is felled without having paid seignorage, as the stump would not bear the Forest stamp. Refuse timber, stumps and roots for dyeing purposes to pay seignorage by the bandy load.

5. If I can introduce this system into each District, combined with a certain amount of planting, I shall hope to get the Forests into good order.

6. The immediate revenue of any particular Forest may possibly under this system be less than it is under the present, but Government must take the ultimate advantages of conservancy and the steadily though slowly increasing revenue into consideration.

7. Under the present system the revenue to be derived from timber must yearly decrease.

8. The stump system will enable me to know each month the exact number of trees felled in any particular Forest, and I shall be able to check the overworking of the Forest.

9. After I have consulted with the Collectors of Cuddapah and Kurnool, I shall hope to be able to introduce this system at once into both these Districts.

10. I have as yet only inspected a small portion of the Cuddapah Forests, but Mr. McQuhae the Assistant Magistrate who has been much into them has given me some valuable information. He is of opinion that they are being overworked, and that if the present rate of working them continues they will be soon denuded of Red Sanders as the forests in North Arcot have already been; he states that not less than two hundred bandy loads of this timber alone leave these Forests monthly for the Madras market (all for building purposes) this rate of felling has gone on, too (owing to Mr. Morison's embezzlements and to his establishment in no way having attempted to stop illegal felling), without hardly any revenue accruing to Government therefrom

11. I am sorry to be obliged to report that the fault of the state of affairs in this District rests in a great measure with the Central Office, which, when no monthly reports and accounts came in, according to the orders of the Department, could and should have immediately enquired into it.

12. I have here stated my views on seignorage, but shall report more fully upon the subject in connection with the Kurnool and Cuddapah Districts, when I send in my final reports upon these Forests.

No. 353. From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated on circiut Muddenpully, 10th May 1862, No. 14.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to enclose for the perusal of Government my Head Assistant's last report* of his proceedings in the matter of the timber licenses. Government will observe that Mr. McQuhae, in the course of his enquiry, has considered it his duty to issue a warrant to compel the attendence of Mr. Morison. It is a course necessitated by the tenor of the facts elicited, and the only means of completing his Judicial enquiry, Mr. McQuhae writes demi-officially "the license holders "are men from all parts of the country, and it would be very unfair to keep them an indefinite "time in this part of the country."

* To be returned.

2. Captain Beddome will doubtlessly advise as to ulterior measures, but I beg the orders of Government on the subject of paragraph 4 of Mr. McQuhae's letter. Mr. McQuhae urges that the holders of licenses, who have proved their payments to Mr. Morison, should be allowed to carry off their wood, as they are not to blame for the final disposition of their money. This will leave a large sum, probably over Rupees 800, due by Mr. Morison, not including what may afterwards appear to have been misappropriated by the deceased writer, which Government will have to recover by a criminal prosecution.

3. The point at issue is, whether persons taking out licenses are not bound to inform themselves of the standing rules of the Department. Paragraph 3 of the Rules published in the Cuddapah Gazette of 1st June 1861, is to this effect :—

"Whenever an application (for license) is made and granted, the applicant shall pay the "amount of seignorage to the nearest Tahsíldár, and forward the receipt to the Assistant "Conservator, when the license will be granted."

This order is repeated in my Circular No. 31 of the 22nd February 1862.

1. "Prior to the issue of licenses for cutting timber by the Forest Department, Contractors are required to pay the seignorage into the nearest Treasury."

2. "The Treasury Officer will furnish a receipt in duplicate, one, the original, to the Contractor for the amount received ; the other to the Officer in charge of the Forest Department."

3. "Licenses, unaccompanied by the necessary receipt from the Tahsíldár, will not cover timber."

4. "Contractors are required to take notice of this order."

5. "Licenses must be issued in a printed form."

6. "Village Officers will stop timber, if the license does not appear in due from, and report the same to the Tahsíldár."

4. Now as the Cuddapah Gazette is circulated to almost every village, to all villages of importance, the insertion of the above Circular notice may be deemed a publication. No more effectual publication can well be imagined. Perhaps the payers to Mr. Morison and his subordinates might be left to prosecute them for taking money on false pretences, having no authority to receive money.

5. I have informed Mr. McQuhae that Captain Beddome will appear on behalf of Government, who will perhaps be pleased to issue final instructions to him, in reference to the point above noticed, as the wood has been stopped until further orders.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Head Assistant Magistrate of Cuddapah, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated Codoor, 6th May 1862, No. 13.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that I have now received the account of all receipts in the different Treasuries of the District up to the end of March, and in the Treasury of Rajempett up to the beginning of May, and no money whatever has been received from Mr. Morison.

2. From depositions already recorded before me, it appears that Rupees 806 has been paid to Mr. Morison, or in his presence, on account of licenses entered in the License book already sent to you, and Rupees 66 on account of three licenses not entered in that License book.

3. It seems to me from this that Mr. Morison's immediate presence is necessary, and I have directed a warrant for his arrest to the Chief Commissioner of Police at Madras, endorsing the warrant with power to receive bail for Mr. Morison's appearance before me at Codoor on the 16th of May. I think it would be advisable, if convenient, that some Officer of the Forest Department should watch the proceedings against Mr. Morison on behalf of Government.

4. I think that the holders of licenses who have proved the payment of their wood-tax to Mr. Morison should be allowed to carry off their wood, as they are not to blame for the subsequent misappropriation of the money.

5. Mr. Spring has arrived to take Mr. Morison's place, and I have carefully explained to the Reddies and other servants, their duties with regard to the Forests. So I trust no irregularities will occur in this Department for the future. No License book or other account, calculated to throw light upon last year's transactions, has been found among the papers left by Mr. Morison.

No. 354. From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated on Circuit at Madanapalli, 13th May 1862, No. 15.

SIR,

1. In forwarding my Head Assistant's last report* for the information of Government, I have the honor to recommend that, under Section 167 of Act XXV of 1861, the Criminal Procedure Act, Government will be pleased to issue instructions regarding the measures to be adopted in reference to Mr. Morison. If his prosecution for embezzlement be sanctioned, Mr. McQuhae will forward the necessary records in the case to the Clerk of the Crown. He has now nearly finished his local enquiry, and a longer detention in the Codoor jungles is likely to be injurious to his health. Mr. McQuhae informs me that he has seen two certificates in Captain Beddome's possession to the effect that Mr. Morison is unfit both in body and mind to attend any enquiry.

* To be returned.

2. I had hoped to have had Captain Beddome's assistance in the enquiry, but it seems that other duty, which is considered of more importance, calls him to Kurnool.

3. I am informed by Captain Beddome that he has suspended Mr. Webb, the Overseer. Government are aware of the control exercised by the Conservator over Mr. Morison. He has been uncontrolled for months, since he came to the District. The only information I received about the frauds of the Department, was from Mr. Webb. I know nothing of him except from his appearance before me in February last. Without his information, the frauds would be going on still unreported. He, I believe, is a man with a large family, and cannot live without his pay, which appears to have been embezzled by Mr. Morison. He honestly told me that he thought things were not going on correctly, and though he is to blame for issuing licenses at the verbal request of his official superior, yet it must be considered that he is an uneducated, illiterate Soldier, who cannot spell. His reward is, to be suspended. The Head of the Department instead of prosecuting his subordinates for embezzlement, has left the whole onus on the Collector, who has to be prosecutor, Police man, and Magistrate, a junction of functions uncontemplated by the law. Except the Head of the Department, I do not know who is the official prosecutor for departmental embezzlement. I have undertaken the *interim* protection of Government interests by the preliminary enquiry made by my Head Assistant, but I seek to be relieved from the incompatible functions of prosecutor and Magistrate, in matters connected with another Department. The Engineer Department, and Railway Department, prosecute their subordinates before the local Magistracy for departmental fraud. I do not know why the Forest Conservancy Department is to be an exception to the rule, all that is required of the Conservator is to lay a charge for which the evidence elicited is quite sufficient. That the investigation was not set on foot by the Department is no reason why the whole onus should be thrown upon the Collector, who has plenty of other work to attend to, and who has not the same advantages in judging of the misconduct of another department, as the Head of that Department has. Captain Beddome officially informs me that Mr. Morison is a confirmed drunkard, and that he does not know how he came to be appointed as Assistant Conservator. If so, it is not less his duty to prosecute him for fraud. If he is to be prosecuted, he should be prosecuted now, for, how the evidence of the payers for wood is to be secured at a future time, is a difficult question, and their evidence is essential to prove payment ; the accounts, or rather the non-receipt of the seignorage into the Treasury, together with their evidence proves embezzlement, but one evidence is not sufficient without the other.

4. Paragraph 4 of my Memorandum, to which Mr. McQuhae adverts, was a request that pending the absence of a Conservancy Officer, he would take charge of the local Forest Department until further orders.

5. The letters and reports already sent will have shown Government that there are good grounds for the prosecution of Mr. Morison. I only await the sanction of Government to request Mr. McQuhae to forward the charges and evidence to the Clerk of the Crown or to Government, if it be previously required.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Head Assistant Collector of Cuddapah, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, Madanapalli, dated on Circuit at Codoor, 9th May 1862, No. 15:—

SIR,

1. With reference to your Memorandum, dated 5th May, I have the honor to state that no License book or other record is to be found to show what licenses were issued by Mr. Morison previous to the 23rd December last, so that it is impossible to compare the seignorage due on licenses issued, with the sums received at the Treasury. If such a record was ever kept it has been destroyed. The residence and names of the persons who received licenses last year are unknown, and as far as I can see no means exists of proving what frauds existed last year. The reason of this is that none of the rules of the Forest Department has been attended to in this District. From the evidence of Mr. Morison's Peons it would appear that these fraud only began five months ago, when Mr. Morison returned from sick leave at Madras.

2. The accounts of the Deputy Collector do not distinguish sums paid in, on account of licenses by the Forest Department from sums collected on the same account by the Tahsíldárs. I have, therefore, ordered the Tahsíldárs to send in an account of the sums received by them from the Forest Department since the commencement of its operations in this District, and I shall prepare a Memorandum giving this information.

3. The License book found, only shows what licenses have been issued since the beginning of this year, and I have summoned all the license-holders whose names and residence could be correctly ascertained, and have taken depositions from all who have attended. The result up to the present time is that Mr. Morison himself seems to have received Rupees 860, and the writer James, Rupees 60, and none of this money has reached the Treasury. This amount is proved to have been paid by sworn evidence, but the License book found is undoubtedly correct, and from it Rupees 2,076 seem to have been collected by Mr. Morison this year, and no money whatever has been sent by Mr. Morison to the Treasury since the commencement of the year. Rupees 431-13-0 was received from the Forest Department in January, but this was paid in by Mr. Webb. I have already reported that a warrant has been issued, and I trust Mr. Morison's prosecution has received the sanction of Government. It appears from the evidence of Mr. Morison's Peons that the writer James signed Mr. Morison's name in his presence, and that the money collected in licenses was kept in Mr. Morison's desk and used as it was required. This Peon's evidence is to be received with caution, but it is corroborated in many points by the license-holders.

4. No other subordinate of the Forest Department appears to have granted licenses except the deceased writer James and the Overseer Mr. Webb. I have found very few of James licenses and no account of them exists. Mr. Webb appears to have paid into the Treasury all the sums collected by him with the exception of his own pay as already reported. At least he has paid in all other sums collected on licenses as far as can be ascertained from the License book.

5. Captain Beddome was here yesterday and has gone on to Kurnool finding no accounts or other records belonging to Mr. Morison from which he could discover anything. He has suspended Mr. Webb.

6. As Mr. Spring has taken Mr. Morison's place, I presume the instructions contained in paragraph 4 of your Memorandum need not be acted on.

7. MEMORANDUM.

	RS. A. P.	
Seignorage on licenses issued by Mr. Webb this year as appears from License book.	464 0 0	Remittances received from Mr. Webb, 4th January, Rupees 431-13-0. In this remittance Rupees 177 of the seignorage collected this year is included. The rest went to Mr. Webb's pay as already reported.
Seignorage on licenses issued by Mr. Morison this year as appears from the License book.	2,076 0 0	
Seignorage on licenses not entered in License book.	66 0 0	No remittance.
	2,142 0 0	

No. 355. ORDER THEREON, 19th May 1862, No. 1,105.

1. The Governor in Council has read these reports with much concern. They show that for months past the rules of the Forest Department have been systematically violated, and that considerable sums of money received for licenses have been embezzled.

2. The Governor in Council, under Section 167 of Act XXV of 1861, sanctions the prosecution of the Assistant Conservator Mr. R. Morison, of whose criminality sufficient evidence is stated to be forthcoming.

3. But such gross irregularities as this inquiry has brought to light cannot have been going on, as they have been, for months without being generally known to the members of the Department in the District; yet with the exception of Overseer Webb not one of the many persons, who must have been cognizant of Mr. Morison's malpractices appears to have given information of them. The Governor in Council considers it necessary, for the sake of public example, that such misconduct, amounting in fact to connivance, should be severely punished, and desires that every servant of the Department in Cuddapah, who was employed there while these irregularities were being perpetrated and did not give information of them be dismissed, and not re-employed without the sanction of Government. A list of the persons dismissed under this order will be submitted by the Acting Conservator.

4. Mr. Webb, as above stated, was the only Officer who gave information of Mr. Morison's misconduct, but this information was long withheld and ultimately given not so much from a sense of duty as because his pay was in arrears. Mr. Webb admits that on verbal instructions from Mr. Morison he paid himself and his Peons from the proceeds of licenses which he issued for this purpose and *which he did not enter in his books.* Mr. Webb must have known well enough that this was a gross violation of duty, and the Government consider it impossible to place further confidence in him. He will therefore be removed from the Department and not re-employed without sanction.

5. Mr. Morison will remain under suspension until further orders.

6. Mr. Spring can appear as prosecutor.

7. The Government consider that those persons who can prove payment of the sums due for their licenses should be permitted to remove their wood. The rules, it is true, enjoined payment into the Táluq Treasuries, but it would be hard to punish these persons so severely, because they paid their money to the Assistant Conservator instead of to the Tahsíldár; especially as they could not have been actuated by any fraudulent motive in disregarding the rules. The Government wish to know what checks are exercised over the issue of licenses, and whether expired licenses are sent either to the Collector or Conservator.

8. The Collector will, pending Captain Beddome's return from Kurnool, assume charge of the Conservancy Department and can retain Mr. Spring's services if necessary. Captain Beddome will, in communication with the Collector, report on the best mode of hereafter conserving the District, a duty which the Government think had better be committed to the Collector.

9. The papers above recorded will be forwarded to Major Morgan, who will report to Government how these irregularities escaped his notice for so long a time, and why he never visited the District.

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

No 65

To
The Conservator of Forests
Madras

Sir

I have the honor to
request that you will have the
goodness to procure me an
extension of leave, for two months
on my present state of health which
not allows me to attend to my
duties.
I beg leave to enclose a certificate
from Dr Chipley
attending me

I have the honor
to be Sir
Your most obedient Servt
Roderick Morison
Asst Conservator of Forests

Madras
August 23rd 61

Mr. Morrison's resignation
cannot be accepted until
the result of Captain
Beddome's enquiry into
his conduct is laid
before Govt. He may how-
ever be permitted to pro-
ceed to Madras on the
submission of the usual
Medical certificate.

The Govt. wish to
know whether Mr. Morrison
ever reported his inability
to perform the duties of
his office. It is quite clear
from his own letter that
since

since Jan.y 1st last he
has been unfit for duty
Captain Beddome
will recommend a
successor to Mr. Marisco

L. D. S.

To Capt. Beddome

11

Clerk, who is acquainted with the conservation
of Jungles in Temporary charge.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servt
W. Thwaites Asstt
Bot. Gardens & Museum

2nd May/62 No:61-62

Nov. 1862 Dept
Pro: of Govt for May
No. 1351.

From.

The Offg Conservator of
Forests

To. The Secretary to Govt
Revenue dept
Fort St George

C. C. No. 1105 19th May
Dated 5th May 1862
Rec 9th

Enclosure No 1

Submitting for the decision of
Govt certain allegations, made
by overseer Webb, against the
Asst Conservator of Cuddapah
Forests, about his despatch
misbehaviour.

Also enclosing a letter of
resignation from Dwr R. Morrison
intimating that he is physically
incapable of carrying on his duties
and recommending that an Asst
be appointed to the charge of the
Cuddapah Forests -

No 349.

Cuddapah R 12th

Note.

I have taken place the Mortis
Conduct in a very censured
light, and as he is in Mr
Lick, Capt Beddome cannot
in his enquiry, set his defence
& explanation -

An Assistant Conservator
is appointed & remark only
by pst., or that I conclude a
charge cannot be entertained
against Mr Morison without
the sanction of pst under Sect
167 of the Procedure Act XXV
of 1861 - I presume this sanction
may be granted at once, if
Capt Beddome sees suf-
-ficient cause for a cri-
-minal prosecution -

The Revenue Dept. in

2

Capt Chas Lee Jr. &c &c

Could what must have been cognizant of all these irregularities and a clear breach seems the appropriate remedy - but perhaps it would be well to get Capt Reed's report first - Major Myers also I think be required to explain his want of vigilance - Decision as soon as the case is complete.

J. D. S

Col Chester

Adjutant Genl

Cadwalader R 12 Nov

2

1862

Revenue Depart.
Pro: of Govt
From
The Collector of
Cuddapah
To The Secretary to Govt
In the Rev: Dept

Fort Saint George
Dated 7th
Rec'd 10 } May 1862
No. 12
Enclosures 9 / Five
Returned
Reporting the result to date of his Head Assistants
inquiries regarding the
Forest Conservancy Depart.
of Cuddapah with
Enclosures.
T. C. R. 1105

Copy of the Proc:
Omitted.

No 350.

C 12 May 62 R 13

R. 19 July 61 Nos 384-385-Mis.
13 Sept — 470-471 — do
2 May — 162 — 61-62.

Rev = 1862 Sept
From Pro: of Govt for Oct
No 1392.

The Offg. Comr. of Forests

To, The Secy. to Government
Rev. Department
Fort St. George

Dated 8th
Rec'd 13th May 1862.

No.

Encls. two

No.

I. O. No. 1105.

Reporting on the charges of Embezzlement preferred against Mr. Morison Asst Comr. of Forests Cundapah, and on the Cundapah Forests generally.

No 351.

Reported.

15

Madras 26th August 1861.

I, William Nathaniel Shipperfield, Ag Garrison Assistant Surgeon, Fort St George, do hereby certify that Mr. Roderic Morison, Sebastiany Assist. Conservator of Forests, is in a bad state of health, and I solemnly and sincerely declare that, according to the best of my judgment, a change of air is spiritually necessary to his recovery; and that the circumstances of his case are such as to render an extension of the leave of absence, granted to him on the 29th of June last, for a further period of two months absolutely necessary.

W. N. Shipperfield
Ag Garrison Assist Surgeon

Countersigned
By Inspector Genl of Hospitals

Rev Dept

No. 1105

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 19th May 1862
Read the following letters
From the Offg. Conservator of Forests | Here enter 5 May /62 – No. 4
From the Collector of Cuddapah | Here enter 7 May /62 No. 12
From the Offg. Conr. of Forests | Here enter 8 and 9 May
From the Collector of Cuddapah | Here enter 10 and 13 May No. 14–15

The [illegible] ... the Collector ... Mr. Webb ... the Coll ...

The [illegible] has read these reports with much concern. They shew that for months past the rules of the Forest Dept. have been systematically violated & that considerable sums of money received for licenses have been embezzled.

The [illegible] under Sect. 167 of Act XXV of 1861 sanctions the prosecution of the Asst. Conservator Mr. R. Morison, or

I think that it would be better to make a clean sweep of all employed. Mr. Webb can then be reappointed if thought advisable to some other district. I think the persons who have paid for licenses should be allowed to take the timber. but from henceforward some fresh regulations should specify as to the mode of payment.

WM

Wh

Elle

whose criminality sufficient evidence is stated to be forth-coming -

But the most irregularities as the Enquiry has brought to light cannot have been going on, as they have been, for months without being severely known to the members of the dept in the district - yet not one of the many persons who must have been cognizant of Mr Harris's mal-practices appears to have given information of them. The Ct considers it necessary

x with the Exception of Overseer Webb

for the sake of public example that such misconduct in fact amounting in fact to participation & connivance should be severely punished and desires that every servant of the dept in Calne who was employed in these irregularities here being perpetrated & did not give information of them be dismissed & not be employed in the future without the sanction of Bd. A list of the persons dismissed under this order is to be submitted by the Assistant Surveyor.

Mr Webb as above stated and the

only Officer who pro
information of Mr
Morison's misconduct.
But this information
was by no-means
& ultimately prevented
it to result from
a sense of duty as
he conceived his duty as
in arrears. Mr Webb
admits that
on receipt of instructions
from Mr Morison
he paid himself
& his men from
the proceeds of li-
cences which he issued
for this purpose &
which he did not
enter in his books.

Mr Webb must
have known well
enough that at this time
~~acting in~~
a most violation

of duty - and the
Jst. consider it im-
-possible to place
further
any confidence in
him - He will therefore
be removed from
the Dept. and not
employed without
sanction.

Mr Morison will
remain under Sus-
-pension until further
orders.

The Jst. consider
that those persons who
can prove payments
of the same fee for
their licences should
be permitted to re-
-new their work. The
Rules, it is true, en-
-join payment into
the Lock the statutes
but it would be hard

Should ask
Mr Webb for
an explanation of
his conduct & seek
the necessary sanction
in his Board of Re-
-venue proceed.
Geo Wills

Mr Spring can appear
as prosecutor.

Mr Colvin thinks strongly
to this - but is it not
infra dig for Jst to
refuse to admit pay-
-ments proved & have
been made? JDS

to punish the the persons so severely because they paid their money to the Collector instead of to the Tahsildar; especially as they could not have been actuated by any fraudulent motive, either in disregarding the rules.

The Collr. will, during Capt Beddome's return from Cuttack, assume charge of the Conservancy Dept. and can retain Mr Sprinji Services if necessary. Capt Beddome will communicate with the Collr. regarding the best mode of levying

The first point to know what checks are exercised over the issue of licenses - and whether the signed licenses are sent either to the Collr. or Conservator -

after endeavoring the District - a fact which Govt. Struck had to the he committed to the Collr.

The papers are recorded with be forwarded to Major Morgan who will be first to see the irregularities escaped his notice for so long a time & why he never visited the District.

S. D. S.

4th Copies To Revd Pdt Cuttack 20.
1 Collr Cuddapah
1 Capt Beddome Cuttack 19
4 Major Morgan
3 Copies to Civil Payr 22.

Encls Capt to Major Morgan 27 Inst.
do to Govt
2 Regl Encls returned to Collr of Cuddapah

Here then for
dispatch Colony
Read all the Letters
Read last Extract
Thursday 19/5

Cora 8

Revenue 1862 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt. for May.

No 1105.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
D/ 19 May 1862.

From Major Morgan 7/4 June/62
Encl. Copy & Extract of the order

Passing orders on certain papers relating to the charges of embezzlement &c preferred against Mr Morison, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Cuddapah, and on the Forests of that District generally.

29 F 69+
729/1/69+

No 349 at 355.