M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-28

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1409 — Press / Mis.

402-403

Dated 27 - 6 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th June 1862.

No. 402. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Financial Department, dated 23rd May 1862, No. 3,717.

Read the under-mentioned papers regarding the administration of the Forest Department:—

Letter to the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, No. 544, dated 20th January 1862.

Reply from ditto, No. 8,164, dated 7th February 1862.

Letter from ditto, No. 9,457, dated 31st March 1862.

Letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, No. 3, dated 12th February 1862, with enclosure.

Office Memorandum to the Foreign Department, No. 1,648, dated 11th March 1862.

Do. from ditto, No. 372, dated 20th March 1862.

Ditto from Public Works Department, No. 1,226, dated 29th March 1862.

Observations.—The Governor General in Council observes, that since the introduction of the present Budget system, the receipts and charges of the Forest Department having been exhibited by the several local Accountants under "Sayer," a subordinate head of I. Land Revenue, &c., on the receipt side, and of BI.1, Land Revenue, on the Expenditure side, the necessary Budget Grants for expenditure in the Forest Department during the year 1861-62 have been made under BI.1, Land Revenue. But from the classification of charges of the Public Works Department, it appears that Forests are also included in the Budget Estimate of that Department under the head "Agricultural."

To obviate any risk of double provision in the Budget Estimates for the charges of the Forest Department; to rectify existing defects of system in dealing with them; and to secure proper estimates and accounts of the receipts and charges of the Department, which under existing arrangements in the Punjab it has been found difficult to obtain, His Excellency in Council is pleased to direct that the Forest Department shall, as a rule, appertain to the Revenue Department of each Government and Administration, the accounts being rendered to the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General of the Government concerned, and all questions having a bearing upon the Public Works Department being referred for report or opinion to that Department before the issue of orders by any other Department of the Government of India. If, however, as in the Punjab, the local Administration considers it best to entrust the Executive Administration to the Public Works Department, the accounts and Audit should be kept in that Department, the necessary monthly returns being rendered to the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, for due exhibition in the Revenue Books.

His Excellency in Council further observes, generally, that if the Public Works Department are employed in certain exceptional cases as a matter of convenience, they should be looked upon as mere Contractors or Sub-Agents under the local Government, who remain responsible for having the work properly done and regularly accounted for in the Revenue Department as in any other branch of the Land Revenue.

The alternative would, His Excellency in Council remarks, be to transfer Forests entirely to the Public Works Department, but he does not think that that Department has the requisite staff available, or that it would work so well under that Department as under the Collectors of Revenue, except in rare and exceptional cases, as where timber has to be cut and transported from remote places where there are no Collectors near, and where the road for transport is the main point, and is under the charge of an Officer of the Public Works Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th June 1862.

COPY sent to—

The Foreign Department.
" Home ditto.
" Public Works ditto.
" Bengal Government.
" N. W. Provinces ditto.
" Punjab ditto.
" Madras ditto.
" Bombay ditto.
" British Burmah Chief Commissioner.
" Oude ditto.
" Central Provinces ditto.
" Berars ? Commissioner.
" Auditor General of India.
" Accountant General to the Government of India.
" Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, } Bengal, North-Western Provinces, Punjab, Madras,
" Civil Paymaster, } and Bombay.
" Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, Central Provinces, and Hyderabad.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) E. DRUMMOND,
Secretary to the Government of I.. ia.

No. 403.

ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1862, No. 1,409.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Acting Conservator of Forests for information.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

Rev: 1862 Despatches
Govt of India for June
No. 1759.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Govt of India in the Finance Department

Dated 23rd May 1862
Recd 19th June

No. 3717.

Forwarding observations on certain papers regarding the administration of the Forest Department.

No. 402 + 403.

No. 1409 - 27 June
Written order

No. 1409.

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Conservator of Forests for information.

First Dft. George
27th June 1862

14 Copies to the Govt of India
3 " Conservator

Dft. 28