M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1481 Press ~~Mis.~~

108-110

Dated 8-7- 1862.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th July* 1862.

No. 109. Read the following letter from Major H. R. MORGAN, late Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Kulhutty, 3rd June 1862 :—

SIR,

With letters. 1. In reply to the Order of Government No. 1,105 of 19th of May 1862, paragraph 9, I have the honor to report as follows :—

2. In paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter of 7th May 1862, No. 12, it is stated "that no Covenanted Officer has supervised Mr. Morison's proceedings," I do not know the meaning of this, I did supervise Mr. Morison's proceedings, as can be seen by my calling upon him for his accounts, &c. "Proper rules have not been brought into effect," I sent the Collector the Salem rules in January last, and requested him to let me know if they would do for Cuddapah, to this he replied that he could not tell until he had consulted with Mr. Morison. I never got any other answer from the Collector, so the onus of not introducing "proper rules" lies with him. "No receipts have been given by the Forest Department for "money collected," this is a vague charge, since when? I would ask. There was great difficulty in ascertaining the true financial results last year, as the Collector carried two thousand Rupees of Forest Revenue into Land Revenue, and thereby delayed the annual Report considerably.

3. If the Collector is unable to ascertain the "true financial results" it is the fault of his Tahsíldárs, as they are bound to forward to his Treasury duplicate receipts of all monies received on account of the Forest Department.

4. "The distant control of the Conservator has been a nullity." I protest against these sweeping assertions of the Collector. Mr. Morison was called upon to explain in January last, directly I heard his accounts were in arrears, the reason of their being so; directly a charge was made against Mr. Morison by Overseer Webb, I suspended him, and placed Mr. Spring in charge. I did every thing I could to control him.

8th May 1862, paragraph 3.
9th May 1862, No. 15, paragraph 1.

5. Captain Beddome assumes, that Mr. Morison's "embezzlement has gone on since he entered the Department." This is disproved by the Head Assistant's letter, "from the evidence of Mr. Morison's Peons, it would appear that the frauds only began five months ago." In paragraph 5 of his letter Captain Beddome states that Mr. Morison has been suffering from repeated attacks of "delirium tremens," the Medical Certificates ought to have specified this, but Dr. Chipperfield has omitted to mention it.

* Paragraph 7.

6. Captain Beddome states* that the Licenses should have been in a printed form, and that a monthly report should have been forwarded to the Office. "*None* of these orders have been attended to;" considering that at the time of writing this Captain Beddome had a dozen of Mr. Morison's monthly Reports in his office record box, I do not understand how he could have made such a statement to Government. As for printed Licenses, Mr. Morison had strict orders to issue them in the same form as the Salem Licenses, copy of which is appended.

7. In paragraph 8 Captain Beddome cannot understand why "month by month" for "such a long period all the orders of the Department have been allowed to be broken through." Here is an assumption, no orders or letters of mine of any kind are quoted, in fact Captain Beddome has evidently not perused any part of the correspondence from December 1860 to April 1862. In the same paragraph 8 Captain Beddome writes, "the Collector forwarded Departmental "complaints against Mr. Morison to Major Morgan some months back." Here I have just cause of complaint against Captain Beddome, he has led Government to believe that I paid no attention to the Collector's letter, he does not give the date of the letter nor of my reply.

No. 15 of 13th May, paragraph 3

8. The Collector in his letter assumes that without his information, alluding to Overseer Webb, "the frauds would be "going on still unreported." Captain Beddome was instructed by me to inquire into the state of the District months ago. Mr. Spring relieved Mr. Morison on the 20th of April, and yet the

Collector nearly a month afterwards reports to Government that the frauds would be still going on, if it were not for Mr. Webb. Again the Collector states Mr. Morison has been "uncontrolled "for months," this is refuted by the fact of my having called upon Mr. Morison to produce his accounts, directly it was reported they were in arrears.

9. Directly Mr. Webb made a criminal charge against Mr. Morison, I sent it to the Collector, as Magistrate, requesting him to direct an Assistant Magistrate to inquire into it. Mr. Webb was prosecutor or should have been bound over by the Magistrate to prosecute. The Collector is silent on this point. The investigation as far as a criminal charge goes was set on foot by the Department. Here the Collector abstains from quoting any of my letters in any of his to Government.

10. In January last the Assistant in charge of the office, reported to me demi-officially that Mr. Morison's accounts were in arrears; I immediatly called upon Mr. Morison to furnish his accounts, and explain the cause of delay; he excused himself on the plea, that whilst he was away sick, the Overseer had confused the accounts, and directly he could adjust them they should be furnished. I cannot give Government the dates of my letters, or their contents, as all the records are with Captain Beddome, and in reporting on the subject to Government he might have alluded to them, instead of passing them over in silence.

9th May 1862. 11. Captain Beddome in paragraph 11, assumes that no inquiry was ever made, my letters to Mr. Morison, copies of which were in possession of Captain Beddome at the time of writing this, show that inquiries were made.

8th May 1862. In paragraph 8 of his letter he vaguely alludes to Departmental complaints months ago, no dates of Collector's letters are given, nor

9th May 1862, No. 15. mine in reply, and yet the letters were with Captain Beddome at the time. From the Head Assistant's letter, "frauds only began five months ago" or in December, my letters will show that in January inquiries were set on foot, or within a month of the commencement of Mr. Morison's conduct.

No. 1,105, 19th May 1862. 12. Paragraph 3 of the Government Order shows that no information of the "gross irregularities" prevailing was ever given except by Overseer Webb and that only at a late date.

13. The Collector requested me to depute an Officer of my Department to inquire into Mr. Morison's conduct, I deputed my 1st Assistant, Captain Beddome, who would pass through Cuddapah on his road to Kurnool, I had no one else to depute.

14. When I suspended Mr. Morison I, at some inconvenience to myself, sent my Head Clerk to assume charge.

15. From the above explanations it will be seen that the irregularities complained of, only escaped my notice for a month.

16. The reason why I did not visit the District is as follows:—From May 1861 to May 1862, my time has been taken up in visiting more important localities. In May I visited Mudumalli and Segore Forests. In June, Salem, Hurrúr, South Arcot and Madras, in July the Anamallies, in August and September I was employed on the Neilgherries in visiting the different Sholahs and plantations, and in writing my annual Report. I was forced to take some rest, as I had contracted disease of the liver from visiting the Nellumbore Teak plantations in April, when I had been much exposed. In October I visited Madras. In November the Anamallies. In December the Chennut Nair Forest near Palghát, the Nellumbore Teak plantations and Calicut; I then returned to the Nellumbore Teak plantations where my presence was much required, and left in January when I visited Segore and Mudumalli Forests. In February and March I made a tour over the Wainád Forests where I was urgently required. At the end of March I returned to Madras, and remained there until the middle of April. At this time I might have visited Cuddapah, but I had my annual Report to write, and some important questions regarding waste lands had to be determined with the Collector of Coimbatore. Moreover I required some rest, I therefore proceeded to Ootacamund especially as Captain Beddome was every day expected, and had full instructions with regard to the inquiries to be instituted in Cuddapah. During the past year I have travelled about 4,000 miles and have been subjected to

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*8th July* 1862.

great exposure. As Conservator of Forests I had not only to institute the most searching inquiries and personally inspect every thing in the Forests I visited, but I had at the same time to prepare Budget Estimates, tabulated Statements, and carry on an extensive correspondence. If the Collector of Cuddapah had early in January expressed a wish to see me regarding the rules to be introduced into the Cuddapah District, I might, at some inconvenience to my other plans, have visited him, but as the Conservator is considered responsible for the Revenue, and cannot visit every Forest in the year, I left Cuddapah as the least important. During the principal irregularities in Cuddapah I was hundreds of miles away in the Wainád.

17. I trust from what I have advanced, Government will see that I have been fully occupied during the past year, that my labors have not been light, that what may have been lost in Revenue in Cuddapah has been more than made up elsewhere. As for Mr. Morison's moral qualities, I can hardly be held responsible for them; I did not recommend him for the appointment. I saw Mr. Morison at Madras last October, I had no reason to believe him a drunkard; in fact I considered him a weakly person and one who should hardly have been recommended for the post he occupied. I have further to explain that for a long time Mr. Morison was more the Collector's Assistant than mine; indeed, until I could visit the District and organize conservancy, I had directed him on all occasions to consult the Collector.

18. Should Government not be satisfied with the explanations afforded, I request that all copies of letters since October last both to the Collector and Mr. Morison, with replies, may be furnished me, I have no records and cannot trust entirely to my memory.

19. I must complain to Government of the manner in which both Captain Beddome and the Collector write, neither quote a single letter of mine, but both assume everything, from their letters it would appear that I had literally done nothing, that I had never addressed an order of any kind to Mr. Morison or ever called upon him to produce his accounts or explain his conduct; that I had taken no notice of Overseer Webb's charges, that I had not written to the Collector as Magistrate to inquire into a criminal charge made by Overseer Webb against Mr. Morison.

20. As for the failure of conservation in Cuddapah, I sent the Salem rules to the Collector, and he gave no answer, I could not introduce them without the Collector approving.

21. I need hardly bring to the notice of Government, that every Assistant was new to his work, and that it required great attention on my part to prevent a general falling off in the Revenue.

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No. 110. ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1862, No. 1,481.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,

*Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.*

# PASSPORT.

IT THE TIMBERS AS HEREIN SPECIFIED TO BE CUT IN THE FORESTS OF SALEM.

| To whom granted and residence. | Quantity and quality of Timbers. | On what laden. | | | | Whither going. | Time given. | No. of axes and the name of Jungle. | No. of sleepers. | Date on which time expires & on or before which this licence is to be returned. | Tannahs by which the bandies must pass. | Limits within which it is to be cut. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Bandies. | No. of double Bullocks. | No. of single Bullocks. | Coolies. | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Assistant Conservator.

## ராதாரி.

இதனடியில் கண்ட மரக்களே சேலம் ஜில்லா காடுகளில் வெட்டுவதற்கு உத்திரவு கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது

| ரேஞ்சரின் லக்கம். | கொடுத்ததேதி. | ஆருக்குகொடுத்தது | வெட்டத்தக்க மரங்களின் மொத்தமும் கூறும். | எழில்பேரில் ஏற்றுமதி. | | | எங்கேபோகிறது. | வாதிதர. | கோடாலிகளின் லக்கம் மரங்கள் வெட்டப்பட்ட இடம். | கிடைத்தகளின் லக்கம். | வாட்டாருடையாதுதேதிபட்டுத்தர சாரியாயிருக்கிறபடி மரங்கள் டோக்கோடு மாற்கங்களிலிருந்து குடுத்தனுப்பின தேதி. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | வண்டிகள். | 2-ருது சகடை. ஒத்தை ருது சகடை. | தலேகனம். | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

Assistant Conservator.

Rec'd 19th May 62 No. 347
953

Jamaica
8th July 1861

Governor Eyre
Reports
Proceedings of Court
Nov. 1861
Case of
Wm. Morgan
Esq. late Offg. Custos
&
J. D. Sterling Esquire
Secretary & Lord

Dated 4th June 1862
Rec'd 7th

No
Enclosure
Will and Order
Reports to Government
that the irregularities
complained of in Coddrington
did not escape his
notice, and gives
reasons why he did
not visit the District.
And complains of the
Collector and Attorney
Generals taking no
notice of his letter.
For Orders

No 109 & 110.

Answered 16th

Mr. Morgan
explains
irregularities
in
Coddrington
which
escaped the Dis-
cernment of
his predecessor
Mr. Morrison
when
he visited the Dis-
trict
&
states that
he
wrote
to
the
Secretary.
Custos
&
Attorney
General
on the
subject
but
received
no
answer
from
either
of them.
Mr. Morgan
has
been
absent
from
the
Island
on
leave
since
the
month
of
March
last.
It was
surely
his
duty
at once