M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2015 Press Mis.

331.332

Dated 17. 9. 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 17th September 1862.

No. 331. 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 Mudumalai Forests, 28th August 1862, No. 170:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that I have inspected the Mudumalai forests at present rented from the Nellumbúr Rajah, and of which the lease expires next March.

2. All the Teak of any size has been felled or will be so before the expiration of the lease.

3. I would however strongly recommend that a fresh lease be taken of this forest for the following reasons:—

(1.) Though all the ripe Teak may be said to have been felled there is abundance coming on, which in future years will be of great value for the supply of the Neilgherry Hills.

(2.) There is a large supply of Vengay (Pterocarpus Marsupium), Karà Mardáh (Terminalia Tomentosa) and Blackwood (Dalbergia Latifolia) in these forests, which as they were not included in the contract with the Rajah have not as yet been felled.

(3.) A cart road has been constructed from the Karkhana to Nardee a distance of ten miles, a second road to Cacanulla seven miles and a third to Tippacadú 8 miles, and a fourth to Gogohulla; a Karkhana and other buildings have been erected in the forest including a packagranary a long narrow swamp which divides the forests into two parts has been dammed, and thereby a fine tank has been made, and a good road formed through the swamp; if Government give up the forests all these improvements are lost.

(4.) If Government do not renew the lease of this forest, it will probably be rented in small portions to private individuals, and all the fine young teak will be destroyed by Takkul for cultivation, &c.

(5.) At the most easternly point of the Wainád belt of forest (now under Captain Gib) there is some very fine teak as yet unworked, this forest is close to the Gulú hill and adjoins the Mudumalai forests. I propose working this for the supply of the Neilgherry Hills, the timber must necessarily come through the Mudumalai forests, if therefore Government give up the lease of this forest, we may lose the right of way through it and the roads may be cut up and destroyed.

(6.) The Neilgherries, where there is sure to be a continual and increasing demand for timber, must look to this side for their supply of timber. Tippacadú one end of the Mudumallai forests is only 22½ miles from Ootacamund, and the carriage of timber from that point to Ootacamund is only five Annas per cubic foot.

4. If Government renew the lease of this forest it should be for ninty-nine years, a short lease would not of course pay. The contract at present is for Teak only and Government pay annually Rupees 2,300, the renewed contract should include all timbers and I think 3,000 Rupees per annum would be a fair sum, the sale of Blackwood, Vengay and Karà Mardáh on stump fee would about cover this, and Government could conserve the Teak; or the forest might be leased from the Rajah on stump fee contract, as the Anamallais are, 5 Rupees for Teak, 4 Rupees for Blackwood, and 1 Rupee for jungle wood. The Collector of Malabar would of course make the contract with the Rajah.

No. 332. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1862, No. 2,015.

1. The Collector will ascertain and report at an early date on what terms the proprietor will be prepared to grant the Government a lease of the Mudumalai forest for ninty-nine years.

2. The Government are not inclined to favor the proposal for a stump fee contract.

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

Pro: 19 February /56 No. 42. 43.
25 April /62 " 894

Copy in a Letter to England
d/16th March No. 26 of 63

8-5-94
1-12-96
2-7-11

No. 331 + 332.

Rev. 1862 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. for Septr.
From No. 2529.

The Offg Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Dept.
Fort St. George

Dated 28th August 1862
Rec'd 5th Septr.
From Collector of Malabar
d/2d Feby /63 No. 170 Ex. 326.

Enclosure None

Reports upon the renewal of the lease of Mudumallai Forests.

No. 2015 - 17 Septr

With an Order

No. 2015

The Collector ~~should~~ will ascertain and report at an early date on what terms the ~~Raja~~ proprietor will be prepared to grant the govt. a lease of the Mudumalai forests for 99 years.

The Government are not inclined to favor the proposal for a ~~Stamp~~ stump fee contract.

Fort St. George
17th Septr. 1862

4 Copies to the Consr. of Forests Desptr.
14 — Bd. of Revl.
1 — Collr. of Malabar

C 12 Sept /62 R 15