M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2426 Press ~~Mis.~~

193-194

Dated 17—a—1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 193. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp Nellambúr, 18th October 1862, No. 217 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that I have inspected the Teak plantations at Nellambúr.

2. I am sorry to state that all the plantations from 1843 to 1853 are falling back from want of proper thinning. The trees are still so crowded that only the tops of a small portion have any chance of reaching the light, they therefore cannot furnish out a good head to give strength and vigor of growth to the trunk; where however the trees have been able to reach the light they have furnished out head branches and have a good sized healthy trunk yearly increasing in growth. The most thinned portions of these plantations still require one tree in every five to be removed; other portions one in four and in some portions one in three. I cannot write too strongly upon the importance of immediate attention to this subject, and request that Government will sanction an extra grant of 150 Rupees per mensem (in addition to the 150 sanctioned by Government in their Order No. 2,079 of the 24th September 1862), for the remaining six months of this official year. I have no hesitation in stating that these plantations will deteriorate in value annually many thousands of Rupees if vigorous thinning is not now put into force, and rather than it should not be so I would advise all fresh planting to cease. I can make arrangement to meet this extra grant of 900 Rupees from some other item in the Budget.

3. The plantations of 1854, 1855 and 1856 now require thinning; 25,000 saplings are marked for removal from the plantations of 1854, and the plantations of 1855 and 1856 require it in a less degree. These plantations have not arrived at an age to have fallen back from want of thinning and the plantation of 1854 is as fine looking as many portions of 1844, this shows how much a plantation can fall off for want of a proper system of thinning.

4. In the last few years planting has greatly fallen off, I therefore would not recommend that it be discontinued in 1863-64, or the income of the plantations would suffer for it in future years.

5. In the remaining portion of the present year and during 1863-64, we should thin out from the plantations of the years 1843 to 1853, at the very least 1,60,000 saplings, at the rate the last saplings were sold at these would realize 40,000 Rupees. In 1864-65 another 1,50,000 shall be thinned out.

6. Pruning requires much attention; the greater portion of the plantations have hitherto been allowed to prune themselves; the young off shoots and branches dying off instead of being pruned is of course very injurious to the growth of the timber. Pruning chisels and other tools are most necessary, the former I propose ordering from England.

7. Weeding and clearing are a yearly increasing expense. Some portions of the plantation are so overgrown with jungle as to be almost impenetrable.

8. Mr. Ferguson, a trained Forester, has been nominated to the charge of these plantations, and has lately been at work here, though Chatu Menon, the Native Conservator, is still in charge, as he has not yet received the orders for his pension. Mr. Ferguson was nominated as an Overseer on Rupees 80 per mensem, this sum is not sufficient for him to live on, and he has just tendered his resignation. Mr. Ferguson has had eight or ten years' training as a Forester in Scotland, and thoroughly understands the work, and if he is put in charge of these plantations Government may rest assured that they will receive that practical treatment which they have hitherto so much stood in need of.

9. I propose that Mr. Ferguson should be made a Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests upon a salary of Rupees 150 per mensem, and a consolidated travelling allowance of 30 Rupees, making a total of 180 Rupees, which is the same as the pay of the Officers of that grade in charge of the Cuddapah and Kurnool Districts.

10. We have superb Irool (Tuga Xylocarpa) forests on portions of our leased lands on the hills about 7 or 8 miles north-east of Nellambúr, which I have just inspected with Mr. Ferguson;

we have also abundance of Mardah (Terminalia), and a considerable quantity of Ven Teak (Lagerstrœmia Microcarpa) and a small supply of Blackwood and natural Teak. I propose that Mr. Ferguson should have the working of all these forests in addition to the charge of the plantation. We have lately been selling Ven Teak at 5 Rupees per tree stump fee, this is a great sacrifice, some trees contain 60 and 80 cubic feet of timber, and Ven Teak is selling at Calicut at 12 Annas a cubic foot, and our trees are close to the banks of a fine navigable river which runs to Calicut. I propose that in future we fell ourselves and float our timber down to Calicut, and that we establish a timber yard and depôt there. The saplings thinned out last year fetched about 4 Annas each all round, they were put up at auction in Calicut while they were lying in the plantations at Nellambúr. I am quite sure that if we floated them ourselves to Calicut we should sell them at a great advantage probably 100 per cent. profit, viz., 8 Annas each, instead of 4 Annas, this would make 40,000 Rupees difference from what I propose should be felled within the next eighteen months (vide paragraph 5), I have seen some of our finest saplings selling at 12 and 13 Rupees each on the Coast. Last year we felled 153 natural Teak trees containing 4,800 cubic feet, this has just been sold by the Collector at Calicut in the same way as the saplings, it fetched 4,130 Rupees, *i.e.*, less than 1 Rupee per cubic foot, this timber is worth nearly 2 Rupees per cubic foot at Calicut. At present the wood merchants are the gainers, it will be different however if we have a depôt at Calicut. I have mentioned all this to show Government what we should gain by having a practical man like Mr. Ferguson in charge.

11. Mr. Ferguson should work under the orders of the Collector of Malabar. Both the Collector and Mr. MacGregor, the Head Assistant Collector take great interest in the plantations.

12. The Collector has proposed that 1,000 Rupees be included in the estimate for 1863-64 for surveying and plotting the boundaries of the tracts leased to Government, I consider this very important.

13. There is one point that should be immediately settled by the Collector, that is what stump fee we are to pay upon jungle timbers. In the lease drawn up by Mr. Conolly it is stated that we are to pay 1 Rupee stump fee for every Teak, Blackwood, White Cedar or Poon Spar tree; the seigniorage to be paid for jungle timber is not specified. In the last few years several of the jungle timbers have become of much importance in the market, the most important of these growing on our leased lands are Irool, Ven Teak, Karamardah, Pillamardah, and Poomardah. We have sold a considerable quantity of Ven Teak to merchants at 5 Rupees per tree, the Tricaloor temple authorities from whom Government have leased the plantation land laid claim to one-half of this amount, and I am given to understand that Mr. Grant, the late Collector, paid 2-8 upon each tree. The Forest Department are now going to fell the jungle timbers in lieu of selling them on stump fee, and I am given to understand that the temple authorities will claim one-half of the sale proceeds, this would be a preposterous demand. At the time of making the agreement it was certainly not intended that they should be taxed more than 1 Rupee per tree as that was all that was fixed for Teak and Blackwood.

14. Although the plantations have labored under great disadvantages in never having had a practical Forester in charge of them, their success is wonderful, the revenue that it will accrue from them in future years will be enormous. Every effort should be made to extend them.

No. 194. ORDER THEREON, 17th November 1862, No. 2,426.

1. This is a report from the Officiating Conservator of Forests on the Teak plantations at Nellambúr.

2. In paragraph 2, Captain Beddome states that the plantations from 1843 to 1853 urgently need thinning, for which purpose he requests sanction for a sum of Rupees 900 for the current official year in addition to that sanctioned in the Order of Government of 24th September 1862, No. 2,079. The Governor in Council sanctions the extra grant applied for on Captain Beddome's assurance that it can be met out of the Budget.

3. Due provision should be made in the Budget of 1863-64 for the planting and thinning operations proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 to be carried out during that year.

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

4. On the recommendation of the Acting Conservator the Governor in Council resolves to appoint Mr. Ferguson to be a Sub-Assistant Conservator on a salary of Rupees 150 per mensem with travelling allowance at the rate of Rupees 30 per mensem. Captain Beddome will state how the increased charge involved by the arrangement is to be met. A Tabular Statement showing the sanctioned establishment for the plantation and the change now proposed should also be submitted. Mr. Ferguson will work under the orders of the Collector of Malabar.

5. The proposal (paragraph 10) for the establishment of a timber yard and depôt at Calicut should be re-submitted to Government when the Forest Department is prepared to carry out the project, and information should at the same time be furnished as to the agency and outlay requisite for the purpose, and other necessary particulars.

6. The proposal in paragraph 12 to enter a sum of Rupees 1,000 in the Budget of 1863-64 for surveying and plotting the boundaries of the tracts therein referred to is approved.

7. The question of the stump fee to be paid for jungle timber, noticed in paragraph 13, will be referred to the Collector of Malabar for his report. The Governor in Council will also be glad to receive any observations which the Collector may wish to offer on the other suggestions made by Captain Beddome in the present letter.

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

Revenue Department

No. 2426

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 17th Novr 1862.

Read the following letter from the Offg Conservator of Forests

Reports upon the Teak plantations at Nellumbur. } (Recd under 18th Octr 1862 No 217)

1. This is a Report from the Offg Conservator of Forests on the Teak Plantations at Nellambúr.

2. In para 2, Captain Beddome states that the Plantations from 1843 to 1852 urgently need thinning, for which purpose he requests sanction for a sum of Rs. 900 for the current official year in addition to that sanctioned in the Order of Govt of 24 Septr 1862 No 2079. The Govr in Ct

sanctions

Took handbetter the 18th by Indent MD

JJ

sanctions the extra grant applied for in Captain Beddome's assurance that it can be met out of the Budget.

3 Due provision should be made in the Budget of 863/64 for the planting and thinning operations proposed in paras 4 and 5 to be carried out during that year.

4 Captain Beddome ~~in~~ if ~~any~~ ~~case~~ ~~and report~~ ~~progress in this matter with~~ ~~whether the Planting Chiefs~~ ~~proper qualifications~~ referred to in para 6. are procurable or not in the Country. if not he should submit an Estimate of the probable cost of these tools.

5. ~~The Government should~~ ~~consider the proposal in~~ para 9 for the appointment of ~~the Superintendent~~ ~~Assistant Conservator~~ ~~Captain Beddome will frame~~ ~~being supposed as to how~~

to

× for Inspectors with work under the orders of the (illegible) Inhabitants.

to the remuneration of the Assistant Conservator the Government Council under the Inspectors for Inspectors & the Sub-Assistant Conservators as a salary of Rs 150 per mensem with travelling allowance at the rate of Rs 30 per mensem.

the proposed charge which by the arrangement will be met by Subsidiary Statement showing the sanctioned Establishment for the Plantation and the changes now proposed should also be submitted.

6. The proposal (para 10) for the establishment of a Timber Yard and Depôt at Calicut should be recommended to Govt. by the Forest Department &c. prepared to carry out the project. And information should at the same time be furnished as to the annual outlay requisite for the purpose, and other necessary particulars.

7. The proposal in para 12 to enter a sum of Rs 1000 in the Budget of 863/64 for surveying and plotting the boundaries of the tracts referred to in terms

to

is approved

8. The question of the stumpage fee to be paid for jungle timber noticed in para 13 will be referred to the Collector of Malabar for his report. The Govt will also be glad to receive any observations which the Collector may wish to offer on the other suggestions made by Captain Beddome in the present letter.

4 Copies To the Comr of Forests & Dept Rs
1 " Collr of Malabar
4 " Bds of Revt
3 " Accts Genl
3 " Civil Paymasters

15/11/12

C5 HW/52 Rs

Copy in a Letter to Govt
Dy 18th November 1862 No 83

Revenue 1862 Dec 11th
Proc: of Govt for Nov:

No 2436.

10-1-13 ✓
30-10-15
24-6-17 ✓

Proc: of the Madras Govt
Dy 17th Nov: 1862.

Proc. No. 460-461
24-9-62

From Dy Conservator
of Forests Dy 25 Nov: 62
C No 3299 ni

" 163
1-5-62

From Collr of Malabar
Dy 29 April 63 C No 1042

" 215-216
13-3-62

Forest Conservator's report on the Teak plantation at Nellum-boor, with orders thereon

No 193 & 194.

From Dy Conservator of Forests
Dy 12th Augt 63 & Cd 1923.