M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 626	Press ~~Mis.~~
350. 354	
Dated 20-3-1862.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th March 1862.

No. 350. Read the following letter from Captain H. R. MORGAN, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp Kakencottah, 4th March 1862, No. 834:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will be good enough to bring to the notice of Government the state of the Hoonsoor Forest in Mysore.

2. It appears that in the year 1800 this forest was made over to the Commissariat Department for the Gun Carriage Manufactory then existing at Seringapatam.

3. In this valuable Teak forest, I cannot learn that any Conservancy has ever been attempted. I would, therefore, suggest that it be placed and worked under my orders, and that the Commissariat enter the market, and purchase their timber in the same manner as the Department of Public Works.

4. It appears on inquiry that no less than 4,000 teak saplings were cut for Telegraph posts, that the system of felling pursued is one of reckless waste, trees of 36 feet have their ends, some 20 feet long, cut off, and left to rot. I have myself seen some 40 trees cut down and the ends, averaging 12 cubic feet of good timber, left on the ground.

5. The system of "Takkal" or temporary clearing has been largely practised in this forest, hundreds of acres of valuable teak cut down and destroyed.

6. The Manager of the forest has not been into it for the last 30 years, he is more than 70 years of age, and quite incapable of looking after the forest.

7. Captain Hunter has reported that there is a plantation of teak trees formed by the Commissariat, it consists of 70 young trees, and cost 90 Rupees, or at the rate of twenty times the cost of a like number of trees in the Nellumboor teak plantations.

8. I propose that the belt of teak forest in Wainád which averages six miles in breadth, and 30 miles in length, and extends from Nellacottah on the east to Brahmagherry on the west, with the Hoonsoor forest which averages 130 square miles, and is bounded by the Gumchee on the east and the Cubbany on the west, be placed under the charge and worked by an Assistant on a salary of Rupees 700 per mensem.

9. The Establishment may be of the same strength as that on the Anamallies. The probable expenditure for the Establishment would be 12,000 Rupees annually, working charges 10,000 Rupees, total 22,000 Rupees, the returns would amount to at least 40,000 Rupees a year, or a clear profit of 18,000 Rupees.

10. From what I can learn it appears that the Commissariat gave a contract to certain parties to cut 700 teak trees, the Contractor to have as a perquisite all wood over 20 feet in length, from what I saw in the forest it was clear to me, that the Contractors had left all over 20 feet on the ground, and had helped themselves to entire trees as a perquisite, indeed a case is now pending where the Contractors had a contract for 700 logs, and are accused of having stolen 2,000 logs.

11. On sending for the Manager to inquire into the working of this forest, I received for answer, that neither the Manager or any one else was present.

12. In the event of these forests being worked by me, it will be necessary for the Mysore Government to have an Assistant of their own.

No. 351. ORDER THEREON, 20th March 1862, No. 626.

As the forest in question is said to be under the management of the Commissariat, the Acting Conservator's letter will be transferred to the Military Department for consideration.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

amount to at least 40,000 Rupees a year, or a clear profit of 15,000 Rupees.

10. From what I can learn it appears that the Commissariat gave a Contract to certain parties to cut 700 Teak trees the Contractor to have as a perquisite all wood over 20 feet in length. From what I saw in the Forest it was clear to me, that the Contractors had left all over 20 feet on the ground and had helped themselves to entire trees as a perquisite, indeed a case is now pending where the Contractors had a Contract for 700 logs and are accused of having stolen 2000 logs.

11. On sending for the Manager -quire into the working of this Forest I received for answer, that none of the Manager or any one else was present.

12. In the event of these Forests being worked by me, it will be necessary for the Mysore Government to have an Assistant of their own.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servt.
R. Nelson Captain
Off. Conservator of Forests.

Rev. 1862. Dept.

Pro. of Govt. for Forests
No. 675.

The Offg. Commr. of Forests
To
The Secretary to Govt.
in
Revenue Dept.
Fort St. George.

Dated 4th
Rec'd 10th
No. 636 — 1862. March.

No. 834.

Brings to the notice of Government the extent of the Wynaad and Hoonsoor Forests and the great waste of Teak and want of Conservancy in the latter. Recommends an assistant to be appointed to work and conserve both and that the Hoonsoor Commissariat Forests in Mysore be at once placed under the orders of the Conservator of Forests.

Pro. of Mily. Dept.
D/ 30 May /62 Encl
1862

Dr. 626.

as the Forest in question is said to be under the Management of the Commissariat, the Conservatorship will be transferred to the Military Dept. for consideration.

Fort St. George
20th March /62

I have &c
(Sd) J. D. S.
for Chief Secy to the Govt.
Conservator of Forests.