M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-23

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 942 Press Mis.

20. 21

Dated 1 - 5 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st May 1862.

Read the following letters:—

No. 20. From Captain H. R. MORGAN, Acting Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Manantoddy, 8th March 1862, No. 842.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request you will bring to the notice of Government, the following case for their decision.

2. Captain Brine made a contract with one Chinna Rowten for the delivery of five hundred Dockyard planks in the end of the season of 1861 at the Colungode Numbody's slip, distant some thirteen miles from Anamallai village, the Contractor was to receive one Rupee per cubic foot Dockyard measurement.

3. This contract differed from all previous contracts, planks being paid for at the rate of 6 Rupees for a first class plank, and not by the cubical contents.

4. Captain Brine entered into the contract without consulting me. The contract was not drawn up in the form given in the Manual; further I did not approve of the contract, as I considered the rate high, and it was the duty of the Assistant to cut his own planks and engage his axemen. As advances had been made by Captain Brine I did not stop the contract, but confined myself to forbidding any more contracts of the like nature.

5. In the end of November 1861 the Contractor reported to me that 300 planks were ready for measurement, I directed Lieutenant Ouchterlony to personally supervise the measurement when all the planks were at the place of delivery.

6. About the 20th of December the Contractor reported to Lieutenant Ouchterlony, that the planks were ready for measurement; but that Officer was unable to proceed, as he expected to be relieved at Anamallai on the 23rd by Captain Brine, and it was his intention to proceed to the place with Captain Brine and hand over the planks to him.

7. Captain Brine did not proceed further than Coimbatore, and there falling sick, requested Lieutenant Ouchterlony to meet him at the place, and give over charge, this was done.

8. In January Captain Brine proceeded to Ponani, to hand over the timber to the Bombay Agent, on his return he should have measured and reported upon the Contractor's planks, this he failed to do, but sent his Overseer to measure and report upon them.

9. Finding that Captain Brine had disobeyed my orders, and as it was absolutely necessary that the measurements should be checked prior to payment, and also the time for carting the planks to the banks of the river having arrived, I directed Captain Brine to proceed forthwith to the spot, check the Overseer's measurements and report upon the planks, this Captain Brine has failed to do; he also declines to be responsible for any loss that may accrue to Government by wrong measurements on the part of the Overseer.

10. The planks passed last year averaged but 13 cubic feet, the Contractor's planks according to the Overseer's measurement actually average 23 cubic feet, if the Dockyard Agent only allows us 13 cubic feet per plank, Dockyard measurement, then we shall have paid on five hundred planks Rupees (5,000) five thousand in excess; and Government loses that amount. Captain Brine has not reported if he has paid the Contractor in full.

11. It is in vain that I have on various occasions pointed out to Captain Brine the necessity of personal supervision, I am met by excuses about fever and vague assertions as to what others should have done.

12. As Captain Brine's state of health is so bad, that it will not allow of his exposing himself to the jungles for even three days, and as he declines to be responsible for any loss that may accrue to Government, I can only recommend that he be removed, and another Officer appointed, who is both able and willing to perform the duty.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st May 1862.

No. 21. From Major H. R. MORGAN, Officiating Conservator of Forests; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 31st March 1862, No. 876.

SIR,

In reply to your Official Memorandum No. 54, I have the honor to inform you that the healthy working season in the Anamallai Forests begins in July and ends in November, and that the Superintendent should remain on the Anamallais from July to November. In the unhealthy months, viz., from December to June the Superintendent's time should be passed as follows :—

I. In December he remains in the village of Anamallai and inspects the slipping and carting of the timber.

II. In January the carting work being well advanced he proceeds to Ponani to hand over the planks to the Dockyard Agent, it was at this time he ought to have inspected and measured the Contractor's planks at the Colungode slip, thirteen miles from the village of Anamallai.

III. In February and March he remains at Coimbatore to adjust his accounts with the Collector.

IV. In April and May he recruits his health on the Neilgherries.

V. In June he proceeds to Palghat and Colungode to collect axemen for working the Forests.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1862, No. 942.

As it appears from Major Morgan's second letter that the Forest is unhealthy at this season, the Government will not require Captain Brine to proceed now to the Colungode slip to measure the planks in question. Seeing however that he ought to have done this on his way to Ponani in January last, he must be held answerable for his Overseer's measurements.

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

Coimbatore
Asst. Conservs Office
28th February 1862.

No. 192.

From

Captain J. J. Brine
Asst. Conservr of Forests

To,

Captain H. R. Morgan
Offg. Conservr of Forests

Sir,

1 I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 815 of the 30th Instant directing me to proceed forthwith to the Slip and inspect the Planks prepared by the Contractor Chinna Row Thew.

2 In my letter No. 1115 dated 28th December 1861 Para 5 I have done myself the honor to submit my opinion that these Planks should have been measured by my locum tenens Lieut. Auchterlony, so as to avoid the delay of measuring till my arrival: and the Consequent non payment of their cost of cutting to the Contractor. I further stated that the duty of measuring planks was usually undertaken by the Overseer. If it was absolutely necessary that these Planks should be measured by the Officer in charge Mr. Auchterlony was I trust

Competent to perform this duty, if not I imagine he would not have been appointed to act for me.

3. In my demi official letter of the 16th December 1861 I informed you how severely myself and Establishment had suffered from illness owing to a too protracted residence in Anamallay.

Owing to this illness I was prevented from carrying on the Forest duties during the period when my presence in the Forest is most needed; being compelled much against my wishes to take 6 Months Sick Leave. I thereby lost the opportunity of working out the Estimate I had framed for the year now nearly passed. I have done my utmost to recover my health; and have succeeded in conquering the fever I so long suffered from.

At present and until heavy rain has fallen the Anamallay Forests and its vicinity is notorious for the virulent character of its Malaria; may therefore permit me to ask, will you persist in your determination to send me to such an unhealthy spot a residence of only a few days in which this period is sufficient to

to place a man on the Sick List for Months and would doubtless prevent me from returning to the Forest this season. The duty you have requested me to perform permit me to remark is hardly Commensurate with the risk to be run; and I therefore hope and request that after this explanation you will not consider it necessary to adhere to the instructions conveyed in your letter under reply; more especially as it is not customary to order the Officer in Charge of the Anamallay Forest to perform such a duty at this time of the year for reasons above stated.

Should you however still be indisposed to accede to my wishes in this respect, I shall deem it my duty to bring the circumstances of the case to the notice of the Government; feeling confident that they would not require me to undertake this duty at so great a risk to my health; with the almost certain consequence of my being incapacitated from carrying on the duties of the Forest, when the Season arrives for to keep up my residence in it.

I

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most obedient Servant
J. J. Brine Captain
Asst. Const. of Forests

P. S.
In the concluding Para of my letter No 182 of the 15th Instant I requested to be informed on what particular points you require a Special report on Shimaranthu Planks; but have as yet received no reply.

Coimbatore
Asst. Const's Office
28th February 1862.

No. 194

From

Captain J. J. Brine
Asst. Const. of Forests

To,

Captain H. R. Morgan
Offg. Const. of Forests

Sir,

In reply to the 3rd para of your letter No. 815 of the 20th Instant in which you hold me responsible should the Sookyan Agent's measurements prove less than my own; I most respectfully decline to be so responsible for the following reasons.

1st The Original Contract does not state that these Planks were to be any particular measurement, but merely that they were to be 1st, 2nd and 3rd class and other timber. 2nd & 3rd That these planks were cut at a time when I exercised no control whatever over the Forest; as they were cut and delivered a Considerable period before I resumed charge they should have been measured by the Officer, who was responsible for them, and who could from being on the spot, have rejected during

during or after their cutting any planks
not up to the Standard.

2. Adverting to para 6 of your letter under
reply; permit me to remark that the cause
of the discrepancy in the size of the Planks
cut by a Contractor, as compared with those
cut by my Establishment; could have been
easily ascertained by you from Lieut.
Ouchterlony when you were with him
and inspecting these very planks. I do
not see that I can offer any other explan-
ation further than that the Contractor
has cut some superior planks and that
their being of such an extra size was more
owing I believe to a private understanding
between the two Contractors, for as you are
doubtless aware there were two; though only
one was mentioned in the Contract. The
Officer in charge had nothing to do with
this; he had only to see that the planks
were of the classes mentioned in the
Contract. In cutting planks I have hitherto
adhered to the dimensions of those cut
by my predecessors. If you wish any
alteration in this respect I request you
will be good enough to mention it

3. In reply to your 6th para I beg to State
that the Sling Cart therein mentioned is in
use; and I am awaiting to see the result
of a Months work with it before reporting
on its performance.

4. With reference to your 7th para I have
the honor to acquaint you that I have
advertised the vacancies of Goomastah
and Duffadar in the District Gazette,
but I fear some time may elapse before
I can fill them up; Service in the Anamalle
Forest being so unpopular here.

I take this opportunity of stating
that the Peon Stationed at Mungaray
only receives 4 Rupees a Month, which
I consider to be insufficient, and to request
it may be increased to 5 or even 6 Rupees.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
Captain
J. Brine
Asst. Conservator of Forests.

1862. Dec 12

Enclosure No 2.

In a letter from the Offg
Const: of Forests No 842 of
8th March 1862.

Rec'd 7/8/62

No 194.

From

Capt: I. I. Bruce
Asst: Const: of Brownsallar

To

Capt: H. R. Morgan.
Offg. Const: of Forests

1st May 62

Dec 12 62

Rev = 1862
Rec'd from Govt for Revy Dept.
No 793.

From,

The Officiating Conservr.
of Forests

To,

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

Dated 8th
Rec'd 13th } March 1862

No 842
S.O. No 942 1st Revy
Enclosures 2

Bringing the conduct of Capt J. J. Brome Asst Conservator of Anamallai Forests to the Notice of Govt.

No 20

- I consider generally as Mrs Sherwood's was sick, but more where the headship - I seem to Pulaghy the ground of this dept. will Sherwood's absence Capt B. should be called on to explain - that is where a Capt Baker be employed in the unhealthy

I do not see why Capt B. should be forced into the jungle at a notoriously unhealthy season. —

No Marks & No.

@ 17 March, 18 & 2d April Rd

C No 713 of 1862

1 Enclosure

No 20-21-22.

Rec'd Agreeable Rep.

Rev: 1862 Dept.
Sec: of Govt for Orders
Fronta No 926.

The Offg Conservator of Forests

To, The Secretary to Government

Revr Depak
Fort St George

Dated 31st March 1862
Rec'd 1st Apl.

No 876
Form do 9th Instt/No C/941.
Enclosure None

No

Affg ording information
regarding the healthy
working season &c in
the Anamallai Forests.

Rec'd 2 — 1st May
with an Order
Further Proc of Govt 28 May/62 No 1189.

Capt Beaumont should have gone where he was
first ordered, as the Journals of mess could not
be missed until he could be relieved by Capt Hart
who was ordered to proceed to the Anamallais
for the purpose

No 942.

As it appears from
Major Morgan's second letter
that the Forest is unhealthy
at this season, the Govt will
not require Capt Keene to
proceed to the Coimbatore
Slip to measure the planks
in position - Seeing however
that he ought to have done
this on his way to Pooany
in January last, he must
be held answerable for
his Overseer's measure-
ments

Fort St George
1st May 62

I. D. S
Offg Conservator of Forests