M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1559 Press ~~Mis.~~

253-254

Dated 24—8—~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th August 1863.

No. 253. 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 Coimbatore, 13th July 1863, No. 599 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Government Order No. 1,191 of the 4th of July 1863, I have the honor to offer the following explanation called for on paragraph 12 of the Secretary of State's Despatch. When I took charge of the Anamallays in the official year 1857-58, our attention was entirely given to Teak and Black-wood, in fact the forest in those days was worked exclusively for the Bombay dockyard. Dr. Cleghorn, the Conservator of Forests, had given the Railway Company permission to fell Vengay and other jungle timbers in these forests, paying a seigniorage of Rupees 1-8-0 per tree. Vengay and other jungle timbers were then of little commercial value, and there was little or no market for them. These timbers, however, began to attract more attention, and their market value gradually increased. Just before I was relieved from the charge of the forests by Captain Brine in September 1860, I proposed to Dr. Cleghorn that we should fell the Vengay and some other jungle timbers ourselves and sell them at the depôt at the foot of the hills, at 6 Annas a cubic foot. Before I left the forest I had felled some of this timber on the slopes and in the jungles at the foot, the Malcers were employed, they are a jungle tribe and quite unskilled with the axe, and could never be employed in the Teak or Black-wood operations. I paid them from 8 Annas to 1 Rupee 4 Annas for each squared log, according to the size, the felling therefore cost far less than 1 Anna a cubic foot, and the profit would have been from 4 to 5½ Annas per cubic foot according to the distance at which the logs were cut from the depôt; as some trees contained upwards of 50 cubic feet this was a great gain upon the former system of selling the trees at Rupees 1-8-0 per tree. I did not, moreover, fell above the slopes, so that carting was not required, nor did I employ any of the skilled axemen who could be employed on Teak or Black-wood, which timbers of course paid much better; and at the same time I gave employment to a wild, thievish race. The Malcers had at that time also commenced sawing in the forests, and were making themselves useful in various ways; since I left, however, they have not I believe done any felling or sawing. When Major Morgan a year and half afterwards reported to Government that if my proposal of selling the Vengay at 6 Annas a cubic foot had been carried into effect Government would have been immense losers, he must have supposed that I had intended using skilled labor for the felling operations, and also that considerable expense would be incurred in carting or slipping; he ordered Captain Brine not to fell any more Vengay, as he said that it would interfere with the Teak operations which were much more profitable. I however had intended to make it quite a separate transaction, and not to allow it in any way to interfere with the Teak or Black-wood operations.

2. The market value of Vengay has risen very considerably in the last three years, and the price of labor has also experienced a great rise. During this last season some fine Vengay logs were felled and squared in the Anamallays; this timber, however, has been cut at much greater distance from the depôt at the foot than it could have been three years ago; the felling expenses too, owing to the rise in labor, have been greater. I expect, however, to bring this timber to the depôt at about 4 Annas the cubic foot, but I hope to be able to sell it at 12 Annas the cubic foot. The market rate of Vengay now in Coimbatore is about 1 Rupee per cubic foot, in Madura it is about 1-8-0 per cubic foot, in that District however timber is scarcer and has to be brought from a greater distance.

3. With regard to paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Despatch, I beg to inform you that a regular Code of Rules has been drawn up in communication with the Revenue Board; these Rules were forwarded to Government with my letter No. 509 of the 27th April 1863. They were drawn up with great care and attention after I had visited almost all our forests and gone carefully into the working of each District, these rules are intended for the whole Presidency; the list of reserved timbers and the seigniorage payable thereon, and other local rules and notices are to be published separately in each District. These rules have not yet received the sanction of Government, they have not therefore been as yet published throughout the Presidency. Since the report

State observes that the admissions of native timber

reviewed by the Secretary of State was written, regular rules, however, very similar to those now proposed as a general code for the whole Presidency, have been put in force separately in each District. Since the commencement of the last official year, most of our Establishments have been re-organized, and it is hoped that the establishments will now prove effective. The increased establishment for South Canara still awaits the sanction of the Supreme Government.

4. With regard to paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Despatch alluded to, I consider it very doubtful if it would ever answer for the Forest Department to attempt to regularly work such Districts as Kurnool, Cuddapah and Salem, and I am much in favor of the license system. It is undoubtedly true, as the Secretary of State observes, that the admission of native timber merchants and the public into these forests caused wholesale destruction some years ago. It is now however very different; regular rules have lately been laid down for the guidance of the wood cutters, and any deviation from these rules involves the confiscation of the timber felled by them; the Assistant and his staff point out the portions of the forest in which the felling is to take place; saplings or trees of immature growth are not allowed to be felled; all seigniorage payments are made in advance; a certain time is fixed for the cutting and removal of the timber, and the system of printed vouchers and licenses; the former issued by the Revenue authorities and the latter by the Forest Department, prove a most efficient check against any peculation or nefarious transaction on the side of either Departments. All this is carried on with a comparatively small establishment; but if we attempted to work large Districts with separate tracts of straggling forests in different directions, in the same manner that we work regular forests like the Anamallays, Wynád, Hunsúr and Mudumallay, we should require very large and expensive establishments, and without a very efficient Officer and staff there would be great chance of peculation and embezzlement on the side of the forest subordinates. In the Salem District we are now regularly working the Sandal-wood forests, and if a road is made to the Pennagara Acha-wood forests we might also at some future time work these forests; but as to the whole District of Salem and South Arcot with straggling tracts of forest in quite different directions, I do not think that it would be advisable for the Department to attempt to work them. The same may be said of Cuddapah and North Arcot. In the Kurnool District, the Nallay Mallay forests are a consolidated tract that might at some future time have a regular working establishment; this would I have no doubt pay when the railroad and canals are more advanced, and there is an export demand for timber; at present the demand for timber is not large enough to authorize the expense of a regular working establishment. The voucher and license system is now working admirably in this District since conservancy was established, the monthly receipts have been far more than doubled, although we have stopped the felling of small trees and of teak saplings, which was the chief revenue before. In Madura and South Canara we are now working reserved tracts of forest, but the less valuable tracts of forest scattered over these Districts are under the voucher and license system.

5. With regard to paragraph 21 of the Secretary of State's Despatch, I beg to inform you that I am not prepared to recommend the building of regular lines and store houses, &c., in the Anamallays, as proposed by Major Morgan in his report for 1861-62, paragraph 63, V. The working season is of short duration and the work is always shifting, so that the buildings erected one season at great expense would be next to useless in the following season; the axemen come up in batches from Palghat and return to their villages after they have performed a certain amount of work, and from my experience I am sure that nothing would ever induce them to remain up in the forest for any lengthened period, they generally erect their own huts and make their bamboo cots close to the scene of their work. We always hut the coolies who come up for road repairs and other work, large waterproof sheds are erected with bamboo cots inside.

6. With regard to paragraph 11 of the Government Order alluded to, I am afraid that Major Morgan from seeing a few fine Satin-wood trees near the road was led to overrate the amount procurable at the foot of the Anamallays. Captain Michael has been carefully over these jungles, which have lately almost entirely disappeared before permanent cultivation, and he reports that at the most there are not more than 100 trees procurable. I have ordered them to be felled as they will be of service to the Gun Carriage Manufactory.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th August 1863.

7. With regard to paragraph 15 of the Government Order alluded to, I am ordering all my Assistants to prepare a sketch Map of the forests of their District; this will be a tracing of the Trigonometrical map with the tracts of forest colored in, and with brief notes of the produce and extent of each forest.

No. 254. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1863, No. 1,559.

1. Ordered that a copy of this letter be forwarded to the Secretary of State together with the report of the Acting Conservator of Forests for 1862-63, and the orders passed thereon in the Proceedings dated 12th August 1863, No. 1,484.

2. The first two paragraphs of this letter require no special notice. The Code of Rules alluded to in paragraph 3 has been passed by Government in their Order, dated 22nd June 1863, No. 1,099. These and the recent revision of the Forest Establishment meet in a great measure the suggestions made in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Secretary of State's Despatch, dated 24th April 1863, No. 14.

3. Under the circumstances explained in paragraph 4, the Government are of opinion that the working of small and scattered forests directly under the superintendence of the officers of the Forest Department would not pay; but this plan will be followed, as the Secretary of State desires, in all other cases. The seigniorage system under the new rules and with the stronger Establishments now allowed leaves little scope for abuse, but it would be a further security to have the trees to be felled by the Contractors marked by the Conservancy Department. Captain Beddome will be required to report how far it is practicable to carry out this plan, and final orders will be passed when his reply is received.

4. The reasons adduced by the Acting Conservator in paragraph 5 show that it is not necessary to provide expensive shelter for the Sawyers working in the forests, but Captain Beddome will be desired to render all necessary assistance to the workmen in making their huts comfortable and water-proof.

5. Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the letter require no particular notice at present.

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

Seigniorage payable thereon, and other local rules and notices are to be published separately in each district; these rules have not yet received the sanction of Government they have not therefore been as yet published throughout the presidency. Since the report reviewed by the Secretary of State was written, regular rules however, very similar to those now proposed as a general code for the whole Presidency, have been put in force separately in each district. Since the commencement of the last official year, most of our establishments have been reorganized and it is hoped that the establishments will now prove effective — The increased establishment for South Canara still awaits the sanction of the Supreme Government.

4. With regard to paras 19 and 20 of the despatch alluded to, I consider it very doubtful if it would be wise in the Forest department to attempt to regularly work such districts as Kurnool, Cuddapah and Salem and Sam much in favor of the licence System, it is undoubtedly true as the Secretary of State observes that the admissions of native timber

since Conservancy was established the monthly receipts have been far more than doubled, although we have stopped the felling of small trees, and of teak saplings which was the chief revenue before. In Madura and South Canara we are now working reserved tracts of forest, but the less valuable tracts of forest scattered over these districts are under the Voucher and licence systems.

5 With regard to para 21 of the Secretary of State's despatch I beg to inform you that I am not prepared to recommend the building of regular lines and Store houses &c^a^ in the Anamallays as proposed by Major Morgan in his report for 1861-62 para 63. V. — The working season is of short duration and the work is always shifting, so that the buildings erected one season at great expence would be next to useless in the following season, the Arenders come up in Batches from Palghat and return to their villages after they have performed a certain amount of work and from my experience I am sure that nothing would

Pro. 20 May /63 Nº. 251-252
& July — " — " 82-83-

Despatch from Lisbon to England
of 2nd September 1863
Nº 1689

Received 18th Sept.
Pro: of Govt for 0 Inclosed.
Nº 1689.

The Officer Commanding Troops

&c &c &c

The Secretary to Government
Clemency Department
Fort Saint George

Dated 13th July 1863

Nº 599

Enclosure 320 and
G.O. Nº 1559 - 24 Augt
Offering explanations on the
points noticed in G.O. Nº 1191
dated 4th July 1863.

Nº 252

6 Augt /63 R6

Circular has been passed by Govt in their order d/22d June 1863 No 1099. These and the recent revision of the Forest Establishment will in a great measure the suggestions made in paras 17 and 18 of the Secretary of States Despatch d/24th April 1862, No 11. —

2 Under the circumstances explained in para 1, the Govt are of opinion that the working of small and so called forests directly under the Superintendence of the Officers of the Forest Dept would not pay — but this plan will be followed, as the Secretary of State desires, in all other cases. The Seigniorage System under the new Rules and with the stronger establishments now allowed —

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4 The reasons advanced by the Acting Conservator in para 5 show that it is not necessary to provide extensive shelter for the persons working in the Forests, but Captain Beddome will be desired to render all necessary assistance to the workmen

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huts comfortable and
water proof. —
5 Paras 6 & 7 of the
Letter requiring no parti-
cular notice at present. —

No. 1.

to Acting Comrs. of Stores — Despatch 21 Augt
16

Copy in a Letter to Engt
dated 2nd October 1863 No 94 of 63

Revenue 1863 Dcmbr
Ro: of Govt for August
No 1559.

Ro: of the Madras Govt
Dated 24th August 1863.

From Conservator of Forests dated
18th March 64 No 714 Explanation
para 7 of this letter

Conservator of Forests
letter offering explanation
on certain points noticed
by Government in their
review reviewing Forest
Report for 1861-62, with
orders thereon -

No 253 to 254.

Copy