M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-84

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1237 Press Misc

241 · 242

Dated 14 - 7 - 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th July 1864.

No. 241. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on the several replies of the Executive Engineers on the subject of supplying the Public Works with Sál timber. } (Here enter 30th June 1864, No. 1,911.)

No. 242. ORDER THEREON, 14th July 1864, No. 1,237.

Forests, No. 2.

1. Forwarded to the Officiating Conservator of Forests for early report.

2. Captain Beddome will arrange without loss of time for keeping Public Works Officers acquainted with the stock of timber available near their Ranges.

3. Captain Beddome will report fully on paragraphs 5 to 7 of Colonel Walker's letter, as well as on the question contained in paragraph 10 of the Order of Government now communicated to him.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
„ the Department Public Works.

Exd, S. T, Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department, 30*th June* 1864.

Read the following letters :—

No. 683. From Lieutenant-Colonel O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department, Public Works, dated Camp, Dowlaishweram, 19th April 1864, No. 2,574.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 820, of 18th March 1864.

1. I do myself the honor of forwarding for the consideration of Government, an original letter from Captain Philipps, Executive Engineer, Ganjam, on the subject of supplying the Public Works with Sál timber.

2. Captain Philipps is so well acquainted with the forests of the Ganjam District and with the facilities that exist there for floating Sál timber to the coast, and his long experience enables him to speak with such confidence with reference to the value of the timber* in question, that we may safely accept as a fact the result he has arrived at, viz., that timber equal to Teak can be delivered at the port of Ganjam for 8 Annas a cubic foot.

* The Ruler mentioned in his letter is forwarded by Baughy.

3. Whether it is advisable to erect Mills at Ganjam for cutting up the Sál into suitable scantlings is a point that depends entirely upon the quantity that the Gun Carriage Manufactory, the Railway and the Public Works would engage to take.

4. I hardly think that any very extensive factory would answer economically.

5. As to engaging to take a certain quantity of the timber year by year, which is the point on which Government desire my opinion, I think that it might be tried with advantage as an experiment. I could easily dispose of 5,000 cubic feet a year in the Vizgapatam and Godavery Districts, where many Cutcherries, Police Stations and other Government buildings are either under construction or to be erected. The arrangement should be open to renewal or discontinuance at the end of three years.

6. Government will perceive by Captain Philipp's letter that, at my suggestion, Sál is now about to be brought down to the town of Vizagapatam, where several large buildings are under construction, and where Teak costs 1 Rupee 10 Annas a cubic foot before it is wrought.

From Captain C. G. PHILIPPS, Executive Engineer, Ganjam, to Lieutenant-Colonel O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, dated Chetterpore, 7th April 1864, No. 149.

SIR,

1. In returning the Proceedings of Government, dated 11th, with Order No. 820, dated 18th of March, I have the honor to state that during the ten years I have been employed in the Ganjam District, I have never used any wood but Sál in Public Works, and that I entirely coincide in the opinion expressed in paragraph 7 of Captain Beddome's report as to its value.

2. On the occasion of that Officer's visit to this District, I showed him some small articles of Office furniture made from Sál, which had been probably buried for centuries in the old bed of the Russelcondah river, and I herewith beg to transmit a Ruler made from a log of Sál which occationed me great trouble in sinking wells for the wing-wall of the Russelcondah bridge in 1859.

3. To give some idea of the length of time this wood must have been buried, I may mention that it lay in sand 17 feet below the level of the river bank, on which grew Mango trees 60 years old. The sap wood fell to dust on being exposed to the air, but the heart was perfectly sound, and of the color of the Ruler now forwarded.

4. In 1856 I threw a pile bridge across a tidal creek, where the Sál wood was daily exposed alternately to sun and salt water, and on a recent visit I found the timber perfectly sound with the exception of a little sap wood which had not been removed.

5. I believe that a very considerable saving would be effected if Sál were substituted for Teak in the Department of Public Works, and I drew the attention of Colonel Horsley to the fact when he visited my works in Kimedy in 1860.

6. Up to the present time I have been able to bring Sál from the Goomsur forests to Berhampore at about 5 Annas per cubic foot, but since Captain Beddome's visit I am obliged to pay 8, at which price I have contracted for a considerable quantity to be delivered here, and sent by me to Captain Beatty at Vizagapatam by sea, for the Jail and Normal School lately sanctioned at that place.

7. The only objections to Sál wood is its liability to crack if exposed to the sun for any great length of time when first cut. I find it best to saw it up as fast as it arrives from the forest, when it seasons very rapidly in small scantlings under cover without cracks.

8. Sál is very heavy and will not float, but nothing can be easier than to bring down rafts of it floated by bamboos to the Port of Ganjam, between June and October, when the Rooshekoolia river and its tributaries are full. Such contracts are entered into every year at about Rupees 1-4-0 per log, and it costs perhaps another Rupee to cut and bring the log to the river bank.

9. At Ganjam I would recommend a depôt and Saw Mills being established in preference to Aska, as it would not do to float the timber after it had been sawn. The town contains a large number of Sawyers, but I believe the cheapest and most expeditious way to work would be to erect Saw Mills driven by bullock power or wind mills. For the latter great facilities exist as the southerly winds are very constant and strong, and mills might work for nine months in the year along the ramparts of the old fort, of which sufficient stands to afford cover in its vaults and magazines to some hundred thousand cubic feet of wood when sawn.

10. As the fort is within 400 yards of the tidal river, a cheap tramway might be constructed to facilitate the work.

11. The great difficulty hitherto has been the shipping of logs to other ports, as unless vessels are accustomed to the trade, the owners will not accept of the freight when offered. This difficulty would cease if the timber were exported in more manageable scantlings, as is now proposed.

12. In conclusion I would observe that Captain Beddome's proposed seigniorage appears excessive. He recommends, and Government sanctions, a tax of "Rupees 1-8-0 per bandy-load, "when carted, or per log first class, or per 25 cubic feet second and third class when floated."

13. He probably is not aware that a bandy-load in this District, where cattle are small, and wooden axle-trees weak, seldom measures 16 cubic feet. I therefore think the Collector's former proposal in this respect should be preferred by Government.

No. 684. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. ANDERSON, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Masulipatam, 29th March 1864, No. 77.

Sir,

1. Referring to G. O. No. 820, dated 18th March 1864, in which Superintending Engineers are called upon to offer their opinions in the arrangements proposed for the supply of Sál timber from the Russelcondah jungles, I have the honor to state that I do not feel competent to enter fully into the question. Sál timber, if of good quality, would be superior to Teak for the construction of sluice shutters and planks, and perhaps also for lock gates, but the demand for it for such purposes must be limited, and would not justify Superintending Engineers in ordering a large quantity. Timber bridges are rarely constructed unless in localities where timber is abundant and cheap, and for roofing, Teak would be preferable to Sál, at least where trusses are to be used, as it is less liable to warp. It may also be doubted whether Pegu Teak cannot be delivered at any point along the coast south of the Ganjam and perhaps Vizagapatam District as cheap if not cheaper than Sál; and, owing to the greater weight of the latter, its carriage to any palce inland would be more expensive.

2. I would beg to suggest that before any measures are adopted to bring the Sál into general use, a small quantity should be ordered to the Presidency Stores; that its quality should be tested and that all the information that may be elicited together with full particulars of the cost, should be circulated to the Officers of the Department.

No. 685. From Lieutenant-Colonel E. HEMERY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddapah, 22nd March 1864, No. 302.

Sir,

With reference to Order of Government No. 820, dated 18th March 1864, I have the honor to report that the distance from Ganjam to any part of this Division, is too great to admit of Sál timber from the Russelcondah forests being made available for Public Works.

No. 686. From Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 9th April 1864, No. 6,158.

Sir,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government No. 820, dated 18th March 1864, I have the honor to state that the second arrangement contemplated in paragraph 2 of the Order of Government in the Revenue Department, No. 429, dated 11th March 1864, is not considered feasible by the Officers of the Public Works Department in this Division, who are chiefly interested in the subject, inasmuch as it would not be satisfactory that delivery should be made at Ganjam.

2. If the timber be delivered *at the Presidency* we should be glad to receive 40,000 cubic feet of the wood annually, of sizes suitable for building purposes.

No. 687. From Captain T. E. GAHAGAN, R. E., Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Salem, 23rd April 1864, No. 2,505.

Sir,

1. I have the honor to reply to G. O. No. 820 of the 18th ultimo.

2. It appears to me practically impossible for any Division or District of the Department of Public Works to "stipulate" to take a quantity of Sál timber "annually."

3. In this Division it is not worth our while to undergo the trouble, delay, and uncertainty of leading unwrought timber all the way from Ganjam, when we can get what we want from Madras, as we happen to want it, wrought and ready for putting up.

No. 688. From Captain J. BEAN, R. E., Officiating Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 23rd March 1864, No. 2,240:—

Sir,

1. I have the honor to reply to Government Order No. 820, dated 18th March 1864, requesting the opinions of Superintending Engineers on the arrangements proposed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Government Order No. 429 of the 11th March 1864, Revenue Department, regarding the formation of a Depôt at Ganjam of Sál timber for the use of the Public Works Department.

2. At present we have no great demand in the Tanjore District for timber of any great scantling, though large buildings are in contemplation hereafter, but in the Cantonment of Trichinopoly many thousand feet will probably be required next year, and the demand in future years for Military buildings will certainly be large. The practice hitherto has been to use Teak timber which at present market rates is wrought and put up at 4 Rupees per cubic foot.

3. If good timber such as Sál can be procured from Ganjam without any uncertainty prevailing as regards its shipment, and if, more especially, the cost can be kept down below the above, or say 4½ Rupees per foot, for the price of Teak in these localities will rise, I see no objection to giving the scheme a fair trial, though I have doubts regarding the latter stipulation as to cost on delivery.

4. Captain Beddome mentions that Sál logs can be delivered at Ganjam at 6 Annas per cubic foot. I do not know the freight per ton from that port to Negapatam, nor the train charges for timber to Trichinopoly, but I do not suppose the former will add less than 1 Rupee and the latter 10 Annas per foot to the cost of the wood. These charges will bring the price per foot to

2 Rupees, and when the cost of loading and unloading from the vessel and Railway truck, and that for transportation to the work spot, as well as Carpenter's hire for working up the timber, are added to the charges, I believe the cost will equal, if not exceed, the cost of Teak.

5. At the same time, however, as Sál timber is considered by Captain Beddome the best for engineering purposes, the arrangement might well be worthy of a trial, as its successful development would place a depôt of valuable timber at Government's disposal in lieu of the uncertain and fluctuating stock available in the markets of this Division.

No. 689. From Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 21st May 1864, No. 6.

SIR,

1. In Government Order No. 820 of 18th March, Superintending Engineers are called on to report whether the Department of Public Works should engage to take a large quantity of Sál timber annually, the timber being delivered at Ganjam. Their attention was also called in Government Order No. 1,303, of 6th May, to the Forest Conservator's suggestion that other Public Departments should apply to his for such timber as they might require instead of having recourse to private merchants, in order that the Annamullay Forests might have a choice of refusal.

2. On the first subject, I have the honor to remark that Superintending Engineers are debarred by repeated and judicious orders against keeping up large stores of any kind in Districts and Ranges; and that the only way in which this Department should be allowed to take an annual supply, is through the intervention of the central Store at Madras. The 1st, 2nd and 8th Divisions might indent direct on a Forest Department Store to be established at Ganjam, according, as their annual sanctions will permit. But delivery to the Public Works Department at Ganjam will not do; the Forest Department must be prepared to undertake the agency of shipping all timber to such ports of delivery as may be convenient to their customers.

3. On the second subject I would say that the Forest Department has not done itself justice, by the utter ignorance of its resources in which it allows the other Departments, its intended customers, to remain. In North Canara the Conservator always took care to let me have good notice of the quantity of timber he had for disposal every year, and at what depôts it was stored. In Malabar and Coimbatore I have not the slightest notion what timber they could give me, and at what prices and places. For the Military buildings at Cannanore, I got the permission of Government to pick up in Canara, Rupees 2,000 worth of ship-wrecked Government timber (Bombay), which originally came from Annamullays; and the Coimbatore Range Officer has been at his wits' end for timber for the Jail and Bridges on the Coonoor road. Nor could the Palghat Range Officer inform him how he could be supplied otherwise than by private merchants.

4. I do not mean to say that all this want of intercommunication between the two Departments is the fault of the Forest Department; but I believe it has arisen in the first instance from their supplying Annamullay timber to the Bombay Government, almost exclusively, and, when that resource failed, not letting us know that they could supply us. I shall only be too glad to be kept regularly informed of the quantity of timber available in Malabar and Coimbatore Districts, and of the rate at which it can be delivered at any Railway stations. Delivery in the jungles will not do; Officers and Subordinates of this Department cannot leave their works, and the Forest Conservators, whose vocation it is to come and go wherever their timber is cut or brought to market, must be so good as to make all arrangements for us as to its transit.

5. I am sorry to say I do not find the two Departments working smoothly together on the Neilgherries, where alone in this Division there have been constant dealings between them for years back, the Mudumullay Forests in Wynaad being the source of supply. The lease of those forests was originally renewed, under Major Farewell's management, for the supply of the Barracks and other works on the Hills, as I understand at a fixed price of Rupees 1¼ per cubic foot. I am therefore at a

Vide G. O. No. 878 of 28th April 1860.

loss to know on what grounds a bill has lately been sent in to Major Farewell for nearly all the timber supplied between the 1st November 1860 and 30th April 1864, at rates of Rupees 1½ and Rupees 2 per cubic foot (Rupees 600 only out of Rupees 7,500 charged, being for timber at the Government rate). Moreover, notice is given that for all future supplies the "market price" will be charged, and that the best timber will not be reserved for Government works should large offers be received from Bangalore or Mysore merchants. Moreover, the heavy seigniorage of 1 Rupee is proposed to be charged for every tree supplied from the Devashola as firewood for the Lawrence Asylum works.

6. The whole question is a matter of departmental accounts, and it may seem of no consequence whether those of the Lawrence Asylum or those of Mudumullay forest gain or lose, since it is all Government work, and the loss or gain balances in the end. But it is a matter of some moment to prevent the arbitrary alteration of a fixed Government tariff, at the will and pleasure of an Officer of the Forest Department, whose sole alleged reason for such action is, that I have brought about the repayment of the Rupees 40,000, advanced in cash by the Lawrence Asylum works, on account of timber to be supplied by him.

7. Another matter now in dispute is that of delivery; the Forest Officer dropping the timber at Ootacamund instead of at the Asylum site, which involves disproportionate expense and trouble for carriage over the short interval of three miles. All this is unsatisfactory, and I trust I shall be pardoned for bringing the facts forward in this report, the subject being analogous to that on which my opinion was required, and illustrative of the difficulties of carrying out the recommendations of the Conservator of Forests, unless he exercises a due control over his Subordinates, so as to ensure their adherence to Government regulations, and harmonious working with the Departments whose wants they supply.

No. 690. From Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Palamcottah, 26th March 1864, No. 2,165.

SIR,

1. Referring to Government Order No. 820, of the 18th instant, I have the honor to observe that it is impossible for me to say beforehand whether I am likely to require any wood or not. If the money is sanctioned for this Division I require nothing that the neighbouring forest cannot supply. If the buildings named in Government Order No. 381, 6th February are ordered I shall be glad to receive Sál, if its carriage from Ganjam to Tuticorin is practicable at a moderate cost.

2. There is so great a demand for wood in this Division by the natives who are building on all sides, that the Forest Department might discover the cost by a venture to either Paumben or Tuticorin, the latter preferably, as the road to Madura is better.

No. 691. ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1864, No. 1,911.

1. In Proceedings of the Revenue Department, dated 11th March 1864, No. 429, this Department was requested to ascertain the extent to which Public Works Officers would engage to take annually for engineering purposes a large quantity of Sál procurable in forests in the vicinity of Russelcondah, on the timber being floated down and delivered at Ganjam.

2. The letters recorded above are the reports of Superintending Engineers on this subject.

3. The Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division submits a report from Captain Philipps, Executive Engineer Ganjam, descriptive of the value of Sál timber, and of the measures which in his opinion are necessary to remove existing difficulties to its shipment to other ports. As Captain Philipps bases his information on his personal trial of the timber during the ten years he has been employed in the Ganjam District, his opinions are worthy of notice. Colonel Chambers considers that Sál might be used with advantage for Public Works purposes, and he expects to be able to utilize 5,000 cubic feet a year in the Vizagapatam and Godavery Dis-

tricts. He proposes, however, that the supply should be limited to a period of three years, by which time the Department will be in a position to decide whether a continuance of the arrangement will be advantageous or otherwise.

4. The Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, is satisfied that Sál if of good quality would be superior to Teak for use in the construction of sluice shutters, lock gates, &c., but as the demand for it for such purposes must be limited, he does not think that a large quantity could be turned to use. He suggests that before any steps are taken to introduce it generally, a small quantity should be kept at the Presidency Stores, that its quality should be tested, and that all the information that may be elicited, together with particulars of the cost, should be circulated to the Officers of the Department.

5. The Superintending Engineers of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Divisions, consider the distance from Ganjam, at which place the delivery of the timber will take place, to be too great to admit of its being used with advantage in the Districts comprised in their Divisions.

6. The Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, is willing to take a supply of Sál timber for works in Trichinopoly where the demand is and will continue to be great, provided that its cost does not exceed the rate paid for Teak, viz., 4½ Rupees per cubic foot, and that it can be procured from Ganjam without the difficulties which may attend its shipment. The price named by Captain Bean appears to be extremely exorbitant, and the Government think that Teak might easily be landed at Negapatam and taken to Trichinopoly by rail for a much more moderate price. Captain Bean does not specify the quantity of Sál he is likely to require. The Government are aware that Superintending Engineers cannot furnish any accurate information on this head, seeing that the demand will be in a great measure dependent upon the amount of funds that may be made available for expenditure in each year. Nevertheless Superintending Engineers should know pretty nearly what quantity they will require for each work upon which they are employing labour, or for each sanctioned work, and they could probably make a pretty good guess as to the amount required for three years.

7. The Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, considers that the only way in which he will be able to avail himself of supplies of Sál timber will be through the intervention of the Presidency Store Department, and he adds his opinion that the delivery of the timber at Ganjam will not be a convenient arrangement; but that the Forest Department should be prepared to undertake the agency of shipping it to such ports as may be named by the Officers requiring it. This appears to the Government scarcely possible, but if the Forest Department brought down the timber to a port, the Government think that arrangements might be made through the Marine Department for its transport to the different places where it may be wanted.

8. Colonel Walker in paragraphs 3 to 7 of his letter states certain facts to illustrate the disadvantageous position in which the Public Works Department is placed in respect to its demands on the Forest Department for supplies of timber. These paragraphs will be considered in the Revenue Department.

9. The Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, expresses his readiness to take a supply of the timber if its carriage from Ganjam to Tuticorin be practicable at a moderate cost, in which case he believes there will be a large demand for it even amongst the Natives.

10. On a review of these papers it would seem advisable that Officers of the Department of Public Works should be at liberty to make their own arrangements for obtaining supplies of timber, preference being given to Sál or to Teak according to the facilities of procuring them and their relative cost. In the meantime reference will be made, through the Revenue Department, to the Conservator of Forests to ascertain the cost at which Sál timber can be delivered at a port and the cost on board-ship, as also the quantity which can probably be furnished in the course of the year and the probable size of the logs.

11. The Superintending Engineers will be called upon to state whether, in the event of timber being made deliverable at certain ports and at reasonable rates, the Public Works

Department will be prepared to take any and what quantity, and whether it will be able to make arrangements through the Master Attendants at those ports for the transport of the timber to the spot where it may be required to be landed.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
„ Superintending Engineers of Divisions.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

C. R.

Pr-1237.
12

Petition of the Madras Government
Recommending the Half Batta
to Lieut. Colonel Petrie
& Lieutenants Blackburne
& Wilkie Madras Engrs.

Referred to the Military Committee
to report

Transcribed to the
Officiating Secretary of
Forces for early report

Capts. Pedlone
will arrange without
loss of time for keeping
the Under Officers required
with the State of Cadres
available near Meerut

Capts. Pedlone
will report fully on para

Published 30th June 1841

Read 30th June 1841

Referred to the Military Committee

Read 14th July 1841

Transcribed to the Officiating Secretary of Forces for early report

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Capts. Pedlone will report fully on para 8

Read 28th July 1841

as well as on the questions
contained in para. 10 of the
order of Government now
communicated to Lieu-

4 Copies Letter Office Envoy Extraordre
15 July

21 — Do Receipt

Revenue 1864 Dept.
Rec: of Sorter for 2 July
No. 1237

Rec: of Mr Maddox Govt
Dft 2 July 64.
From the Offg Comm. of Custs
Rec'd 5th Sept 64 Cert 29 Aug
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Cert No 2410.

Forwarding to
Conservator of Forests
for report the Rec. re.
cheating the duty
of Sal timber & the
Public Work. 8/Oct

No 21/4242.