M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1465 — Press ~~Mis.~~

213-214

Dated 13 - 8 - 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 13th August 1864.

No. 213. Read the following Memorandum by A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated 8th August 1864:—

1. Having a few days ago visited the Pykara water-falls, I think it right to bring to the notice of Government that the orders passed last year, prohibiting the felling of that part of the wood which borders the river close to the falls, have been altogether disregarded. In the Order of Government in the Revenue Department, under date the 6th January 1863, consequent on a representation made by Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton in regard to the injury, which would be done to the scenery at that beautiful spot by the destruction of the wood overhanging the falls, the Superintendent of the Chinchona plantations was directed to suspend his felling operations until the locality could be visited by the Collector who was ordered to inspect it, and to select a site for the plantation *sufficiently remote from the river not to interfere with the scenery about the falls*. The Collector in his reply reported that the plantation would not be within sight of the falls, but on the eastern slope of the hill; that at the lower extremity of the Shola hanging over the falls an acre of wood had been felled for a nursery, but that no further felling was contemplated there, and that the nursery would be removed this year (1863), and its site planted out with Chinchona. On this understanding, viz., that there was to be no further felling on the western slope of the hill, the Government abstained from further interference, and an order was passed to the following effect:—

"The Government are glad to find that the plantation will not affect the scenery about the Pykara falls, within sight of which felling will not be allowed."

2. I regret to say that notwithstanding these orders a large gap of from 30 to 50 yards in width has been cut through the wood, from the top of the hill to a point opposite the upper fall, utterly disfiguring the wood, and thereby destroying what was the great beauty of the view from the opposite side of the river. Moreover, the point from which the lower falls are best seen has been rendered almost inaccessible, quite so to any person not equal to considerable exertion on foot, by the felling of timber which has blocked up and in fact obliterated the old pathway through the wood. In the centre of the felling a riding path has been made about 12 feet in width, which is certainly an improvement on the old path, and if the clearing had been restricted to this, little or no harm would have been done, although adverting to the orders of Government, the intention of which was clearly to prohibit any felling of trees on the western slope of the hill, it seems questionable whether the Superintendent was at liberty to make any such clearance without the permission of Government.

No. 214. ORDER THEREON, 13th August 1864, No. 1,465.

Forests, No. 25.

The Governor in Council is surprised to learn that in the face of the express orders of Government, referred to in the foregoing Memorandum, the Superintendent of the Chinchona Plantations has felled any further portion of the wood on the western slope of the hill immediately above the Pycara water-falls. Before passing further orders on the subject, the Governor in Council resolves to call upon Mr. McIvor for an immediate explanation of his conduct.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintendent Government Chinchona Plantations.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department.

Extract

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT. 12th Aug. 1861.

Read the following Memorandum by the Chief Secretary.

19th August 1861.

Order thereon.

The Governor in Council is surprized to learn that in the face of the express orders of Govt. referred to in the foregoing memorandum, the Superintendent of the Cinchona Plantations has felled any further portion of the wood on the western slope of the Hill immediately above the Pycara waterfalls. Before passing further orders on the subject, the

the Governor in Council
resolves to call upon
Mr. McIvor for an
immediate explanation
of his conduct.—

213.214
13.8.61

Copy to the Supdt. Govt. Chin Plantations
Despt. 13 Augt.

To the Supdt. Govt. Cinchona
Plantations

Copy in a letter to Engd
11th January 1865 No. 1 Mis
Forests

Revenue 1864. Department.
Proc. of Govt for August.
No. 1465.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

Dated 13th Augt 1864

Calling upon the Supt. of the Chinchona Plantations for an immediate explanation of his conduct in felling a further portion of the wood on the western slope of the hill immediately above the Pycara Waterfalls.