M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1943 Press ~~His~~

258-259

Dated 21 — 10 — 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 21st October 1864.

No. 258. 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 Camp Ooty, 5th September 1864, No. 1,051 :—

SIR,

1. In reply to paragraph 3 of the Government Order No. 1,237 of the 14th of July, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Officer in charge of the Mudumallay forest in explanation of the rates charged by him for Mudumallay timber.

2. When the Government Order was published prohibiting all inter-departmental payments I issued a Circular to the Officers of my Department that in future timber was to be supplied to all Government Departments without payment, but that a voucher should be taken for the amount at the market rate at the time of supply.

3. It seems clear to me that the market rate is the only fair charge; if a fixed tariff was attempted, the Department of Public Works would of course be dissatisfied if the market price fell below our rates, and they could of course refuse to take our timber and draw their supplies from the market; if on the other hand, an increase in the expenses of felling and carting or other circumstances caused an unavoidable rise in the market rates, we should not be showing a fair return.

4. When the Barracks were being built at Wellington, the market rate for first class Teak at Ootacamund was 1 Rupee and 1-4 per cubic foot, the great increase of late in the price of grain, wages, &c., has nearly doubled the expenses of felling and carting, and first class Teak now fetches these prices in the forest below the Ghát, and at Ootacamund the market rate was risen to 1-8 and 2 Rupees.

5. Previous to the Government Order prohibiting inter-departmental payments, the Officer in charge of the Mudumallay forests had received an advance of 40,000 Rupees from the Lawrence Asylum, and had agreed to supply a large amount of Teak at the price of Rupee 1-4-0 per cubic foot, if all classes were taken indiscriminately, a selection however has been made, so the timber has been charged for according to the class taken, this alteration, however, had nothing to do with the re-payment of the 40,000 Rupees, as stated by Colonel Walker. The classes are regulated by the length and scantling. If the Public Works agree to pay the market price for the class they require, the best of these classes will be reserved for them on their indent being received.

6. With reference to paragraphs 3 and 4 of Colonel Walker's letter, I wish to point out that the Anamallay and Nellumboor Establishments are the only Government Forest Establishments in the District alluded to by Colonel Walker; until very lately the former forest was worked exclusively for the Bombay Dockyard and the Gun Carriage Manufactories, and even after the Dockyard was shut up it was not desirable to throw the timber into the market as it had been offered to the English Admiralty. From the latter forests there was nothing available except saplings (the thinnings of the plantations).

7. In future the Department of Public Works will always be informed of the stock of timber available from Government forests; a Circular to this effect has been forwarded to all the Officers of my Department.

8. With reference to the concluding remarks in paragraph 4 and to paragraph 7 of Colonel Walker's letter, Government I believe are aware that it has never been the duty of the Forest Department to deliever timber beyond their established Depôts; to carry out what Colonel Walker seems to think our vocation we should require much larger establishments than we now have.

9. Colonel Walker complains of the Government seigniorage of 1 Rupee per tree charged in the Davie Shola, as heavy, the trees may be said to average five bandy loads each, and many of them can be sawn up into good planks for building or scaffolding. I think I am far within the mark if I state that timber cannot be purchased on private lands at even double this rate. The Lawrence Asylum had a grant of one Shola near their site, but they now think it desirable to reserve portions of this and are consequently indenting upon the Davie Shola.

now procured with difficulty at 1 Rs; and the use of

Coloacquenal
3rd September 1864

No 73.

From. Major W.R. Morgan.
In charge of Rudramallai Forest.

To. Captain R. H. Beddome
Offg Conservator of Forests.

Sir In reply to paras 5, 6 and 7 of letter No 689, dated 21st May from Coll Walker, Superintending Engineer 7th Division, to Government I have the honor to report as follows.

2. In para 5 Colonel Walker erroneously states that the lease of the Rudramallay Forest was renewed under Major Campbell (before Major Farewell had charge of the Barracks) at my recommendation for the benefit of the Redgherry Barracks to which works I was then specially attached. The price of Rupees 1.4.0 per Cubic foot was simply proposed by me at that time to test the profit made by the Forest for the Barracks, and the profit, taking that rate was found to be about Rupees 40,000. I might have taken a much higher rate as the Barracks had paid 3 Rupees a Cubic foot for Nedumallai Timber, the timber suitable for the Barracks not then being procurable at any price in the Ootacamund market. Indeed until I worked the Rudramallai Forest in 1856, the Barracks obtained no long timber from the Ootacamund market. When the Forest was first worked by me Cubics were 4.8.0 the Inch, they are now procured with difficulty at 7 Rs; and the rise of prices

prices in every thing Comes funds with the above. To have paid the rate at 1-4-0 the Cubic foot over a Course of 8 years would have been tantamount to Showing that the Forest was worked at a loss, and I cannot understand how Colonel Walker, with the fact of a rise of 50 per Cent in prices being Several, Could imagine for a Moment that a nominal rate made simply for a Comparison years ago, Should now be retained.

3. As far as I understand Forest management it appears to me that if Bangalore Merchants are ready to pay at the Depot in the Forest Rupees 1-- and 1-4-0 per Cubic foot the result of Forest management must appear more Satisfactory than if the timber is Carted up to Adoni Camund at an Expense averaging 7 Annas a Cubic foot, and then Sold to Public Works at Rs 1-4-0 the Cubic foot. In one Case we obtain at once an average price of at least one Rupee a Cubic foot in the latter deducting 7 Annas for Carriage we obtain but 13 Annas a Cubic foot or a dead loss of 3 Annas a Cubic foot, nearly to reduce the Cost of the building of the Lawrence Asylum.

4. In reply to para 6 I have shown that there was no arbitrary alteration of a fixed price, the public paid the same rates as those charged to the Lawrence Asylum. There was simply an Arrangement, that if the Officer in charge of the Lawrence Asylum chose to make an advance of Rs 40,000 and take the timber all round at 1-4-0 per Cubic foot, he should have it at that rate, but then it would have been necessary for the Officer to take away the timber at once, and not to select only the best, as he now does.

5. In reply to para 7 I have to explain that this question was settled years ago, I pointed out to Major Campbell, then in charge of the Bangalore Barracks that my kindly Contractors left their Bullocks down below and that even a few hours exposure to the climate there seriously impaired their efficiency. This as part of the duty of the Forest Department to deliver timber on the Public Works, but only at their own Depôts, and if Colonel Walker's ideas were to be carried out, a considerable Expense to this Department would be the result. I cannot understand where the difficulty is as stated by Colonel Walker, we have our Depot and the Public Works Officer has only to come to the Depôt and take away his timber if there is any difficulty it is of Colonel Walker's own creation.

With regard to Colonel Walker's Complaint of the charge of 9 Rupees per Every hundred in the Down Stroke I have to state that it is the usual Seigneurage charged.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most obedient Servant
Signed/ W.H. Morgan Major
In charge of Bandalum Alleghuer

A true Copy
Beresford Captain
Asst Surveyor of Forests

Rec'd 23rd/64.

in a Letter from Capt. Ogilby
Commr. of Land Revenue
& Public Wks. D. dated 5th Inst.
No. 1051.

Revenue Department.

No. 1943.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 21st October 1864.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Forwards copy of a letter from Major Morgan in charge of Attakumallai Forests, in explanation of the rates charged for Attakumallai Timber.

(Here enter 5th September 1864 No. 1051)

Ordered, 1st That the Governor in Council directs that Timber supplied to Public Departments be invariably charged for, according to the Rates fixed by the Department requiring the Timber must specify the description, quality, &c, needed, and will be charged accordingly.

2nd

2 The Forest Department will afford all reasonable assistance in having the timber conveyed to the place where it is required; but it is not its duty to deliver timber except at its own Depôts and in its Forests, nor can it bear the expense of so conveying it. The cost of this must be paid by the Officer requiring the timber in cash.

3 The Laurence Asylum must be charged, in account, with the regulated Seignorage for all fire-wood purchased by it from

from the Conservancy Department.

4 The system of supplying wood free of actual payment has a tendency to encourage waste. It will be ascertained in the Public Works Department what checks are in force to ensure timber thus supplied being duly accounted for; to secure Estimates being correspondingly reduced; and to prevent expensive timber being used where cheaper would answer equally well.

4 Opies Letter Conc.ᵉ of Forests Dest.ᵒ 22 Oct.ʳ
21 — Br. C.S
11 — Bᵈ. of Revᵉ S

2412
14.7.64

Revenue 1864 Dec.r
Rec.d from for Dec.r
C.o 1346.

Orig.l to the Colonial Sec.y
Dec.r 31st October 1864

Passing orders on
the subject of timber sup-
plied to Public depts.

C.o 258 to 259