

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1337	Press
		Mis.
	345.346	
Dated	16	6 - 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th June 1865.*

No. 345. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R. A., Secretary to the Government of India, (Revenue Forests,) to the Secretary to Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 15th May 1865, Circular No. 6:—

Sir,

1. I am directed to transmit for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch* from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, desiring that the Reporter on the Products of India should be supplied with specimens of such of the most valuable kinds of timber procurable in the forests of this country as are not already well known in Europe. A Memorandum by the Reporter accompanies for guidance, and I am to request that specimens of such woods only should be sent as are likely to prove of commercial value. The specimens should be carefully selected from seasoned wood, and should be clearly labelled and branded as described in the Memorandum; an accurate list being forwarded. Should the timber not be known, specimens of the fruit, flowers, leaves, &c., necessary to identify the class to which it belongs, should be sent, together with a description of the habit and growth of the tree.
2. In order that the several specimens may be arranged and classified before despatch to England, you are requested to have them addressed to the Inspector General of Forests, Public Works Department, Calcutta.

(Signed) A. B. SAMPSON,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Enclosures to Revenue—Forests Circular No. 6 of 1865.

No. 9, dated 9th March 1865.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India.

1. As it is desirable to give full information on the timber produced in India to the Reporter on the Products of India in this country, I have to desire that your Excellency in Council will cause him to be supplied with specimens of each of the most valuable kinds of timber procurable in all the forests of any extent under your jurisdiction. These specimens should consist of slabs carefully seasoned and clearly labelled. They should be three feet long, four inches thick, and they should have the full breadth through the centre of the tree, so as to shew the proportion of "heart wood."
2. I have also to direct that, whenever it is possible, the botanical names of the trees should be given, and this should be done in all reports made on the forests, because of the great variety in the Native names, and also in the mode of writing them. Whenever the scientific name of a particular timber is not known, specimens of the parts necessary to identify it (fruit, flowers, leaves, &c.) and also a description of its habit, should be forwarded to this country.
3. As it is not intended to include the specimens of timber sent home, such woods as are already well known in this country, I transmit herewith,* for the information and guidance of the Forest Officers, printed copies of a Memorandum by the Reporter on the Products of India, explaining the object in view, and the kinds of wood which are required, and specifying such as can be dispensed with.

No. 3,633, dated 15th April 1865.

Endorsed by Home Department.

Transferred to Public Works Department, with 50 printed copies of a Memorandum by the Reporter on the Products of India.

Memorandum on the specimens of Woods required from India.

Only such woods should be forwarded as are likely to prove commercially available for one or other of the under-noted purposes:—

I.—For Ship Building.

Under this head, *Teak* is the only wood which need not be forwarded; for, although the *Saul* (*Vatica robusta*) and the *Angili* (*Artocarpus hirsuta*) of Southern India, the *Pyimma* (*Lagerstrœmia Regina*) and *Thingan* (*Hopsea odorata*) of Burmah, and others are well known on the spot, and some of them, like the *Angili*, may have already attracted some attention here, all of them (*Teak* excepted) have practically still to be introduced to notice in this country, and the suggested collections may be made materially to aid in this.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th June 1865.

II.—For Cabinet making, Coach building, Wood carving, and for Turnery.

Under this heading, *Ebony* and *Sandal Wood* are the only ones the expense of procuring and forwarding which can, with advantage, be avoided.

Although "Indian Rosewood" is a well known article in this market, it so frequently, according to the opinions received from those who are in the habit of working it, differs in quality, that it has come to be important to ascertain how far this is dependent upon differences in its source, with reference to the species of the tree furnishing it, as contra-distinguished from the influence of *locality* upon the quality of the wood from the same species. The "Blackwood" of Bombay is supplied by the *Dalbergia latifolia*, but that, as well as the *D. sissoo*, *D. sisindra*, and, it is believed, several others furnish their quota to what goes under the name of "Indian Rosewood" here. Authentic specimens, obtained and forwarded in the manner suggested, would accordingly (and the same will apply to other cases) afford the means of determining the quality of each of these, and thus help us to distinguish the source of the different kinds of timber which may happen to be known under the same name.

III.—For Wood engraving.

All woods, in the opinion of the Conservators of the different forests, or of their Assistants, likely to suit for this purpose, should be forwarded.

IV.—For Dyeing.

Under this head, Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus Santalinus*) and Sapan Wood (*Casalpinia sp.*) from old sources need not be sent, but from new ones it is expedient that specimens be forwarded, with the view of having their percentage of coloring matter, &c., ascertained.

Purposes for which the suggested specimens are required.

For submission to timber merchants and others here practically acquainted with the working qualities, &c., of different woods, with the view of obtaining their opinions and reporting the same.

2. To test the "breaking weight" and density, &c., of the different specimens in the same manner and by the same appliances adopted by Captain Fowke in his operations upon the woods of other countries.* A series of experiments, conducted in the way proposed, would afford grounds for a true comparison of Indian woods, with not only themselves, but with those from all other parts of the world as well.

3. To furnish specimens for ultimate exhibition in this Museum, and also to supply similar ones to the various Trade Museums, either now existing or which are about to be formed, in connexion with the specimens of India textiles, &c., presented by the Secretary of State to certain important districts, now devoid of any such aid to their commercial advancement.

With reference to the trees selected to furnish these specimens, I have to suggest, that, in order to give a fair notion of their thickness, &c., ones of average size should only be chosen.

The four-inch thick, through the centre, sections should include the bark; and, in addition to labelling the specimens in the usual way, each one should be branded with the name of the forest and with a consecutive number—an invoice with the necessary particulars, being, of course, in all cases forwarded. A very fine collection of woods from the north of India forwarded to the 1851 Exhibition had its value almost entirely destroyed from the loss of its labels, the boat which contained it having become submerged in the Ganges.

J. F. WATSON,
Reporter on Indian Products.

18th February 1865.

* Some Indian Woods sent to the last Exhibition (1851) have already been thus tested, but the majority were too small for the purpose.

No. 346.

ORDER THEREON, 16th June 1865, No. 1,337.

Forests, No. 11.

Ordered to be communicated to the Officiating Conservator of Forests for early attention.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

CIRCULAR No. 6 of 1865.

REVENUE—FORESTS.

FROM

LIEUT.-COL. C. H. DICKENS, R. A.,
SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA.

TO

The Secretary to Government of Madras
Public Works Department,
SINLA, 15th May, 1865.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

SINLA, 15th May, 1865.

Revenue
Forests.

SIR,

I am directed to transmit for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch* from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, desiring that the Reporter on the Products of India should be supplied with specimens of such of the most valuable kinds of timber procurable in the forests of this country as are not already well known in Europe. A Memorandum by the Reporter accompanies for guidance, and I am to request that specimens of such woods only should be sent as are likely to prove of commercial value. The specimens should be carefully selected from seasoned wood, and should be clearly labelled and branded as described in the Memorandum; an accurate list being forwarded. Should the timber not be known, specimens of the fruit, flowers, leaves, &c., necessary to identify the class to which it belongs, should be sent, together with a description of the habit and growth of the tree.

2. In order that the several specimens may be arranged and classified before despatch to England, you are requested to have them addressed to the Inspector General of Forests, Public Works Department, Calcutta.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Col., R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

W. R. Simpson
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Rev: 1865. *Alphast*
No. of Govt for *June* 1820.

Revenue.
Private.

CIRCULAR NO. 6.

FROM

SECT. TO GOVT. OF INDIA,
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT

Dated SINGLA, 15th May, 1865.

Received 6th June -

Ordered to be communicated to
the *Offrs* *Secy* of *Works* for
early attention. -

St. 1337.

Ed. G. B. Cunningham
Secy 16th June/65.

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Calling for specimens of Timber for transmission
to England.

St 1337. 16 June

With Secretary