M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1912 Press Mis.

279.280

Dated 17 - 8. 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 279. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Ootacamund, 18th July 1865, No. 1,349 :—

SIR,

1. Adverting to the Government Orders No. 956 of the 9th of May, and No. 1,323 of the 15th of June last, I have the honor to forward Mr. Spring's defence,* together with a copy† of his explanation forwarded to Dr. Cleghorn.

* Enclosure No. 1.
† Do. No. 2.

2. With regard to Mr. Spring's statement that Teak is given on license in Cuddapah, Salem, and Madura, I may here inform you that, with the exception of the Cumbum valley forests in Madura, which are reserved and worked by the Department, there is no Teak worth reserving in any of those Districts, as it is all stunted and of small growth; whereas in the belt of forest comprising the Bolumputty, Sholaykurray and Chenat Nair forests of the Coimbatore and Malabar Districts, the growth of Teak is very fine, but its felling has been stopped since conservancy came into force, as all the ripe trees were felled out some years ago. The Chenat Nair forest is leased to the Railway with a distinct clause that no Teak is to be felled, and Teak was purposely omitted in the seigniorage lists of Coimbatore. Mr. Spring was well aware of these facts; he, however, allows Teak to be felled, and fixes the price himself, and never even reports that he has done so. The order given to Rungiah Gownden and Boriah Gownden in June to cut Vengay and Black-wood for the Jail, appears to have been a written order, and not a verbal one, as before stated by me in my letter No. 1,266, of the 28th of April last; it was, however, afterwards altered verbally into permission to cut Teak also. On the 1st of July, Mr. Spring informed me verbally that he intended felling some Vengay in the Sholaykurray and Bolumputty forests for the Coimbatore Jail, and I told him that it would be a good plan. No mention was made of Teak or Black-wood, and no report was ever made to me concerning the contract. Boriah Gownden and Rungiah Gownden were allowed to enter the Sholaykurray forests in June, and appear to have had the whole run of the forests undisturbed until November, when the Revenue authorities put a stop to their proceedings. These contractors had then just effected the sale of some valuable timber; but this was attached and marked, and consequently was not removed. On account of this sale one of them (the other is dead) was fined 1,000 Rupees, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment. It is impossible to say what timber may or may not have been felled and sold out of those forests between June and November, as no supervision was exercised by Mr. Spring. No felling at all should have been allowed without the supervision of Mr. Spring or of his Overseer. Mr. Spring pleads sickness, but he had an Overseer attached to his establishment, and it was the healthy season.

3. With regard to your official docket No. 1,450 of 1865, dated the 26th of June (herewith returned), in which Mr. Spring complains that he was required to do duty after his pay was stopped, I herewith forward copy of a letter† from Major Michael to the Conservator of Forests, by which you will perceive that that Officer refused to take the responsibility of

‡ Enclosure No. 3.

independent

Mr. Spring's outstandings and stock of timber; Major Michael was taken ill almost immediately after assuming charge, and he was unable to visit the timber depôts, and he informed me that most of the cart contractors, who were holders of large advances, were not at work, and that Mr. Spring had not adopted proper measures for handing over these outstandings; it was upon this that I ordered Mr. Spring to remain in the District, as reported in paragraph 9 of my letter to Government, No. 1,266 of the 28th of April 1865, and to hand over both the timber and outstandings to Lieutenant Bennet who was expected. I also recommended him to collect all the cartmen, so that no delay should occur in handing over, and informed him that if he did so, I should recommend that he should be allowed to draw his pay from the date of Major Michael's departure till the arrival of Lieutenant Bennet. Mr. Spring has not acted up to these orders, and, instead of handing over properly to Lieutenant Bennet, he has proceeded to Madras; he is suffering, I believe, from dysentery; but he has not forwarded a certificate from the Doctor at Coimbatore, that it was necessary for him to proceed to Madras. I may here mention that if Mr. Spring had given proper attention to his duty, all the cartmen would have been at work under his own or his Overseer's supervision; he appears, however, to have absented himself from the operations, and to have remained in at Coimbatore, some 40 miles away from his work, the contractors consequently left their work, and some are reported to have sold their bullocks.

No. 280. ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1865, No. 1,912.

Forests, No. 6.

1. In a letter dated the 28th April 1865, No. 1,266, Captain Beddome, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, brought to the notice of Government certain transactions in which Mr. Spring, Acting Assistant Conservator in charge of the Anamallay and Bolumputty Range, had been involved, and which seemed, in Captain Beddome's opinion, to shew that he ought not to be allowed to return to the independent charge of a Range.

2. Government reserved their final judgment on the matter until they could be put in possession of fuller information; but in consideration of the irregularities which Mr. Spring had undoubtedly been guilty of, they ordered that payment of his salary should be discontinued until further orders—(G. O. 9th May 1865, No. 956).

3. Fuller reports on the conduct of Mr. Spring together with his written defence have now been submitted to Government, and they are constrained to observe that although criminality is not imputed to Mr. Spring, he is shewn to have paid away heavy sums of the public money without notifying what he was doing to his superiors, and without keeping any regular record of his transactions; and by these and other irregularities to have brought about such a state of confusion and disorganization in his Range, that Major Michael was obliged in self-defence to refuse to take over charge of it.

4. Under these circumstances, Government are of opinion that the loss of pay, from the 30th of April to the present date, to which Mr. Spring is subject, in accordance with G. O. 9th May 1865, No. 956, will be a proper punishment for the irregularities which he has been shewn to have committed; and they approve of Captain Beddome's proposition that Mr. Spring should be placed in future under

some other Officer, and not be allowed to remain in independent charge of a Range. Captain Beddome will now direct Mr. Spring to resume his duties.

5. The Officer who is at present in charge of the Anamallay and Bolumputty Range should carefully scrutinize the subject of the large advances made by Mr. Spring to cart-drivers and others, and a report should eventually be submitted to Government, shewing whether any of the advances made by him are unadjusted and irrecoverable, and if so, whether he is personally responsible for them.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

allowed to return to the
independent

Mr Spring. Conducts himself throughout in a most unsatisfactory manner. Has quite misunderstood the relations existing between us

Captain Beddome v. Mr Spring

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uly 1865.
No. 1349)

dated

5, No. 1266

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As I understand Captain Beddome's communications in respect of Mr Spring, he declines to receive the authority of Mr Spring to relieve Mr Spring from separate charge of certain forests belonging to the Annamally range of hills.

He must distinctly state that this change of arrangement will be inclusive of any loss of salary to Mr Spring. This person will simply remain a post of responsibility, connected with which will be no independent superintendence of a departmental nature, or power, at his discretion, to make large advances to contractors for felling, carrying & purchasing forest timber.

The circumstances brought to light in the papers laid before Government appear to me fully to justify certain transactions in which Mr. Spring, Acting Assistant Conservator in charge of the Annamally and Bolumputty range had been involved, and which seemed in Captain Beddome's opinion to show that he ought not to be allowed to return to the

independent

Captain Beddome's Proposal, dated
London, 1st October 1865.
Have the Special Caution of 1865.

Generally the Inhabitants of
Forest Departments are married & Cultivators,
but they are unprovidable
Pensioners. Mr Spring, however,
has chosen to advance at a
great pace, paying away heavy
sums of public money without inspection;
what he was doing when suspended;
remaining a regular record of his
acts, and finally the Transactions
such as to call for Enquiry and
Embarrassment, that he was induced,
in self defence, to call Council of Defence
to assist him, if the Department did
not. Spring had contracted such
Annoying & Disrespectful & neglectful
of orders habits, or perhaps worse.

Sub-Captain Beddome does
not include collusion in the
Transactions continued by
Mr Chambalon Esqr. but if
he had done there was
much the same reason
Beddome has
Schedule C — 5

Mr Spring

deal with Mr Spring's
petty irregularities and those
which came to Captain B
with Assistant-Conservators & Probationers
Mr Spring did not call to account
in particular instances in the report.

The matter of the advance
to certain men at the higher rate
(50 Rs. a cart) Mr Spring alleges
he was compelled to do so, & was
by carefully contingent by the
Officers Rakes present charge
of Mr Spring's take Office, and as
report showed fraudulently be
submitted to the Government
claim to the amount, if any,
may remain irrecoverable. Spring
Mr Spring's written defence &
any local inquiries into the matter
came than the mere 'abstract' contained
such a paper from a man whose
work of the rough kind involved
by his employment, away from
Office books & records, on the practical
duties of the Forest Department

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Annexure.
Annexure
Annexure
865.
following
officiating
Director.
July 1865.
No. 1349)
dated
65, No. 1266
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lowed to return to the
independent

and therefore, as it seems
best, that the suspension has
failed.

J Campbell Esq

Revenue Department.

No. 1912.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 17th August 1865.

Read the following
letter from the officiating
Conservator of Forests.

Forwarding further Reports with
Mr. Spring's de-
fence together with Copy of his ex-
planation point by point by D. Cleghorn.

(Here enter 18th July 1865.
No. 1349)

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the 28th April 1865, No. 1266
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Beddome's proposition that Mr. Spring should be placed in future under some other officer and not be allowed to remain in independent charge of a range. Captain Beddome will now direct Mr. Spring to resume his duties.

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J.R.

4 To the Officg Conservator of Forests
with cancels dtd 18 Aug.
5 The Accountant General

Crop No. 142-143
9-5-65
~ 318-319
15-6-65

Revenue 1865 Departt
Progress for August
1912
Progress Madras Govt
Dated 1st August 1865
From Late Asst Conservr
of Forests Annamallay
No 5 Septr 1865 No. 2579—
Forwarding the explana-
tion submitted by
Mr Spring of the Forest
Departt in connection with
the charge of having com-
mitted certain irregu-
larities and requesting
his restoration
to office

From the Offg Conservator
of Forests 11 October 1865-
A 2892.
From do 24 April 66
A No 1202

No 279 of 980