

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2643

Press

Mis.

540 - 541

Dated 27th October 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th October 1865.*

Read again Memorial from Mr. Thomas Spring, dated 10th September, and recorded in G. O. 20th September 1865, No. 2,260.

No. 540. Read also the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 11th October 1865, No. 1,462:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Government Order No. 2,260 of the 20th of September, forwarding Mr. Spring's Memorial, together with an enclosure herewith returned.

2. In my letters Nos. 1,266 of the 28th of April, and 1,349 of the 18th of July last, recorded in the Government Orders Nos. 956 of the 9th of May, and 1,912 of the 17th of August, I have fully explained that Mr. Spring had given Teak on license when it had been purposely omitted from his seigniorage lists, and had himself fixed the seigniorage rates without even referring the matter to the Conservator or even reporting it; and that he had given only verbal orders where important contracts were concerned; and that he had received deposits of money without entering them in his accounts; and that, during his tenure of office as Acting Assistant Conservator, he had exhibited such laxity of system generally, and such disregard of the rules of the Department, that he could not be again employed in any independent charge. Upon my report, Government directed that Mr. Spring should be placed under some Officer in the Department; Mr. Spring's appointment was that of Sub-Assistant Conservator, but as every Sub-Assistant has an independent charge, the system of the Department necessitated his reverting to the appointment of Overseer. In his defence, and in the Memorial now under review, Mr. Spring has not been able to give any satisfactory explanation of his conduct.

3. With regard to Mr. Spring's assertions in paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 of his Memorial, I have to inform you that after the trial of Boria Gownden, Major Michael at once informed Dr. Cleghorn, that after hearing Mr. Spring's own admission in evidence, he could not possibly place any reliance on his accounts or on the information he had given him regarding his dealings with Contractors. I was not present at the trial myself, but from what Major Michael reported to Dr. Cleghorn and myself, I could not again have placed any confidence in Mr. Spring. In paragraph 6, Mr. Spring states that he gave Major Michael a separate and detailed list of the advances made to the axemen and cartmen; the amounts worked out; and the balance due by each. Major Michael, however, stated that he found the list untrustworthy, inasmuch as some of the men repudiated the balances set down against their names, and others who had the remarks "at work," "safe debt," &c., set opposite their names, were in reality neither at work, nor by any means likely to clear off their advances without legal pressure. Lieutenant Bennet, now in-charge, has since reported the same facts, and I anticipate very great difficulty in recovering many of these outstandings. Major Michael also reported that the timber in the only depôt he was able to examine differed materially from that set down in the lists furnished him by Mr. Spring, so that he could not place any reliance on the lists of timber said to be in the Forest depôts, which the unhealthy season precluded him from examining.

4. With regard to paragraph 9 of Mr. Spring's Memorial, I need only state that the Teak on the Ponachi hills (the contract for cutting which has been given to Mr. Lowry) is stunted, and of inferior growth, as growing at a very high elevation; we have tried for some years to effect a sale of this, as much of it was deteriorating, and the fallen trees, of which there were some hundreds, were getting annually destroyed by fire; no one, however, would make any bid whatever, and when the accident of a Coffee estate being opened out in the vicinity gave us a chance of making a clear profit of two Annas per cubic foot, I was very glad to accept the offer. It was at Mr. Lowry's own request that I reported specially on this, as he did not wish to commence felling until it had been brought officially to the notice of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th October 1865.*

Government. The Teak in the Coimbatore belt, however, is of very fine growth, but all the ripe trees having been felled out it has been strictly reserved since conservancy came into operation, and the Railway Company, who leased a portion of these forests, were not even allowed to fell a single tree. Mr. Spring gave parties the whole run of the Teak in these forests without the sanction of the Conservator, or without even reporting that he was doing so; this was done verbally, as his contracts only allowed of jungle timbers being felled, and the price was fixed by himself, as Teak was never entered in the seigniorage lists of the District framed by Major Michael; while this was going on Mr. Spring never once entered these forests or took any steps to prevent depredations, these circumstances alone would have necessitated my recommending his removal from any independent charge.

5. Reverting to the subject of Mr. Spring's outstandings against cartmen, I must inform you, that Lieutenant Bennet states that he sees no chance of settling them, or at least a considerable portion of them; many of the men are not at work, and have apparently taken the advances without any intention of working; others are not to be found, or are said to reside in the Cochin territory. By the instructions laid down in the Forest Manual, Mr. Spring was only authorized to give an advance of twelve Rupees per cart; several parties, however, appear to have received advances of 600 and 700 Rupees each, who only possessed some three or four carts, and no precautions were taken to keep the men and their carts and cattle at work until their advances were worked out. Mr. Spring states that these debts are all safe, and that he could recover or work them all out; I would therefore suggest that he should now be ordered to settle all these advances in communication with Lieutenant Bennet, and that he should bring all the men to work who are willing to work out their advances, and that a statement should be drawn up shewing what advances are considered irrecoverable.

No. 541. ORDER THEREON, 27th October 1865, No. 2,643.

Forests, No. 17.

1. A perusal of the papers above recorded tends to strengthen the conviction at which the Governor in Council had arrived, that Mr. Spring is unfit to be placed in independent charge.

2. On consideration, however, of the fact that one effect of this decision has been to reduce Mr. Spring to the position of an Overseer drawing only Rupees 80 a month, the Governor in Council resolves to modify the Order of the 17th August 1865, No. 1,912, so far as to grant Mr. Spring an allowance of Rupees 90 a month for the period during which he was under suspension, viz., from the 30th April to the 17th August 1865.

3. Captain Beddome's proposition that Mr. Spring should be sent to aid Lieutenant Bennet in settling the Anamallay cart accounts is approved, and the report called for in paragraph 5 of the Order quoted above should be forwarded in due course.

4. Captain Beddome will be good enough to inquire into the truth of the assertion made by Mr. Spring in paragraph 2 of the letter to his address, dated the 2nd September, to the effect that an advance of Rupees 400 has been made to a contractor who only possesses one cart, and will therefore never be able to work out his contract.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustia.

that he could recover or work them all out, I would therefore suggest that he should now be ordered to settle all these advances in communication with Lt Bennet and that he should bring all the men to work who are willing to work out their advances and that a statement should be drawn up showing what advances are considered irrecoverable.

Have the honor to be

Sir

Yours most obedt servant

P. H. Beddome

Offg Conservator of Forests

Revenue Department
C. No 2579 & 2892

Memorandum.

In G. O. 17th August 1865 No 1912 Government approved of Captain Beddome's proposition that Mr. Spring should not in future be allowed to remain in independent charge of a range.

Previous to his suspension Mr. Spring had been a Sub Assistant Conservator drawing Rs 150 pay + Rs 30 travelling allowance. A Sub Assistant Conservator is

2009 May 15 to 14-11-15
17 Aug 279-280
20 Sept 408-409
30 June 668-666

2009 May 15 to 14-11-15
17 Aug 279-280
20 Sept 408-409
30 June 668-666

The Acting Secretary to Govt.
Bombay

Butt 11th 1865
13th 1865

Forwarding Receipt on Mr.
Spring's Memorial.

2009 May 15 to 14-11-15

2009 May 15 to 14-11-15

220 Oct 15 1861

is an officer in independ-
-ent charge, so that the
G. O. involved Mr. Spring's degradation
to the next grade
that of Overseer, draw-
-ing only \$80 a month.

In the same G. O.
Govt. stated that loss
of pay for the period
of suspension (30th April
to 17th August) would be
a proper punishment
for the irregularities
he had committed.

Mr. Spring now asks
for a reconsideration
of his case on the grounds
that he has been in-
-properly convicted, and
that Govt. did not intend
to

Letter printed in
Govt. Proc. 20th Sept^r
1865 No. 2260.

In view of the result of the inquiry to inflict degradation
on him in addition to
forfeiture of pay.

Capt. Reddome's
reply to Mr. Spring's Memo-
-rial is a satisfactory proof
of the justice of the conclu-
-sions to which Govt. have
arrived on the merits of
the case. Mr. Spring is evi-
-dently unfit for independ-
-ent charges.

It seems to me possi-
-ble, however that if
Govt. had taken into
consideration the
circumstances that Mr.
Spring's pay was about to
be reduced from \$180 to
\$80 they might have
been less severe about
the forfeiture of pay. In
that case it would still
be

200 Oct 1865

be open to them to allow
him a portion of his pay,
say from one quarter to
one half, in accordance
with a recent order of the
Govt of India, applicable
in principle though subse-
quent in date -

I think this may be
allowed -
W.D.

Madras G.O.
10th Oct 1865
No 478 Finl Dept

Capt A Beddome
proposes that Mr Spring
should be sent to aid
Lt Bennett in settling the
Ammamallay Cart accounts.

a proper responsibility
W.D.

This would seem to be
desirable. A report has
already been called for
on the subject by G.O.
17th August 1865 No 1912.

advised
W.D.

W.D.

J.E.

It may be said that
the Government
of Madras has
a large number
of members
and that the
amount of 4000
is not a large
sum.

Memorandum on all Springs
C. 5298

72-2643. Per Sept 6
Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 27th Oct 1855
Read again Memorial from
Mr Thomas Spring of 10th Sept and
recorded in G.O. 20th Sept 1855 No
2260.

Forwarding remarks on Mr
Spring's Memorial

Read also the following from
the Off^r Com^r of Forests
(due enter 11 Oct 1855 No 1462.)

1 A perusal of the
papers above recorded
tends to strengthen
the conviction at which
the Governor in Council
had arrived that Mr
Spring is unfit to be
placed in independent
charge.

2 On consideration,
however, ^{of the fact} that one effect
of this decision has
been to reduce Mr
Spring to the position
of Overseer drawing
only Rs 80 a month, the
Governor in Council
resolves to modify the
order of the 7th Aug 1855
No 1912 so far as to grant
Mr Spring an allowance

W. J. 1855

of R 90 a month for
the period during which
~~Mr~~^{he} Spring was under
suspension, viz: from
the 30th April to the 17th
August 1865.

3 Capt Beddome propo-
sition that Mr Spring
should be sent to aid
Lt Bonnet in settling the
Anamallay cart accounts
is approved, & the report
called for in G.O. 17th ^{from 15th}
~~order quoted above should~~
August 19 12 will be
forwarded in due
course.

4. Capt Beddome will
be good enough to inquire
into the truth of the
assertion made by
Mr Spring in para 2
of a letter to his address
dated the 2nd Sept
to the effect that an
advance of R 400 has
been made to a contractor
for who only procured
one cart, & will therefore
never be able to work out
his contract. JF

4. To the P. J. Panseraalorag House at which
the C. & C. are seated General J.
3rd of the C. to Mr. Spring & Co. on
the 25th of 1865.

Received 1805 Duly
paid for 2000

2000

2000 the above for
2000 Dec 1805

Confirming the
opinion that the
late Acting
Governor of
is right to hold
independent
charge and
salary of
during the
was under such

2000 1805