M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1320 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 1-6- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st June 1866.

No. 64. - Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 21st May 1866, No. 1,817 :—

1. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, dated 9th March 1866, No. 8, recorded in the Government Order No. 1,132 of the 12th of May, I have the honor to inform you, that I am not aware that any teak timber has ever found its way to England from any of the Government forests of our Western Coast. Until very lately the Bombay Dockyard has taken all our teak, and we have sold little or none since the Dockyard has ceased operations ; the teak, therefore, that has found its way to the English market is probably from the Cochin forests : the forests of the Colungode, Nambiddy and other private forests, over which the Forest Department have never had any control.

2. In the letter from the ship-builders of the port of London, (Enclosure No. 14,) remarked on by the Secretary of State, they write about Rangoon or Malabar teak *versus* Moulmein teak, as if the two former were *the same*, whereas Rangoon and Moulmein teak are similar, and are prepared in the same manner. All Burmah teak that I have ever seen is prepared in log, and is generally neatly squared or sawn. In the forests of our Western Coast the saw is not often used, but when a tree is felled it is generally split up the centre with wedges, and then prepared into planks of large size with the axe, by this means the heartshake, which is found more or less running up the centre of every tree, is got rid of, and the timber is much less faulty in the centre, though it has a rougher appearance externally. In the Anamallays we always apply the terms "log" to all timber squared up, with the heartshake in the centre ; this style of timber is generally prepared from small or average sized trees, and the whole breadth of the tree is squared into one log, the centre of the tree being the centre of the log. The term "plank" is always given to timber (without reference to the size) prepared from large trees, which are split up the centre. Burmah teak is always, I believe, of the former description, and Malabar teak generally, though not always, of the latter ; this is, I believe, the chief secret of Malabar teak fetching a higher price in the Bombay market than that of Burmah, and when we supplied the Dockyard they would not take timber of the former description, except at very reduced rates.

3. The reports from the different Shipwright Officers of Her Majesty's dockyards in England are very contradictory on the subject of girdling ; it is probable that few or none have ever had a fair opportunity of deciding the relative merits of girdled or ungirdled teak, as they could never be certain whether the timber they purchased had or had not been subjected to this process. Their opinions seem very decided that Malabar teak is superior to that of Burmah, though the former does not seem to be so well known. The shipwrights in Bombay are, I think, in a position to give a more valuable opinion on the subject.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1866, No. 1,320.

Forests, No. 3.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of the Secretary of State, with reference to the Despatch dated 9th March 1866, No. 8.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st June 1866.

2. The suggestion contained in the last part of the foregoing letter will be attended to, and application will accordingly be made to the Government of Bombay, to ascertain and report the opinion of Bombay shipwrights on the Malabar teak.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

W. 1320

Ordered to be submitted for the information of the Secretary of State, with reference to the despatch dated 9 March 1866, No. 8

The suggestion contained in the last part of the foregoing letter will be attended to, and application will accordingly be made to the Government of Bombay to ascertain & report the opinion of Bombay shipwrights of the Malabar teak.

1st June 1866.

4 Copies to Offg Conservator of Forests
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Pro. 12th May 1866 Nos 221 - 222

Reported to England
on 18th June No 3 of 1866
Min Forests

Revenue
Pro of Conference June
186 6. Despatch

Forest Department.

From No. 1477-
dtd
The Conservator of Forests,

To The Secretary to
Government No 19.
Fort St George

Dated 21st
Received 23d } May 1866.

No. 1817.

Enclosure No. 1.

Answering G.O. No 1132
of the 12th of May 1866

No 1320 - 1st Line

Wetherder

2

Leave the leaves to lie.
Yes
Hon. Secretary to Govt. Revenue Dept.
A. Nicholson Conservator of Forests

No. 64-65.