M.R. O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	25-85	Press Mis.
136-137. Dated	7-10-~~19~~ 1868.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 136. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd September, 1868, No. 6,731 :—

Read the following letter from the Acting Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 25th August, 1868, No. 16.

1. On the 20th November, 1865, Mr. Smith applied, in writing, to the Collector of Coimbatore, for a tract of land at the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut. On 18th December, 1867, Mr. Smith made another application to the Collector, in which he asked—

"When am I to get the puttah for the land at Colar, which you gave me the year before last? I fear the kist will be accumulating, and come heavily on me, to pay at once."

This refers to the same land applied for in his letter of 20th November, 1865.

2. On the back of this last application Mr. Grant, on 13th March, 1868, endorsed to the effect, that some of the land could not be given, but that there was no objection to granting that part lying between Mr. Stane's boundary and the new Ghaut.

3. Next, I find an Arzi from the Tahsildar, dated 30th July, 1868, enclosing a sketch of the ground applied for, showing its position round about the new Ghaut, just where the road leaves the old Ghaut and begins to ascend. The Tahsildar reported that, in his opinion, none of the land could be given, because it was on the new Ghaut, and on the boundary between the Coimbatore and the Neilgherry Districts.

4. Accordingly, on the 11th instant, I informed Mr. Smith that the land he applied for was wood-land, on both sides of the new Ghaut, and could not be granted, as Government had reserved all such land.

5. Mr. Smith replied, with letter of 21st instant, appealing to Government. I send the letter to the Board, accompanied by sketch alluded to in paragraph 3.

6. It is to be regretted that the original application remained so long undisposed of; but I do not think that Mr. Smith can say that Government has broken faith with him. When, in his second application, he makes use of the words "the land that you gave me the year before last," he must allude to some mere passing conversation. The land in question has never been granted to him, and he has never been in possession of it, and it is evident, from the endorsement, that Mr. Grant thought it undesirable to part with the whole of it. Mr. Smith's case is, no doubt, entitled to special consideration, because his application was made previous to the date of the Order of Government reserving the land on the Coonoor Ghaut, and because of the hopes which, with some reason perhaps, he has long entertained. But, in my opinion, there exist grave objections to the alienation of the particular land he wants, not only because it is wood-land in the Coonoor ravine, but because it would be just the place most suitable for a terminus if ever a tramway were carried to the foot of the Hills.

—

From Mr. G. SMITH, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 21st August, 1868.

1. I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No.——, of the——instant, informing me of your inability to give effect to my application, addressed to Mr. Grant on the 20th November, 1865,

for waste land situated at Colar, in consequence of the receipt of restrictive orders from Government against grants of land within sight of, or adjoining the Coonoor Ghaut. I trust you will kindly permit me to address you on the subject of this application, in view to the matter being brought to the favorable notice of Government. The following remarks will enable you to see the grounds on which my request is based. When I applied for the land, (20th November, 1865,) I was not aware of any order of the nature to which you allude; and although I repeatedly applied in person to the late Collector, to be put in possession, I was never told that any objection was raised to its sale, that gentleman confining himself to such remarks as led me to infer that the delay was solely that usually attending public business. I have every reason, therefore, for presuming that the restrictive orders referred to are of a recent date; if this presumption is correct, I submit the hardship of giving those orders a retrospective operation. I further beg to add that my future plans and arrangements have been passed on the almost certain acquisition of this ground; its loss will, therefore, necessarily involve an alteration in those plans and arrangements.

2. If any fault in this matter can be due to me, it is the desire not to be troublesome to a Public Officer, with weightier matters than my private concerns to occupy his attention.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Plan.

1. Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board are of opinion that, for the reasons stated by Mr. Breeks in the concluding part of his letter, the land should not be sold.

No. 137. ORDER THEREON, 7th October, 1868, No. 2,585.

Miscellaneous.

1. Under the circumstance brought to notice by the Commissioner, the Government are unable to permit the land for which Mr. Smith has applied to be made over to him.

2. The delay in the disposal of the case by the late Collector of Coimbatore is very reprehensible.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Copy

No 2585

No 8100

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7 Oct/68

16 Copies To the Rt Rev^d William Reeves Derry & C^o

Govt. of 1868 Mudras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated October, 7th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 7th October 1868, No. 2,585.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 136-137.

Land at the foot of the Coonoor Ghaut—Mr. Smith's application for that portion at Coker, declined.

Draft order declining to sanction certain lands at Solar in the Conoor Ghaut being made over to Mr. Smith

No. 130. 137.

Received 15th Dec.
Board of Cust. & Sea Customs

No 2555

Bd of Rev. Madras Cus.
Dec 7th Collection 1868.

Coll
Dec

136—137