M.R.O. 14—13,000—57-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2761 Press ~~His.~~

296-297

Dated 11— 10 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 296. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Ootacamund, 29th September 1866, No. 2,009 :—

1. In reply to the Government Order No. 2,543, of the 21st of September 1866, I have the honor to inform you, that I should recommend a seigniorage of five Annas per bandy load on all bamboos cut for sale or export in the Government Talooks of the Vizagapatam District.

2. With reference to the non-success of forest operations in this District, I would observe that the Collector, in his letter recorded in the Government Order No. 797, of the 3rd of June, stated that it was most desirable to conserve the Government tracts of forest, as felling and burning was carried on in a most reckless manner in all hill tracts belonging to Zemindars; when this was referred to my Department, I recommended that a small establishment should be entertained for conservancy, at least as a trial; this was sanctioned in the Government Order No. 2,349, of the 28th September 1865, and the Collector himself appointed a third class Overseer. There does not seem to have been any demand for timber, and the receipts will not be likely to cover the expenditure as long as indiscriminate felling is carried on in the forests belonging to Zemindars; but in the meantime the Government tracts are being preserved, whilst the other forests are disappearing. The Collector was of opinion that a depôt should be opened, but I am very doubtful if the demand for timber would authorize our working these forests, at present, to an extent to make the undertaking profitable. The Collector's Assistant has lately reported, that the Overseer now in charge is not competent to undertake the opening of a depôt and the necessary felling operations, and, at the Collector's request, I am now trying to get another man for the post, and I have just offered the appointment to Mr. Power, who was a candidate for employment under Dr. Cleghorn, and who has had some training in the Department. These hill forests are very much out of the way, and are said to be very unhealthy, and I much doubt if we are ever likely to get a competent Overseer for the appointment on the small salary of 60 Rupees, unless it is some one living in the District, and in a measure inured to the climate. If Mr. Power accepts the appointment, I would recommend that he should be employed (subject to further report) for six months under Mr. Boswell, the Collector's Assistant, who is stationed at Nursapatam close to the forests, and who takes great interest in forest matters. If it is found that the opening of a depôt succeeds, and creates a demand for timber, the establishment might be continued; but if it is proved that there is no demand for timber at present, an establishment will only be required to prevent waste in the Government tract, and to stop clandestine felling, a Duffadar and four Peons would be sufficient for this; and if the bamboo-tax is put in force, the seigniorage receipts might be expected to cover this expenditure, but even if it did not, it is very desirable to preserve these forests for future years, whilst the surrounding tracts are being destroyed. In either case I would recommend that these forests are placed, for the present, entirely under the Revenue authorities; the operations are too limited to make it desirable to keep them under the special Department, which entails a considerable amount of office work, far more in fact than a third class Overseer can be expected to undertake.

3. As these forests have been but little explored, it is my intention to visit them this coming cold season (when they are healthy).

No. 297. ORDER THEREON, 11th October 1866, No. 2,761.

Forests, No. 9.

1. The rate of seigniorage of five Annas per bandy load on all bamboos cut for sale or export in the Government Talooks of the Vizagapatam District, proposed by the Collector and supported by the Acting Conservator of Forests, is sanctioned.

2. The Board will obtain and submit, at an early date, the opinion of the Collector on Captain Beddome's proposal to place the forests of the District under the Revenue authorities.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Acting Conservator of Forests.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2.

2—2761.

The rate of seignorage of 5 annas per bandy load on all bamboos cut for sale or export in the Govt Talooks of the Vizagapatam District, proposed by the Collector and supported by the Actg Conservator of Forests, is sanctioned.

The Board will obtain & submit at an early date the opinion of the Collr on Captain Beddome's proposal to place the

Pro 12 June 66. A 227-8
28 Sept — 574-5
21 — 66 — 502-3.

3

Rev- 1866. Disbursement
Pro: of Govt for October

Forest Department.

From No. 3384-
offg
The Conservator of Forests,

To The Secretary to Govt
R. D. Fort St. Geo.

Dated 29th Sept 1866.
Received 1st Oct

No. 2009.

Enclosure No.

The Rs. Lowest of Forests Report on Coleroon
" " Board of Revenue Forests

The forests of the District under the Revenue authorities-

No 2761-11 Octr

A 2967-77

With a/order
Pro Bd of Revs dt 5 Nov 66
Col. No 1036

26 Oct 1866 Rq