

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 393

Press

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252 253

Dated

15 - 2 - 1866

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th February 1866.*

No. 252. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department :—

Passing orders on papers relating to a quantity
of timber, the property of this Government,
which is reported to be lying at the mouth of
the Damrah river, in the Balasore District. } (Here enter 5th February 1866, No. 462.)

No. 253. ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1866, No. 393.

Forests, No. 4.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, with
reference to their Proceedings No. 3,356 of 20th

June 1865, recorded in G. O. of 4th July 1865, No. 1,525.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Military Department, No. 462.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

<i>Pros. of the Madras Govt., Revenue Dept...</i>	Here enter	4th July 1865,	No. 1525.
<i>From the Inspector General of Ordnance ...</i>	..	14th Dec. ..	211.
<i>From the Commissary General.....</i>	..	21st ..	5520.
<i>From the Inspector General of Ordnance ...</i>	..	15th Jan. 1866,	235.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th June 1865, No. 3356.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Ganjam, Chatterpore, 2nd June 1865, No. 628 ; to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 18th ultimo, communicating Order of Government, dated the 13th idem, I have the honor to report that it appears from certain correspondence that passed in 1845, between the then Master Attendant at Coringa, Mr. Flower, and the then Collector of this District, P. B. Smollett, Esq., that the former had advanced a sum of Rupees 600 to one Colloo Thathiah, owner of a sloop "Stri Seetharamaswamy," for the shipment to Madras of certain timber lying at Damrah, and then emergently required by the Commissariat Department; that in consequence of the vessel being delayed at Poondy (being shut in by the bar of the river) he had found it necessary to cancel his

23rd January 1845.

24th .. " No. 7.

4th February .. " 15.

18th .. " " 18.

22nd .. " " 22.

agreement with Colloo Thathiah, who being then a resident of Berhampore, the Master Attendant in several letters (as dated in the margin) requested the Collector to take steps for the reco-

very of the above sum. The owner of the sloop having subsequently left for Coringa, Mr. Smollett advised the Master Attendant to adopt the necessary measures for the recovery of the sum at that port. By a letter of the 10th March 1845, from the Master Attendant, which closes the correspondence on the subject, the amount advanced was recovered from one Badoo Thathiah, on account of Colloo Thathiah.

2. The timber alluded to in the above Proceedings of Government is probably the same as that for which freight had been engaged by Mr. Flower in 1845, but I am unable to gather any more positive information in the records of this office.

Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order, dated 13th May 1865, Revenue Department, No. 1010.

ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1865, No. 1,525.

Transferred to the Military Department, with copy of G. O., dated 13th May 1865, No. 1010, Revenue Department, as the case appears to be connected with the Commissariat Department.

(True Extract.)

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

Read the following letter from the Under Secretary to Government, Bengal, Judicial, Fort William, 25th April 1865, No. 2,639; to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

1. I am directed by the Lieutenant Governor to forward, herewith, for information and the issue of such orders as may seem necessary, to His Excellency the Governor of Fort Saint George, a copy of certain correspondence with the Commissioner of Cuttack, noted in the margin, regarding a quantity of timber, the property of the Madras Government, which is reported to be lying at the mouth of the Damrah river, in the Balasore District.

2. I am to add that, under the circumstances represented in the Commissioner's letter, No. 92, the orders issued by this Government for the sale of the timber and the dismissal of the Chowkeedar in charge have been cancelled.

From the Officiating Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, 29th January 1865, No. 26; to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

1. I have the honor to forward copy of a memorandum, No. 12, from the District Superintendent of Police at Balasore, of the 9th instant, and to request that authority may be obtained from the right quarter, for the sale of the nearly useless timber referred to. On the receipt of sanction the services of the Chowkeedar will be dispensed with.

2. Somebody, I should think, is to blame for this waste of property, but as the Magistrate and Collector of Balasore seems to know nothing about it, I have not directed any enquiry to be made.

Memorandum from the District Superintendent of Police, Balasore, 9th January 1865, No. 12; to the Magistrate of Balasore.

1. I beg to inform you that within the last week I saw at Ghaut Damrah, close to the Customs Cutcherry, a large number of very large saul timber logs, said to be the property of the Madras Government.

2. I was told that the number of the logs was 104; that they had been collected by the Madras Government for conversion into gun carriages; that they had been cut in Dhenkanul and other tributary Mehals, and floated down to their present position, where they had been for the last fifteen or twenty years under the charge of a Chowkeedar, whose sole duty was to look after them, and who had been throughout this period, and who was now drawing pay at the rate of Rupees 3 per mensem.

3. Through long exposure, through dry, rot, and the ravages of white ants, the logs have become, if not nearly, valueless, and I would beg to recommend their being sold off at once to the best advantage.

4. I was informed that some Baboo at Cuttack in the Commissariat Department was the responsible agent for the timber.

From the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial, Fort William, 13th February 1865, No. 825; to the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division.

1. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 26, dated the 29th ultimo, with annexure, and in reply to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor sanctions the immediate sale of the logs of saul timber therein referred to, and the dismissal of the Chowkeedar in charge of them.

2. I am to observe that it is not creditable to the local officers that this timber, which is apparently the property of the Madras Government, should have been allowed to lie rotting at a public ghaut at Balasore for fifteen or twenty years without any notice or report to superior authority. You will be good enough to enquire and submit, for His Honor's information, a full

report as to whence the timber came—why and by whom it was cut in the tributary Mehals and collected at Balasore—who disburses the Chowkeedar's pay—and who is especially to blame for the negligence which has been displayed, and the loss thus caused to Government.

From the Commissioner of the Cuttack Division, 10th April 1865, No. 92; to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

1. I have the honor, in reply to your letter, No. 825 of the 13th February, to state that I have ascertained that the timber in question is not only the property of the Madras Government, but under the immediate charge and responsibility of the Commissariat Officer (a Native) of that Government. The Chowkeedar is employed and paid by him, and monthly returns are sent, as of other property in his charge, so also of the timber now lying at the mouth of the Damrah.

2. This timber is merely the remains of a much larger quantity cut from time to time in past years by Madras Officers and shipped off, as opportunity offered, to Madras. The last shipments were, I am informed, made about the year 1853.

3. Under these circumstances, I submit that the neglect, if there be any, and the loss are solely that of the Madras Government. The local officers have in fact no more to do with the timber than they have with the Madras Artillery at the station.

4. I may, however, explain that the wood was not lying at a public Ghaut at Balasore, but at the mouth of the Damrah river, a most unhealthy inaccessible spot, some 50 to 100 miles distant from any station.

5. I would respectfully solicit instructions whether, after receiving this explanation of the real circumstances of the case, His Honor the Lieutenant Governor would wish the former orders, relative to the discharge of the Chowkeedar, and the sale of the timber, to be carried out.

ORDER THEREON, 13th May 1865, No. 1010.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue, who will obtain and submit a report from the Collector of Ganjam, regarding the timber referred to in the foregoing letter from the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

Secretary to Government.

Referred to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines and to the Commissary General, with advertence to the Proceedings of Government marginally noted.

No. 2670, dated 3rd August 1864.
,, 3712, dated 19th October 1864.

19th July 1865.

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, 14th December 1865, No. 211; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your docket, dated 19th July 1865,

No. 2670, dated 3rd August 1864.
,, 3712, ,, 19th October ,,

Memorandum from District Superintendent of Police, Balasore, to the Magistrate of Balasore, dated 9th January 1865. Paragraph 3.

forwarding for report, in reference to Proceedings of Government as per margin, correspondence relative to certain timber, stated by the Commissioner of Cuttack to have been cut in Dhenkanul and other tributary Mehals for Ordnance Carriages, but now reported "nearly valueless."

2. It was not considered advisable to incur the expense of sending a person, as sanctioned by Government, to examine the timber in question lying at Damrah, until trust-worthy information could be obtained respecting its real condition. I have since received from the Commissary

General a report, dated 1st November 1865, containing a full and detailed description of the present condition of the timber, copy of which report I beg to attach, from which it will be observed that of the 101 logs still lying at Damrah

- 6 have been destroyed by worms and white-ants,
- 40 cracked by exposure to the sun and salt-water, and
- 55 pronounced "good."

101 Total.

3. It will be further observed that those (40) said to be "cracked," are not considered to be unserviceable, the cracks being merely superficial and the heart timber still sound.

4. In addition to the abovementioned 101 logs, there are 66 more lying in the forests of Goomsoor, which require to be floated down to the port of Ganjam; but of these logs no report has yet been received.

5. The Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory, on being referred to for an expression of opinion, stated that he understood from the report, quoted above, that nearly all the timber lying at Damrah is unserviceable for Gun Carriage purposes, and that it would not be advisable to send a person to select any portion thereof.

6. I differ, however, with the Superintendent in the view expressed, which is not, in my opinion, borne out by the report; and although there might possibly have been some grounds for rejecting this timber when saul was used only for the beams of Gun Carriages, and the logs were, consequently, required to be cut up of large scantling and perfect in character, but the case now is entirely different, when saul timber is used not only for beams but for framings of all waggons and limbers, and other parts of the Gun Carriages for which logs of small scantling can be turned to good account. I therefore propose, with the approval of Government, as there is at this moment a very urgent demand for saul timber in the manufactory, consequent on its greatly extended use, to depute a qualified Ordnance Subordinate to inspect the entire quantity of the timber, with a view to the whole of the serviceable portion being shipped for Madras at the earliest possible opportunity, and as the difficulty of finding a vessel to take the logs on board in their present shape has been found for many years insurmountable, I propose, in communication with the Superintendent Gun Carriage Manufactory, to facilitate transport to Madras, to cut the logs up at Damrah into pieces fitted for Ordnance purposes.

STATEMENT of timber lying at Damrah.

No. of log.	Breadth.		Length.			Condition.
	Feet.	In.	Yd.	Ft.	In.	
1	1	11	6	1	2	Good.
2	2	0	3	0	11	Cracked by exposure to the sun and salt-water.
3	2	2	6	0	5	Do. do.
4	2	3	5	1	3	Good.
5	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	11	Eaten up by worms.
6	2	1	6	0	0	Do.
7	1	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	0	Cracked by exposure to the sun and salt-water.
8	2	2	5	2	10	Do. do.
9	1	11	5	2	9	Do. do.
10	1	8	5	1	11	Do. do.
11	2	1	5	2	4	Do. do.
12	1	8	5	2	3	Good.
13	2	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do.
14	1	8	5	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do.
15	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	11	Do.
16	1	9	6	0	3	Do.
17	2	0	5	2	10	Cracked by exposure to the sun and salt-water.
18	1	11	6	0	8	Do. do.
19	2	0	6	0	7	Do. do.
20	2	0	5	1	0	Do. do.
21	1	8	6	0	2	Do. do.
22	2	5	6	0	0	Do. do.
23	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	2	Do. do.
24	1	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	4	Do. do.
25	2	0	6	1	0	Do. do.
26	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	3	Do. do.
27	1	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	3	Do. do.
28	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	5	Do. do.
29	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	3	Do. do.
30	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	1	Do. do.
31	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	6	Do. do.
32	2	1	5	1	11	Do. do.
33	1	10	6	0	7	Do. do.
34	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	1	Do. do.
35	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	0	10	Do. do.
36	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	1	Do. do.
37	1	5	5	1	5	Do. do.
38	2	0	6	0	7	Do.
39	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	0	8	Good.
40	2	0	6	0	7	Do.
41	1	11	6	0	10	Do.
42	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	2	10	Do.
43	1	11	5	1	6	Do.
44	1	8	5	1	6	Do.
45	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	6	Do.
46	2	1	5	1	6	Do.
47	2	2	5	1	6	Do.
48	1	8	5	1	4	Do.
49	1	9	5	1	4	Do.
50	1	6	5	1	5	Do.
51	1	8	5	1	3	Do.
52	1	11	6	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do.
53	1	5	6	0	0	Do.
54	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	4	Do.
55	1	9	6	0	0	Do.
56	1	9	5	1	11	Do.
57	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	1	11	Do.
58	1	11	5	1	11	Do.
59	2	0	5	1	11	Do.
60	2	0	5	1	11	Do.
61	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	2	3	Do.

Statement of timber, &c.,—(continued.)

No. of log.	Breadth.		Length.		Condition.
	Feet.	In.	Yd.	Ft. In.	
62	1	8½	5	1 4½	Good.
63	1	9½	6	0 3	Do.
64	1	9½	5	1 5	Do.
65	2	1	6	0 3	Do.
66	6	0	5	1 6	Do.
67	1	10½	5	1 6	Do.
68	1	5	5	1 6	Do.
69	1	4	6	0 6	Do.
70	1	7	6	0 6	Cracked by exposure to the sun and salt-water.
71	2	½	5	1 6	Do. do.
72	2	3	5	2 11	Do. do.
73	1	5½	5	1 0	Do. do.
74	2	1	5	1 11	Do. do.
75	1	6½	5	2 8	Do. do.
76	1	9	5	1 3	Do. do.
77	1	11	5	1 5	Do. do.
78	1	4	5	1 6	Do. do.
79	1	11½	5	1 6	Do. do.
80	2	2	5	1 5	Do. do.
81	1	6	5	1 1½	Do. do.
82	1	7	6	0 11	Good.
83	1	5	6	0 0	Do.
84	1	9	5	1 4	Do.
85	1	9	5	1 4	Do.
86	2	0	5	1 4	Do.
87	1	9	5	1 11	Do.
88	1	6	5	2 0	Do.
89	1	11	5	2 0	Destroyed by mud and white ants.
90	1	6	5	2 7	Do.
91	1	3	5	1 4½	Good.
92	1	2	6	0 9	Do.
93	1	7	5	1 2	Do.
94	1	9	5	1 1	Do.
95	1	4	5	1 11	Do.
96	1	4½	5	1 2	Do.
97	1	1½	5	1 10½	Do.
98	2	0	5	1 10½	Do.
99	1	2½	5	2 6	Do.
100	1	1½	5	2 6	Destroyed by worms.
101	1	1½	5	1 ½	Good.

MEMORANDUM No. —.

Balasore, the 7th October 1865.

This report from Sub-Inspector Khublor Ruhman on the timber belonging to the Madras Government now lying at Ghaut Damrah is forwarded to the Magistrate.

2. The undersigned thinks it proper to mention that he has learnt from the Sub-Inspector, that those logs which he has mentioned as "having been cracked by exposure to the sun and salt-water" are by no means unserviceable—the outer surface having been only cracked, while the heart is sound timber.

(Signed) E. J. SHUTTLEWORTH,
District Inspector.

From the Commissary General, Madras, 21st December 1865, No. 5520; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, Fort Saint George.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum of 16th December 1865.

2. As reported in paragraph 4 of my letter, No. 5079 of 15th September 1864, recorded in Government Order, No. 3712 of 19th October 1864, there are 101 logs of saulwood at Damrah.

3. In my letter to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, No. 2446 of 27th July last, I requested that Officer to detail a subordinate of his Department to inspect these logs, but the Inspector General suggested that the Collector of the district might first be asked to cause the same to be inspected and reported on.

4. The Executive Commissariat Officer at Masulipatam was accordingly requested to ascertain, in communication with the local civil authorities, the present actual state of the above logs, and report thereon.

5. From the enclosed copy of a statement (a) received from the Commissioner of Cuttack shewing the present condition of the timber, it will be observed that the whole of the timber (except five logs) appears to be in fair condition.

6. A counterpart of this statement was forwarded to the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines on the 1st November 1865, and I would strongly urge that an ordnance subordinate be sent to report whether the timber is suitable for ordnance purposes, and whether the logs could be cut into smaller dimensions convenient for shipment.

7. Every endeavour has been made by this and the Marine Departments for years to remove this timber to Madras, but in consequence of the great size and weight of the logs, and the inconvenient locality at which they are lying, it was found impossible to ship them in their present state.

8. The bar of the Mahanuddy river on which Damrah is situated, can only be crossed by vessels of from 200 to 250 tons, and the wood can only be conveniently shipped by bringing the vessels alongside the river bank, but native craft of this size are not capable of shipping logs of the dimensions of those referred to, and consequently in 1859 the ship *Defiance* was chartered for the conveyance of this timber, and orders sent to float it out of the river on rafts, and ship it in the roadstead.

9. Mr. Conductor Wheldon who was sent up to Damrah in October 1859, found that materials for constructing rafts to float such heavy timber outside the bar could not be obtained, that no boats or coolies or in fact any transport whatever could be procured at the place, and reported that "every thing required for shipping the timber must be obtained from the rajahs of 'Kumaka' and 'Ave'—some ten and twenty miles above Damrah—by official application to our own civil authorities at Cuttack, distant eighty-two miles from Damrah. The civil authorities will not compel aid from the rajahs, and are extremely reluctant in soliciting the same, rigidly prohibiting any compulsory measures, and making it entirely optional with the rajahs to grant or decline the aid solicited."

10. In consequence of all these difficulties the charter of the *Defiance* was abandoned, and this Department was compelled to pay a demurrage of Rupees 2,000, vide Proceedings and Order of Government, No. 3906 of 4th November 1859.

11. If therefore the Ordnance Department decides on accepting this timber, they must send sawyers from this, and allow the logs to be cut into the smallest size it can be used for ordnance work, the wood could then be shipped on country craft that can cross the bar.

(a) Vide foregoing Statement.

From the Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines, Fort Saint George, 15th January 1866, No. 235; to the Secretary to Government, Military Department.

In continuation of my report, No. 211, dated 14th December 1865, I have the honor, with reference to paragraph 4 thereof, to state that the Commissary General has reported the recovery of 59 logs of saul wood from the forests of Ganjam, and that 41 of them are considered serviceable, and will be sent to Madras for the Gun Carriage Manufactory.

2. I observe from the report* of Captain R. H. Beddome, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, that

* Dated 1st May 1865. Recorded in the report of the Conservator of Forests, for the official year 1864-65.

1,000 logs of saul timber have been felled, and I am addressing that officer to ascertain when it is probable that any of these

logs will reach Ganjam, so that, if necessary, a qualified person may be sent to select such of them as may be adapted for Ordnance carriages.

ORDER, No. 462, 5th February 1866.

The Governor in Council directs that the arrangements ordered in Proceedings of Government, No. 2670, dated 3rd August 1864, with respect to the timber referred to in the foregoing correspondence, be immediately carried out—the result being reported in due course.

2. The Inspector General of Ordnance and the Commissary General will communicate with the Controller of Military Accounts regarding the provision of the requisite funds, if not already available from the budgets of their respective departments.

Docket to the Secy. to the Govt. of India, Mily. Dept. | Here enter 5th Feb. 1866, No. 463.

(True Extract.)

Marshall Major General,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department. *With 10 spare copies*
 " Inspector General of Ordnance.
 " Commissary General.
 " Controller of Military Accounts.
 " Public Works Department.
 " Examiner of Ordnance Accounts.
 " Examiner of Commissariat Accounts.
 " Examiner Pay Department.
 " Military Accountant.

