

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	858	Press ~~Mis.~~
25-26 Dated	1-4-	18 68.

Not to be folded or roughly handled858
ms

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st April 1868.*

No. 25. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 25th March 1868, No. 629 :—

1. Lieutenant Gosling, the Deputy Conservator, is anxious to undertake the construction of a rough cart-road from the foot of the Annamallays up to the head of the timber slip. He states that if he is allowed the services of a Corporal and six Privates from the Sappers, or, if there is any objection to this, an Overseer from the Department Public Works, he can construct the road for a sum of Rupees 5,000.

2. A renewal of the lease of these forests for a period of ninety-nine years has just been concluded, and I am of opinion that a cart-road up to the forests, in the place of the present rough slip, is very desirable, even though the cost was four times the estimate of the Deputy Conservator. The present timber slip is nothing but the rugged rocky slope of a mountain, and the timber is often much injured in being dragged and slipped down by elephants. A cart-road would make the forests much more accessible, and would be a great saving of elephant labor. A few years ago the ghaut was inspected by Mr. W. Fraser, who was then Superintending Engineer of the Coimbatore District; he was, however, of opinion that a road would cost about 20,000 Rupees. Application would then have been made to Government for sanction for this scheme, only the lease had not long to run, and its renewal was uncertain.

3. I would suggest that the Deputy Conservator should be allowed at once to commence the road, and that, for the present, Rupees 5,000 should be sanctioned towards it, and that he be allowed the services of the Sappers, or the Overseer, from the 1st of June, when the forests are healthy, and the regular working season commences. I am not sanguine that a fair road can be completed for the sum mentioned, but a rough one, just practicable for carts, might be opened out, and a further sum might hereafter be sanctioned, if necessary.

4. The Superintending Engineer, or the Executive Engineer of the district, might report upon the scheme, if Government thought it necessary.

5. The importance of the Annamallays as a Teak reserve, fully authorizes the expenditure necessary for a good ghaut road, and Teak plantations on these mountains might then be commenced, as we have at present plantations only in the plains, and there can be no doubt that the growth of Teak is far superior on the mountains.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1868, No. 858.

Forests, No. 3.

The Officiating Conservator will report whether the proposed expenditure of Rupees 5,000 can be provided for from his Budget provision.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

W-858

The Offgust.
Like report & the
the proposed expenditure
of \$5,000 can be
provided for from his
budget provision

L.B.

1st Sept/68.

10 Copies to the Offg Const of Forests & Sept 20

20

3