M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1743 Press Mis.

429-30

Dated 19-6-1869 19 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1743/69

61

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th June 1869.

No. 429. Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Manantoddy, 29th May 1869, No. 1,431 :—

WITH reference to paragraph 2 of the Government Order, No. 1,401, of the 19th of May, I have the honor to inform you that although it appears that Mr. Underwood, to save time, at first issued a warrant that might have been informal from want of evidence, he subsequently had all the evidence laid before him and issued a formal warrant.

2. I proceeded from Mysore to Manantoddy, but when I arrived there, I found that Mr. Underwood had just started on a tour, and that he would be absent for some time. Mr. Ricketts had just informed me that Mr. Underwood's warrant already issued was sufficient, and that nothing more could be done till Mr. Turnbull was apprehended, so there did not appear to be anything to detain me at Manantoddy.

3. The Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, subsequently (on the 24th of March) telegraphed to me to get Mr. Underwood to issue a warrant, as Captain Tennant's warrant was not sufficient, I was under the impression that he was ignorant of the fact that Mr. Underwood had already issued a warrant; but fearing that there might be some informality about this warrant, I forwarded the telegram, on the same date, to Mr. Cherry, directing him to act upon it in communication with the Deputy Magistrate.

4. The Deputy Magistrate on his return to Manantoddy took Mr. Cherry's deposition on oath, (7th of April) and examined the contracts between Mr. Turnbull, as Forest Officer, and the Merchants, and the copies of Mr. Turnbull's receipts for the money which were sworn to by Mr. Cherry and his establishment, and he subsequently re-issued a formal warrant; he informs me that he did not consider it necessary to summon the Contractors themselves, as the contracts and payment of the money were fully proved, and I cannot think that it was my duty or Mr. Cherry's to have dictated to him what evidence was necessary for a formal warrant.

5. The Mysore Contractors, and all the witnesses to the contracts, Bank Clerks from Madras, Trichinopoly, and Bangalore, and other parties connected with the receipt of the moneys and payment thereof into Mr. Turnbull's private accounts, have all now been summoned to appear at Manantoddy on the 8th proximo.

6. I may here mention that the case was in the hands of the Government Solicitor, Captain Tennant as Commissioner of Police, and Mr. Underwood, Deputy Magistrate in Wynaad, and the letters and correspondence which passed in connection with it were not forwarded to me.

No. 430. ORDER THEREON, 19th June 1869, No. 1,743.

Forests, No. 14.

MAJOR BEDDOME has already received a copy of the Advocate-General's opinion showing that the evidence

their opinion before
them

adduced before the Deputy Magistrate, at Manantoddy, was *not* sufficient to justify the issue of the *various* warrants which were signed by him. With this opinion before them, the Government are unable to accept as correct Major Beddome's statements that all essential evidence was laid before the Deputy Magistrate, nor are they able to relieve Major Beddome from the censure passed upon him. As already observed, it was clearly his duty, as the head of Mr. Turnbull's Department, to put the case against that person before the Deputy Magistrate in a complete form, and this he failed to do.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

