

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>2333</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
<i>208-209</i>	
Dated <i>16th</i> <i>Aug</i> 19 <i>1869</i>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

16/8/69

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th August 1869.*

Read again letters from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 12th March, 2nd March, and 1st April 1869, Nos. 1,239, 1,250, and 1,266, recorded in the G. Os., dated 24th March and 7th May 1869, Nos. 827 and 1,250:—

No. 208. Read also 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 at Ootacamund, 15th May 1869, No. 1,383.

In reply to the Government order, No. 1,250, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inform you that, beyond the rule referred to in paragraph 1 of my letter, No. 1,266, of the 1st of April, 1869, recorded in the above Government order, there is no printed rule which requires all payments for timber to be made direct to talook treasuries. It is however the usual practice in the department that all sums, when possible, shall be paid direct into Government treasuries, and all payments made by cheques. Mr. Turnbull and all Assistants and Sub-Assistants have been strictly cautioned by me on this subject; and it is clear that Mr. Turnbull knew the course to pursue, as it was proved that the first payment made to him (8,000 Rupees) was tendered in cash, but he refused to receive it, and caused the merchant to pay it direct into the Government treasury, and procure a transfer receipt, which however he subsequently discounted.

2. I have never interfered with the custom usual in districts under officers; and I find that Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan in some cases receives remittances from merchants in Bank-notes, cheques, and hoondies, when they would be inconvenienced by having to proceed to a talook treasury; but that cash-payments are, as a rule, made direct into treasuries. Lieutenant Gosling, however, reports that in no case does he ever receive money, and that all sums whatever are invariably paid direct into talook treasuries.

No. 209. ORDER THEREON, 14th August 1869, No. 2,333.

Forests, No. 14.

It appears from the foregoing letter that Overseer Turnbull was enabled to embezzle the large sum of Rupees 36,000

by falsifying the periodical accounts which he was required to submit to the central office, and by ignoring the practice of the department under which he should have reported to the central office for sanction the large contracts entered into with the Mysore merchants, and have received no money himself, but merely receipts for payments made into Government treasuries on account of the Forest Department.

2. As observed in the G. O., under date 7th May 1869, No. 1,250, the usual practice in regard to the receipt of money seems to be at variance with the course prescribed in the manual of accounts. It is, however, imperatively necessary that no payments of any description should be received by forest officers, and a distinct departmental rule to this effect should now be laid down by Major Beddome, and the first form of account in the manual amended accordingly. It is also necessary that instructions be issued that no forest officer below the grade of Deputy-Conservator, shall enter into any engagement or contracts for the supply of timber without the approval and sanction of the head of the department previously obtained.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th August 1869.*

3. Major Beddome will now further submit a draft of two rules to the above effect, which should be published, from time to time, in English and the vernacular in the *District Gazettes* of localities where operations are going on, and also in the *Mysore District Gazette*, with a notice, warning the public against making any payments direct to forest officers.

4. The Government believe that, with these additions, the rules of the Forest Department will be found to be effective. The only really efficient check, however, upon the operations of range officers, acting at a distance and away from regular control and supervision, must be frequent and unexpected visits of inspection by an independent officer who would examine books and stock; and the Government require that this system, as a rule, be strictly observed and enforced without intermission.

5. The re-organisation of the department being now under consideration by Government, they will be prepared to receive from Major Beddome carefully matured proposals for increasing the inspecting staff, and any suggestions he may have to offer for rendering impossible a repetition of Turnbull's offence. The Acting Conservator himself should, however, be on tour not less than nine months in the year, and should make a thorough investigation of the books and stock in each range visited by him. He will require a similar detailed inspection by such officers as may by him be deputed to make it. A quarterly return of the tours undertaken by the Conservator, with a note of the aggregate number of days passed by him on the Neilgherry plateau, during the year, and his Inspecting-Deputy, if such an officer be appointed, should be submitted to Government, specifying the period spent in each forest range. The return for the months of April, May, and June, of the present year, being the second quarter, should at once be submitted.

6. As the recent re-investigation of Overseer Turnbull's case has elicited nothing which tends to show that the Mysore merchants were willingly parties to the frauds committed by him, Major Beddome is authorised to make over to them the timber purchased, as requested in paragraph 4 of his letter, dated 22nd March 1869, No. 1,250.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS.

Chief Secretary.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
.. the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Office of Conservator of Forests
Camp Cotacarnund, 15th May 1869

N^o 1383.

From

Major R. A. Beddome

Off^r Conservator of Forests.

To,

R. A. Dalryell Esq^r

As Secretary to Government

R. D.

Sir,

In reply to the Government
Order N^o 1250 of the 7th instant, I have
the honor to inform you that beyond the
rule referred to in para 1 of my letter N^o
1266 of the 1st of April 1869 recorded in
the above Government Order, there is no
printed rule which requires all payments
for timber to be made direct to taluk or
treasuries. It is however the usual practice
in the Department that all sums, when
possible shall be paid direct into Govern-

ment

Cont. of 1869 25/11/69.

REVENUE.

THE OFFICIATING CONSERVATOR

OF FORESTS.

Ac, Ac, Ac

Dated August, 11th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O. 14th August 1869, No. 2333.

From the Asst Conservator

of Cotacarnund, 15th May 1869.

From the Asst Conservator

of Cotacarnund, 15th May 1869.

From the Asst Conservator

of Cotacarnund, 15th May 1869.

Nos. 203-209.

From the Asst Conservator

of Cotacarnund, 15th May 1869.

Checks against funds in the Forest
Department.—Passing orders on the Officiating
Conservator's letter on this subject.

ment Treasuries, and all payments made by cheques. Mr. Turnbull and all Assistants and Sub-Assistants have been strictly cautioned by me on this subject, and it is clear that Mr. Turnbull knew the course to pursue, as it was proved, that the first payment made to him (£5,000 Rs.) was tendered in cash but he refused to receive it, and caused the merchant to pay it direct into the Govt. Treasury and procure a transfer receipt which however he subsequently discounted.

2.- I have never interfered with the custom usual in districts under Officers and I find that Lt. Colonel Morgan in some cases receives remittances from merchants in Bank notes, cheques and Hoondies when they would be inconvenienced by having to proceed to a Taluk Treasury.

but that cash payments are as a rule made direct into Treasuries. - Lieutenant Gosling however reports that in no case does he ever receive money, and that all sums whatever are invariably paid direct into Taluk Treasuries.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

A. S. S. S. S. Major
Offr. Conservator of Forests.

been prescribed. But with
this manual and form
of account in record, and
no rule ever published
cancelling the practice
prescribed, it would be
quite hopeless to attempt
to require to supply the
timber to the Indian merchants
on the ground that they
paid the money to W. Turnbull
instead of to the Genl. Treasury.

Before sanctioning
the supply of the wood
however, it will perhaps
be as well to await the
result of the new invest-
igation into the case

which has recently been
ordered. Something may
come out tending to show
that the merchants were
acquainted of or participated
in the fraud committed
by W. Turnbull, and in
that case their contracts
might be contested.

When the result of
the new enquiry into the
case is before the final
order may, it is submitted,
be issued on this point,
and Major Beadmore may
be directed to amend the
rules and form of account,
so as to leave no excuse
for irregular action in
future.

MS

My dear Mother
The 31st Dec. about
12 o'clock I was
in the Church Dept.

W-12333 P.H.
Proceedings of the Madras Court
Under date the 14th Aug 1869

Read again letters
from the off^{ce} Cons^{rs} of Forests
dated 12th March, 22nd March
& 1st April 1869 A^{nos} 1239, 1250
& 1266, recorded in the C.O.
dated 24th March & 7th
May 1869 A^{nos} 827 & 1250

Read also the following letter from the
Offg Conservator of Forests

Furnishing further
explanation regarding
checks against funds
in the Forest Dept.

18th May 1869, 11303

It appears from the foregoing letter that Overseer Turnbull was enabled to embezzle the large sum of Rs. 36000.^{periodical} by falsifying the accounts which he was required to submit.

[illegible]

c. 19 May 69 R3 June RC 5 Aug 69/69

Submitted ~~by him~~ ^{by ignoring} to the
Central Office and ^{neglect-}
~~ing~~ the ^{sale practice} ~~practice~~ of the
Dept. ^{under} which ~~requirements~~
^{he should have} ~~been to report~~ the large
contracts entered into
with the Mysore merchants
to the Central Office for
sanction and ^{have} received
no money himself, but
merely receipts for pay-
ments made into Govt.
Treasuries on account
of the Forest Dept.

2. As observed in the
Q. O. under date 7th May
1869, A^o 1250, the usual
practice in regard to
the receipt of money
seems to be at variance
with the course pre-
scribed in the Manual
of accounts. It is,
however,

19 May/69

imperative ^{and necessary} ~~however~~, ~~clearly desirable~~
that no payments of any
description should be
received by Forest Officers,
and a distinct ~~rule~~
^{definitive rule} to this effect should
now be ~~prescribed~~ ^{laid down} by
Major Beddome, and
the first form of account
in the Manual should
be amended ^{accordingly}. It would
~~be well~~ ^{also} ^{necessary} that in-
structions should be
issued that no Forest
officer below the grade
of Dy Conservator shall
enter into any ^{engagement or} contracts
for the supply of timber
without the approval
& sanction of the Head
of the Department. ^o
3 Major Beddome
^{should}
^{will}

Increasingly obtained.

with further
should now submit
a draft of ^{two} the rules
to the above effect which
should be published
from time to time in ^{of localities} English and ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ District Gazette where
operations are going on,
and also in the Mysore
District Gazette, with
a notice warning the
public against making
any payments direct
to Forest officers.

4. The Govt believe
that with these addi-
tions the rules of the
Forest Dept will be
found to be effective.
The only really efficient
check, however, upon
the operations of range
officers must be
frequent

2 act at a distance
and away from frequent
regular control ^{and supervision}

and the Govt require
that this system as a
rule, be strictly observed
and enforced without
interruption.

2 and any suggestions
he may have to offer
for rendering impossible
circumvention of Government
offence.

frequent and unexpected
visits of inspection by
an independent officer
who would examine
books and stock.

5. The reorganization
of the Dept ^{being} is now
under the consideration
of the Govt, and they
will be prepared to
receive from Major
Beddome ^{carefully} proposals
for increasing the in-
specting staff. The
Acting Conservator
Inspector General him-
self should, however,
be on tour at least

than nine months in the
year and should
make a thorough
investigation of the
books and stock
in

in each range visited by him. A Quarterly return of the tour undertaken by the Inspector General, and his Inspecting Deputy, if such an officer be appointed, should be submitted to Govt specifying the period spent in each Forest Range. The Return for the months of April, May & June of the present year being the 2nd Quarter, should at once be submitted.

6. As the recent re-investigation of Messrs Turnbull's case has elicited

2. He will receive a similar detailed inspection by him such officer as may be deemed to make it.

2. (with a note of the aggregate number of days spent by him on the Kalyan plateau) during the year

10
elicited nothing which tends to show that the Mysore Merchants were willingly in any way parties to the frauds committed by him; Major Bealome is authorised to make over to them the timber purchased, as requested in para 4 of his letter dated 22nd March 1894.

12. Letter to Govt Dec 17/94
13. — off Secy of Forests

Ed. Bealome

Handwritten text, possibly a signature or name, located in the upper right quadrant of the page.

Car

Despatch