

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2875	Press
~~368~~ -362	~~Mis.~~
Dated 29 th October 1869	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th October 1869.*

Read the following:—

No. 360. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th June 1869, No. 3,982.
Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nandaloor, 7th April 1869, No. 38.

I HAVE the honour to advert to the Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 28th January last, No. 248. The Board will observe that in paragraph 4 of his letter, therein embodied, the Officiating Conservator of Forests, referring to a tract of land on the north bank of the Chittravatty, which he recommended should be secured for his department for a Railway fuel plantation, informed the Government that "there are some petty rights which the Collector says can be purchased for 70 or 80 rupees," whereupon, in paragraph 1 of their Order, the Government ordered me to obtain the tract in question, "recovering any outlay which may be incurred from the Forest Department on transfer of the land."

2. I think it right to point out that Major Beddome did not correctly describe the rights that have to be dealt with in regard to this tract. The following is an extract from my predecessor's letter to Major Beddome, dated 7th October last:—"The land belongs to the Shrotriem village of Mootsoomurry, but I understand that the Shrotriemdars are willing to come to terms either if a sum of Rupees 72-8-6 per annum is deducted from the Jody they pay to Government, or if a like sum is paid annually to them in cash. The extent of the land is 497 acres 5 guntahs 1 vissum, assessed at 2 annas 4 pics per acre. It has never been cultivated."

3. This, therefore, is not a case of outlay restricted, as the Government have been led to suppose, to Rupees 70 or 80. The whole of the land is the property of the Shrotriemdars, and they are bound to nothing.

4. Before proceeding further in the matter, I beg to be instructed whether I should endeavour to purchase the tract out-and-out from the owners, and, if so, whether the cost will be debited to Forest Revenue; whether I should engage, on behalf of the Forest Department, that it will pay from its revenues an annual rent for the land, or whether I am to undertake, favouring Forest at the expense of Land Revenue, to deduct the assessment from the Shrotriem Jody.

5. Last year, in North Arcot, I decided that the Forest Department should pay the assessment upon a bit of land they wished to take up; but I observed lately in one of the Board's volumes, that on Mr. J. D. Robinson's recommendation the Board upset my decision, and ruled that the Forest Department should have the land free of assessment.

6. If the Board see no objection to the application of this principle to all lands required by the Forest Department, the simplest plan in the present instance will of course be to make a permanent deduction in the Land Revenue by reducing the Shrotriemdar's Jody.

7. I cannot, however, myself see why the Forest Department should be favoured to the extent of being permitted to increase its revenue at the expense of the Land Revenue.

8. The Board will observe that, in the same Proceedings, I am ordered to hand over to the Forest Department another tract between Cuddapah and the Papugny river. It consists of 450 acres, 250 of which have been, and the remainder was about to be, planted from Local Funds.

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9. The Jungle Conservancy branch of Local Funds is sadly wanting in stability. One day the Forest Department demands and obtains more old forest, thus materially reducing our Jungle Conservancy income, and the next we have to hand over to them, on refund of the bare outlay, what we fondly hope would be a remunerative investment on behalf of the local public in a new Railway fuel plantation. It is hoped that the Board will appreciate the difficulty, under these circumstances, of framing a budget in regard to interests so fleeting.

10. But as the site is Imperial property, I fear we have no *locus standi* from whence, as immediate guardians of the funds of the local public, we can in the present instance effectively protest against the sacrifice of our local interests, and the implied contempt for our local efforts to supply fuel to the Railway.

ORDERED that the foregoing letter be forwarded to the Conservator of Forests for such remarks as he may wish to offer.

2. The Board are disposed to believe that Major Beddome is not aware that the assessment of the land in question is so high as 72 rupees per annum, and that to buy the land outright from its owners will probably require about 2,000 rupees.

3. The Board recommend the Conservator to choose some other land for the proposed fuel reserve; but should he consider this particular piece absolutely indispensable to the success of the undertaking, they request that he will be good enough to state whether his department is prepared to incur the cost of buying up the land altogether, or of paying the annual rent of 72 rupees.

No. 361. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1869, No. 6,703.

Read again letter from the Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated 7th April 1869, No. 38, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th June 1869, No. 3,982.

Read also the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 28th June 1869, No. 1,478.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 3,982, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inform you that it will be a great pity if the tract of land on the north bank of the Chittravatty river cannot be secured for a Railway fuel plantation. I have been all along the line as far as the Tumbuddra, and there is no tract so well adapted for planting; in fact suitable land cannot be obtained except in very small blocks, unless we purchase at a large outlay.

2. It appears that the land in question can be purchased outright for about 2,000 rupees, or rented for an annual sum of Rupees 72-8-6; it is 497 acres in extent, and I consider it is very cheap. The payment of such a large sum down, as Rupees 2,000, would be a heavy charge at the outset against the plantation, and as the Collector states that the proprietors are willing to give it up if a sum of Rupees 72-8-6 per annum is deducted from the Jody that they pay to Government, I should much prefer this latter plan, and the Forest Department could then pay the annual assessment to Government, if necessary.

3. The Collector is of opinion that no land should be given to the department for planting free of assessment; we have not hitherto been charged assessment on any land taken up for planting, nor has a charge been even contemplated before,

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29th October 1869.*

and I believe that I am right in stating that private individuals can obtain land for planting trees free of assessment, for at least a certain number of years.

RESOLVED that the foregoing papers be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In Government Order dated 28th January 1869, No. 248, the Government directed the Collector of Cuddapah to take measures to obtain, as a Railway fuel reserve, the 497 acres of land indicated by the Conservator of Forests in a letter dated 4th November 1868, No. 1,006.

3. It afterwards appeared from the Collector's letter, recorded at the head of these Proceedings, that Major Beddome was not sufficiently informed as to the cost of the land, which the Collector states to be part of the Shrotriem village of Mootsoomurry. The Shrotriemdars are willing to let the land on lease at Rupees 72-8-6 per annum, or to sell it outright for Rupees 2,000.

4. The Collector's letter was referred by the Board, in their Proceedings dated 4th June 1869, No. 3,982, to Major Beddome, for such remarks as he might wish to offer, and his letter of 23th June is his reply.

5. The Board are of opinion that the Conservator of Forests shows sufficient reason for obtaining the land in question, even at the high price named, and as it is obviously more desirable that the land should belong to Government than be held by them on lease, they recommend that its purchase, at Rupees 2,000, be sanctioned, and the Collector authorized to proceed with the negotiation as soon as practicable.

6. With regard to paragraph 3 of the Conservator's letter, the Board remark that the Forest Department is not required to pay the assessment on waste land occupied by them.

No. 362. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1869, No. 2,875.

Forests, No. 24.

THE Government sanction the adoption of the course proposed by the Board of Revenue, on the understanding that the Acting Conservator of Forests has sufficient funds available in his Budget provision for the purchase of the land in question. Major Beddome should submit a report on this point with as little delay as possible.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

W. 2875 Rev. Sept

Proceedings of the Madras Fort
Under date the 29th Oct. 1869

Read the following
Part of the No. of Revenue

Recommending to sanction
purchase of certain land
forming part of the revenue
village of Mookomerry in
Cuddapah Dist. & required
by Govt. Dept. for Railway
Fuel reserve.

18th 7th Sept 1869, No 103.

The Govt sanction
the adoption of the
course proposed by
the Board of Revenue,
on the understanding
that the Ag. Comr.
of Forests has suf-
ficient funds available
in his budget provision
for

Wm
A/A

Copy in collection to Govt
15th Feb. 1869 of 1869

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REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated October, 29th.

Recd.

G. O., 29th October 1869, No. 2,875.

From the Comr. of Forests by
2nd Div. 17th Oct 1869
OCTOBER.

Nos. 360-362.

Railway fuel reserve in Cuddapah.—Pass-
ing orders with reference to the purchase of cer-
tain land for this purpose.

for the purchase of
the land in question
Major Reddome
should submit a
report on this point
with as little delay
as possible

[Handwritten signature]

14 To the Prof Geo Deane
13 - Off Secy of Forests
6 - Secy of the Interior

[Handwritten signature]