M.R.O. 1—50,000—16-10-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	681.	Press ~~Mis~~
344-45.		
Dated	12th March	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 12th March 1869.

No. 344. Read the following letter from A. DECLOSETT, Esq., C. E., to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 8th March 1869 :—

I have the honor to submit for Government consideration—

1. That the demand for Cast Iron is daily increasing ; that beyond supplying the Department of Public Works, I have also to meet the wants of Companies' Contractors and Municipalities. It is then of the utmost importance that I should be able to supply, at rates as low as possible, the demands of Government and of the public.

2. This cannot be done with the means now at our hands, and besides it would become difficult to meet the demands satisfactorily for my interests, if I was to depend only upon materials brought from Europe, and such will be the case when the small stock of old Iron here procurable, would be exhausted.

3. With this view, and as to make a portion of the Pig Iron I require, I have erected a Blast-furnace and machinery for smelting ores of Iron available around Madras, and I am now collecting charcoal for beginning my operations.

4. It only remains now to arrange for the fuel. I can procure some charcoal from Native merchants, but their procey of dealing with forests ought not to be encouraged, as they burn generally the jungles for cultivating the tracts once cleared. It is, however, much important for industrial purposes that plantations of fuel and conservation of forests should be encouraged, so that a constant supply should be secured without destroying any forest or jungle, and for that purpose, I have the honor to forward the present application.

5. I would suggest that Government should be pleased to allow me, on lease, a certain portion of jungle, and to let me "manage" the same on the principle as followed in France or Germany for the forests. This "management," I intend, would be made as follows :—The portion leased would be divided into ten or twelve parts ; the first part would be worked during the first year in such a way as to supply a certain quantity of fuel by slightly cutting there and there, leaving the trees and bushes in sufficient quantity and thickness, as to afford shade and shelter to the underwood, and keeping thus the proper condition necessary to vegetation. In the same time plantations of trees and bushes appropriated to the soil and object required (A) would be effected, as far as practicable, upon the part on cut, and left afterwards to grow. On the second year the second portion of the jungle would be worked in the same manner as the former part in the preceding year, and so on for the others, till that after a rotation of ten or twelve years, the whole portion of the jungle would have been worked one after one, and the former part would be then ready again to be worked for fuel.

6. It is generally admitted that in India ten to twelve years would be amply sufficient for allowing a bush partially cut to grow up again sufficiently thick for fuel. This opinion was that of R. Brunton, Esq., C. E., my predecessor, in the direction of the Porto Novo Iron Works (B). His observations were made principally into the jungle of Devicottah, lying at the mouth of the Coleroon River, between the sea and a back water.

7. Should Government approve of my suggestion, I would propose that a lease of the jungle, situated in the Talook of Streearicottah, should be granted to me on the ordinary terms. This jungle being now under the Revenue Department,

and free of any Contractor, would be conveniently adapted for the application of my plan.

8. As I intend to keep at work one furnace only, the quantity of fuel required would be proportionately small; lastly, I would gladly bind myself to the following conditions:—

1st.—Not to sell or make any commercial transaction with the wood I may collect, and that the fuel would be used only for my furnace purpose.

2nd.—To replant and improve, as mentioned above, the jungle leased to myself.

Such are the suggestion and application, I have the honor to lay down for Government consideration, with a hope that, considering the importance of the subject for the future wants of the industry of Iron, my request will meet their approval.

Note A.

Between the trees which grow rapidly on the coast, and grow again after being cut, I can mention:—

1st.—The Acacia.
2nd.— Duranta (Casau.)
3rd.— Syzygium jambo lamun.
4th.— Casuarina.
5th.— Black wood.
6th.— Poinciana regia.
7th.— Portia.

These woods give a very good quality of charcoal, the Casuarina charcoal thought light is, however, very good as combustible.

Note B.

Extract of a Report to R. Macdonald Stephenson, Esq., by Mr. R. Brunton, C. E., Manager of the Porto Novo Iron Works, (1848).

The jungles on the Coromandel Coast are merely bushes not trees, and enclosing large patches of cultivated land. The average size of billets cut from the stems and branches is one inch in diameter and three feet long, one thousand weigh ten hundred weight, that is, there is two thousand to a ton. They are all hard wood. Soft wood makes light charcoal. The proportion of hard wood to soft in the jungle averages one-half. A hard wood bush cut down takes twelve years to grow sufficiently large for a second cutting. The charcoal made from this wood is excellent in quality but friable, and will not bear to be carried long distances. It is transported without log by boats.

No. 345. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1869, No. 681.

Miscellaneous.

Forwarded to the Collector of Nellore for report, through the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

(3)

No 681

Summary of the Collector of Nellore's report, dated 18th March 1869 on the Board's Proceedings of 12th March 1869

Copy to the Collector of Nellore

Govt. of [1869] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated March, 12*th*.

Recd. *Read.*

G. O., 12*th March* 1869, *No.* 681.

MARCH.

Nos. 344-345.

Streearicottah Jungle.—Mr DeCloesett's proposal to lease a certain portion of it, with the view of obtaining fuel for smelting Iron ores, forwarded to Collector of Nellore for report.