M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1040 Press / Mis.

60-61

Dated 12-7-1870 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th July 1870.

No. 60. 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 at Tellicherry, 2nd May 1870, No. 2,099 :—

In reply to paragraph 4 of the Government Order, No. 460, of the 7th of April, and in continuation of my letter, No. 1,674, of the 31st of August last, recorded in G. O., No. 3,001, of the 20th of November 1869, I have the honour to submit letters* on the subject from Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan, the officer in charge of the range, and from Mr. Cherry, his Assistant.

* From Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan, No. 864, 30th April 1870.
From Mr. Cherry, No. 15, dated 27th April 1870.

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan is of opinion that it would not be to our advantage to place our sales in the hands of our competitors in the trade ; and he thinks that any arrangement other than a separate Timber-yard would result in endless disputes ; and he advises that, if we cannot establish a depôt of our own in Mysore, all our sales shall take place at Hirnandy (our depôt on the river twenty miles from Mysore).

3. Mr. Cherry deprecates the proposed arrangement, as he does not anticipate that the Mysore Forest Department, as a rival establishment, could be expected to take the same interest in our sales as the officer in charge of our forests would do. He advocates a separate depôt for our department in Mysore, or else that all our sales should be held at Hirnandy, and he states that this is the wish of the merchants ; he also states that our timber is superior to that of Mysore, and that we should be placed at a disadvantage if its sale was mixed up with that from the Mysore depôts. He anticipates besides that the arrangements alluded to would result in numerous disputes, etc., as to measurement, besides putting us to extra expense for establishment.

4. I quite endorse these opinions, and feel certain that it would not be to our advantage to give our competitors in the trade the control of our sales. If anything went wrong no one would be responsible, and we might at any time suffer loss from the carelessness of the Mysore Writers. Our own officers are clearly responsible to Government that our sales are carried out to the best advantage, and it is one of their most important duties ; and if this responsibility is taken out of their hands, I am afraid they might lose much of their interest in their work. If we cannot be allowed our own timber-yard in Mysore, I would suggest that all our sales should be carried on at Hirnandy.

Enclosure No. 1.

From the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, to the Officiating Conservator of Forests, Tellicherry, dated Ootacamund, 30th April 1870, No. 864.

In forwarding a letter from Mr. Cherry, Assistant Conservator in charge of Wynaad, I have the honour to remark that a Timber Depôt in Mysore is not absolutely important, as wood can be sold at Hirnandy almost as easily as in Mysore.

2. That coupled with so many restrictions as those imposed by the Mysore authorities, it would not be advisable to accede to the terms proposed.

Suggestion

3. That looking to the antecedents of the Mysore authorities, who have for a course of years systematically endeavoured to exclude our wood from the Mysore market, first they imposed a tax of one Rupee a cart-load, then raised the tax to three Rupees a cart-load, then, when this and every tax on timber was ordered to be taken off by the Governor-General, they imposed a number of restrictions and caused vexatious delays to merchants, thus compelling them to resort to their inferior Mysore timber, instead of purchasing the very superior Wynaad timber. Looking at the proposed arrangement from this point, I cannot recommend anything but a separate timber-yard and auction sales. Any other arrangement would probably lead to endless disputes.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Assistant Conservator of Forests, Wynaad, to the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, dated camp at Tellicherry, 27th April 1870, No. 15.

You have doubtless seen the late correspondence between the Madras Government and the Conservator of Madras and Mysore, regarding the storing and selling of Wynaad timber in Mysore.

2. Major Beddome has requested me to offer any suggestions I may have to make on the subject, and I gladly comply, as I see that Government seem to incline to Mr. vanSomeren's proposals, which, if carried out, will cause dissatisfaction not only in the Wynaad Forest Establishment, but among the purchasers of Wynaad timber, and, I believe, will result in a considerable loss to the Madras Forest Department.

3. In conference with timber-merchants in Mysore I found them unanimous in desiring that the Wynaad Forest Department should establish a depôt in the Town of Mysore, and that periodical auction sales of timber should be there held, or in the event of the scheme for a Mysore depôt being unfavourably received, that auction sales should be periodically held at Hirnandy, our present large depôt. This latter suggestion I would strongly recommend in *preference* to the formation of any extra depôt, from which the timber is to be sold under the supervision of the Mysore Forest Department; we have no need of their help, and I cannot see what possible *claim* they can have for desiring to control the auction sales of our timber. Excuses they may have, for no doubt the advantages to them would be great, but as there would be a corresponding loss to the Madras Department, it is to be hoped that the Government will not deprive the Wynaad Forest officer of one of the most satisfactory parts of his work, to give it to those who cannot be expected to, and who most certainly will not take, the same amount of interest in it.

4. It would be a great advantage to us to have a "storing depôt" in the Town of Mysore, for large lots of timber can be brought from Hirnandy to Mysore at a small additional cost; the value of the timber being enhanced in far greater proportion. The increase in sales would be considerable. I believe from 25 to 35,000 cubic feet of teak a-year would be disposed of in the Town of Mysore. Indeed, I might even double that quantity, for as our Wynaad timber on an average is finer than that sold from the Mysore Wood-yard; it is not improbable that, with the advantages enjoyed by Mysore timber, and hitherto refused to that from Wynaad, the latter will command a much larger and a much better sale. All that is wanted is the grant of a piece of land, either in or near the Town of Mysore where our timber would be stored, and from whence we would hold auctions, if necessary. This would greatly please timber-merchants, and facilitate sales; for at present, merchants are put to considerable annoyance from the trouble experienced in passing timber purchased from Wynaad depôts in to Mysore Town. A Passport both from the Wynaad officer and the officer of the Mysore forests being necessary, the carriage of their timbers is often delayed to an indefinite time, by perhaps the absence from head-quarters of the Mysore officer, or any little excuse he may find for delaying the Passport.

5. I believe very many timber-merchants are prevented from purchasing from us, owing to the uncertainty of getting their timber passed in Mysore in time to suit their speculation.

6. These facts are given to show the advantages we obtain in forming a Timber depôt in the Town of Mysore, and if Government acknowledge these advantages, they must also see that they will be wasted by allowing our competitors in the "timber-trade" to supervise our sales.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th July 1870.

7. I have said that on an average our timber is finer than that sold from the Mysore Wood-yard; it is easy then to understand how the full independent value of our timber would be lost, if sold mixed with inferior classes. Mr. vanSomeren, I think, deprecates any change from the present system, unless his views are adopted. Mr. vanSomeren doubtless anticipates the important competition that must arise so soon as the Wynaad forests are more extensively worked, and the carriage way for timber from therein more perfect.

8. To allow our timber to change hands before being passed into Mysore would necessitate an additional unnecessary establishment—an extra Writer or Overseer at Mysore to measure and hand over the timber, and an establishment then to measure, receive, and account for it, at our expense. By keeping our guard over the timber we should probably require only an extra Sub-Overseer, or Duffadar and two Peons, to watch the Wood-yard, the sales could be carried on by the present sanctioned establishment.

9. By the latter arrangement numerous disputes regarding the measurement of logs would be prevented; for it is well known that unless a log is perfectly shaped and seasoned, it may be considered fortunate if two parties make the cubical contents the same.

10. In conclusion, I trust that Major Beddome may find in this some persuasions which may influence the Government, while deciding a question so important to the Wynaad Forest Range and to the officer in charge of it.

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1870, No. 1,040.

Forests, No. 2.

THE Government consider that the possession by the Madras Forest Department of a Timber Depôt at the Town of Mysore would materially facilitate the sale of Wynaad timber, and prevent the recurrence of fraud similar to Turnbull's.

2. But after reading the very strong opinions expressed by Major Beddome and his officers against the assimilation of the process to be observed in the sale of timber at Mysore with the Mysore standard, and to the conduct of the sale under the exclusive management of the Forest officers of that province, the Government feel that the working of the two depôts could not well be harmonised or confined to one depôt.

3. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore will therefore be addressed with the view to the rent or purchase by the Madras Government of a site in or near the Town of Mysore for a Timber Depôt, to be managed exclusively by the Madras Forest Department, and for the sale of Wynaad timber.

4. In the meantime, Major Beddome will report (1) the extent of ground required for the depôt at Mysore, in the event of the consent of the Mysore Government being obtained to its formation, (2) whether he proposes to give up both or either of the existing depôts in Mysore Territory.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

3x

Rec. Aug.

Memo for Orders in A.P. 1870

"

Question. Whether a limit should for the sale of Myrabolams timber is to be established within the Mysore territory

Remarks Selected by Mr. Brandis for the purpose of submitting to Government

The Govt. of India
Circle Proc. of Govt. dated
9th July 1869 No 1991 rec
communicating on Sundries

Enclosed herewith for the information of Government a copy of a letter from the Conservator of Forests, Madras, No. 1,040, dated 12th July 1870, with its enclosure, on the subject of the Myrabolam timber which is collected in Mysore, and to request that an early decision may be passed on the proposal contained in the letter of the Conservator of Forests.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) A. Pringle,
Secretary to Government.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, No. 1,040, dated 12th July 1870, with its enclosure, on the subject of the Myrabolam timber which is collected in Mysore, and to request that an early decision may be passed on the proposal contained in the letter of the Conservator of Forests.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) A. Pringle,
Secretary to Government.

Fort St. George,
12th July 1870.

Gobt. of {1870} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE OFFICIATING CONSERVATOR
OF FORESTS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated July, 12th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 12th July 1870, No. 1,040.

JULY.
Nos. 60—61.

Joint Timber Depôt at Mysore.—Further papers relating to the subject, with orders thereon.

22-2-05

3/12/12

Further G.O. 8-October/70
No 4617
V- No 529/71

suggestion was requested, expressed himself in favor of having a depôt for Wynaad timber at Mysore, in which case the depôts at Hirnandi & Untersinty within the Mysore territory might be given up, but he doubted whether the Mysore Govt. would assent to such an arrangement.

3. The Chief Comr. of Mysore was then addressed on the subject. In his reply recorded with G.O. dated 25th Novr. 1869 N. 3001, he agreed with the Mysore Comr. of Forests that the Madras Forest Dept. should abandon their existing depôts in Mysore territory and cart all their wood to Mysore where they could make use of the Mysore timber-yard. A Mukuddi or Gumastah was to be appointed to take charge of the Wynaad wood at Mysore, who was to be under the orders of the Mysore wood-yard Mukuddi but to be accountable to the Madras Dept. for the quantity of wood he received and for its safe keeping. The Madras Forest Dept. was to adopt the petrol rules

Rules of the Mysore Forest Dept. and the auctions of timber were to be held on the same day and under the sole orders of the Mysore Forest Dept. Madras was to pay the Mysore wood-yard Muttuddi Rs 25- per mensem for the extra work imposed on him, and to provide two peons. The Mysore wood-yard regulations were to be observed in every respect.

4. Major Beddome considered this a one-sided arrangement and objected to paying the Mysore wood-yard Mukkuddi a monthly salary or keeping peons for the benefit of the Mysore Dept., but the Mysore Conservator of Forests (vide G.O. dated 7th April 1870. No. 60) has

has since explained that the additional peons were intended to look after the Wynad timber solely, and still maintains that the Mysore timber-yard Muttuddi is entitled to extra remuneration for the extra work entailed on him by the care of Wynad timber. In inviting to the Comm[r] he "deprecates any change "in the present system un- "less the auctions are "held on the same dates "as those of Mysore timber, "and by Mysore Officers only."

The

The Govt in their order dated 9th April 1870, No. 460 did not endorse Major Beddome's objections and expressed themselves favourably disposed towards the scheme for the sale of timber as drawn up by the Mysore Conservator of Forests, but left Major Beddome at liberty to make any further observations on the question.

5. Major Beddome now forwards letters from Colonel Morgan, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, and Mr Cherry the Asst Conservator of Forests, Wynaad, together with

with his own remarks.

6. Mr Cherry strongly deprecates, accession to the terms proposed from Mysore. He advises that either a separate depôt should be created by the Madras Forest Dept in the town of Mysore, or that auction sales should be periodically held at Hirnandi the present Madras depôt within Mysore territory. He argues that the Mysore Forest Dept will not do justice to Madras timber and that as the quality

of

of the Wynaad timber so better than that of Mysore, Madras would lose if the former was sold "mixed up" with the latter. He thinks that a separate depôt at Mysore would cost less than the plan of allowing the Wynaad timber to pass into the hands of the Mysore Dept. before it was sold. (This is, to say the least of it, doubtful)

7 Col. Morgan agrees with Mr. Cherry as to the inexpediency of accepting the Mysore terms, but he does not consider it important

important that the Wynaad Forest Dept. should have a depôt at Mysore at all, inasmuch as wood can be sold at Hirnandi almost as easily as at Mysore. This cannot possibly be the case for Hirnandy is an obscure hamlet in the jungle, 20 miles from Mysore, and to the best of my belief some miles from the main road.

8 Major Beddome entirely agrees with Mr. Cherry

Upcoming

9. Apuming that the formation of a separate Depôt for the sale of Madras timber in the town of Mysore would not be consented to by the Mysore Govt, it only remains to deal with the question of a common Depôt in Mysore on the terms offered by the Chief Commr, as stated above in para 3.

10. The advantages which the scheme offers to Madras are

(1). Prevention of the recurrence of fraudulent sale of Wynad timber in Mysore. Partly owing to the ignorance

of

of the Mysore Merchants as to the rules for the sales of Wynad timber, Overseer Turnbull was enabled to embezzle Rs. 30,000 which ought to have been paid directly into the Mamaitoddy Treasury. It was solely on this ground that the Supreme Govt suggested a common depôt. It should, however, be observed that the embezzlement was primarily due to the audacious dishonesty of Turnbull and only in a very secondary degree to the cause above stated. With an Officer of the grade

of

of Apt. Conservator in
charge of the Wynad range,
there would be no fear
of a repetition of the fraud.
(2) A better sale for Wynad
timber in Mysore. The
detractions from this ad-
vantage have been stated.

11. It is submitted
that the terms of the
Mysore Govt may be
acceded to, as an ex-
perimental measure
for one year. Although
the Apt. Conservator
Wynad range will be
precluded from interfering
with the management
of

of the auction sales, he
might be present at some
of them in order to watch
the interests of his Dept.
and report results. The
Wynad timber can be
clearly distinguished by
a stamp and put up in
separate lots, in which
case its superiority will
affect its sale.

Sd/-

Sd/- [illegible]

Memo:
Saint Catherine
Depôt at Mysore.

Rec'd 16-7-70

Ans 19 May/70 & Rd 9 June

Order & Letter despatched
Wheeler, 12 July

Cancel

Council

Can be asked to
give his assistance in
procuring a site for a
separate depôt at
Nugunee.

6 11x

Revd Department

Forwards

No 1040.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 12th July 1870.

Read the following
letter from the Offg Con-
servator of Forests.

Offering further observa-
tions on the proposals for
a joint-timber yard
at Mysore & forwarding
letters on the subject
from his Assistants.

(H.C. 2d May/70 No 2099)

I. D.S.

N.

The Government
consider that the proposi-
tion by the Madras
Forest Department, of
a timber depôt at
the town of Mysore,
would

would materially fa-
cilitate the sale of Wynaad
timber and prevent the
recurrence of frauds
similar to Tumbulle-

2 But after reading
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expressed by Major
Beddome and his officers
against the assimilation
of the process to be observed
in the sale of timbers
at Mysore ~~temporarily~~
with the Mysore standard
and the conduct of the sale
under the exclusive
management of the
Forest

Forest officers of that
province, the Government
feel that the working of
the two depôts could not
well be harmonized or
confined to one depôt.

3 The Chief
Commissioner of Mysore
will therefore be addressed
with the view to the rent
or purchase by the Madras
Government of a site in or
near the town of Mysore
for a timbers depôt
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4. In the mean time, Major Beddome will report (1) the extent of ground required for the depôt at Mysore, in the event of the consent of the Mysore Govt being obtained to its formation, (2) whether he proposes to give up both or either of the existing depôts in Mysore territory.

DKS

13 Folio Off. Forests Dec. 20
14 Bi. Rec.

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Sd. H. Bell

7 April/70 No 68/9
20 June /69 — 218-221
6 August — 103-105
9 July /69 — 213-214
6 March — 164-165

Rev. Dists 1870 Vol
No 1370.
From The Offg Conr of Forests
To The Secy to Govt Rev Dept

dated Dec 5th } May. 70

No 2099.

Enclosures 2 Nos

" S. Cell No 1040. 12 July 1870.
Offers further observations on the proposals for a Joint Timber Yard at Mysore. & forwards letters on the subject from his Asst

60

C/9 May/20 Rec'd June 1870 Rep'd