

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1280	Press
		M.S.
295-96		
Dated	17-8-1870	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th August 1870.*

No. 295. Read the following Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 28th March 1870 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Revenue—Forests,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, (Railway Branch,) Public Works Department, dated Simla, 14th May 1870, No. 233-F.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your docket No. 106 of 10th January last, forwarding a Resolution by the Government of Madras in the Railway Department on a report by the Consulting Engineer relative to the requirements in respect of wood-fuel of the Madras Railway, including the Bangalore Branch; and to forward for information copy of a letter addressed to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, urging the formation of plantations in that province to supplement the supply of fuel which is at present being drawn from the natural jungles. These jungles are in the Madras Presidency, and in Public Works Department letter No. 458-F, dated 29th September 1869, the necessity of demarcating and reserving them was seriously urged upon the Madras Government. The views of the Government of India as expressed in that letter are confirmed by the remarks made by the Locomotive Superintendent of the Madras Railway in paragraph 13 of his letter received with your docket under reply. These remarks will doubtless receive the attention of the Government of Madras. It is clear that wood-fuel will hold its own against coal on the greater part of the system of the Madras Railway Company for long, if not permanently. The points at which wood-fuel is nearest are Ghooty on the North-West Line and Bangalore, the price being Rupees 9 per ton. The price of English coal is so high that so long as the duty of the wood-fuel is not less than one-fourth that of coal, the former should be used.

2. The Government of India are aware that much of the jungle land whence the railway draws its supplies is in estates where the Government have no control over the wasteland; but some of these jungles are situated on Government lands, and whether they are now under the charge of the Collectors or of the Forest Officers, they should, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, be demarcated, reserved from being alienated, and worked on a regular and systematic plan.

3. In a dry climate the success of plantations, without the aid of irrigation, is sometimes uncertain; but there is no doubt that jungles may be much improved by the prevention of fires and the exclusion of cattle.

4. The whole of the papers in connection with this important question have not apparently been considered by the Government of Madras in the Revenue Department. I am to invite attention to Public Works Department letters, Nos. 458 and 493-F, dated, respectively, the 29th September and 11th October 1869.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, dated 14th May 1870, No. 234-F.

With reference to your letter No. 2,226-15 of 26th July 1869, reporting on the state of the fuel plantations near Hosakoti (Ooscottah) in the Bangalore District, I am directed to forward a copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 10th January last, relative to the requirements of the Madras Railway and the Bangalore Branch of that line in

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17th August 1870.*

respect of wood-fuel ; and to communicate the following observations and orders of the Government of India :—

2. It requires no arguments to prove that the natural forests cannot be depended upon for maintaining a supply of fuel for the railway, and that planting and sowing must be resorted to in aid of natural production.

3. It is understood that much land is not likely to be obtained for the purpose of forming fuel plantations ; but it is believed that land to a certain extent is available. Good cultivable land, unless it is unoccupied, should not be taken up ; but all waste lands in the vicinity of the railway line which can be secured for this purpose in Mysore should, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, be made over to the Conservator of Forests ; all suitable localities being planted, and other tracts improved by the exclusion of cattle.

4. In paragraph 9 of Public Works Department letter No. 256-P. of 15th June last, it was said that planting operations should be prosecuted on a sufficiently large scale and under competent supervision. If a sufficient area of land can be obtained to make a commencement of planting operations, I am directed to suggest for your consideration whether a special officer should not be placed in charge of this work. The Governor-General in Council will be prepared to receive any proposals you may bring forward with this object, and meanwhile, should you have in view any suitable person, he might at once be temporarily employed for the charge of these lands.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 296.

ORDER THEREON, 17th August 1870, No. 1,280.

Forests, No. 11.

RECORDED, with reference to the
G. O., dated 28th July 1870, No. 1,124,

which was forwarded to the Government of India with the letter, dated 10th August 1870, No. 1,221. A reply to the letters referred to in the concluding paragraph of the letter from the Officiating Secretary in the Public Works Department will be forwarded shortly.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Conservator of Forests.

„ the Board of Revenue.

„ the Public Works Department.

No 1280

Received with reference to the CV

No 1124
28th July 1870

The following letter was forwarded to
the Govt. of Madras with the letter dated 10th

Aug 16 70, 1221. - A copy of the letter

forwarded to the Secretary of the
of the letter from the Govt. of Madras dated 10th July 1870
with the following reference.

13 Letter from Govt of Travancore dated 11/22

14 - 15/2/70

15 - 15/2/70

16 - 15/2/70

Plantations in
that Province
transferred

Govt. of Travancore

REVENUE.

THE COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE.

Travancore

16th August 1870.

Recd.

G. O. 1708, June 1870, No. 1,280.

ANNUAL.

No. 235-236.

Wood-fuel requirements of the Madras
Railway including the Bangalore Branch.
Letter from the Government of India forwarding
copy of letter to the Chief Commissioner of Travancore
urging the formation of plantations in the
provinces, recorded with reference to G. O. 235
July 1870, No. 1,191.

Transferred to the
Revenue Dept.

Wm. H. M. Col. M.
Recy to Govt.

28 May 70.

Regency, D. H.
~~1877~~ 1881.

Govt. of India.

by 14th May 70.

By 23rd May 70.

Acknowledging
receipt of document
regarding a resolution by
the Madras Govt. and
report by the Comptroller
General for Railways
relative to work done
on the Madras Railway
forwarding copy of
the letter to the Chief
Commissioner of Mysore
inquiry the Government
of Madras in
that Province
respected.