MR. O. 1—32,000—18-10-27.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1523 Press ~~His.~~

46-67 Dated 8-10-1870 ~~19~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 46. Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Bangalore, 22nd August 1870, No. 180-F:—

I AM desired by the Chief Commissioner of Mysore to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,041, dated Ootacamund, 12th July, on the subject of establishing, in this province, a depôt for the sale of Wynaad timber, and, with reference thereto, to forward a report* by the Conservator of Forests, Mysore, to whom the question was referred for consideration.

* No. 584 of the 8th August.

2. If Lieutenant vanSomeren's proposal, as agreed to between him and Major Beddome, is approved by the Madras Government, the Chief Commissioner is prepared to concur in its adoption, but thinks that it would perhaps be advisable to try it, in the first instance, only as an experiment for a period of one or two years.

3. As the Madras Forest Officers have written in strong terms of the restrictions imposed by those of Mysore on the disposal of Madras forest-produce in this territory, the Chief Commissioner considers it but fair to call attention to Lieutenant vanSomeren's remarks on this head. It seems to Colonel Meade that the former officers cannot reasonably expect the same freedom in this respect in such matters in Mysore as in the British limits. Something is due to the just rights and interest of this province on this head; but though it is impossible, with due regard to them, to place the produce of the Madras forests altogether all on the same footing in Mysore limits that it enjoys in the British districts, there is no wish to impose uncalled-for vexatious restrictions, and this Administration will always be glad to meet the wishes of the Madras Government by removing them when they are shown to exist.

4. In conclusion, I am instructed to say that the Chief Commissioner does not concur in, or recommend such a restriction as that mentioned in the Conservator's paragraph 2, viz., that the Madras Officers should also be debarred from selling in the Wynaad to any merchant bringing timber, east or north through the Mysore territories. There appears to Colonel Meade to be no ground for proposing such a rule.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant G. J. VANSOMEREN, Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, Public Works Department, dated Bangalore, 8th August 1870, No. 584.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 91, of the 23rd ultimo, giving cover to copy of a letter (herewith returned), No. 1,041-42, of the 12th idem, from the Government of Madras on the question of a depôt at the Town of Mysore for the joint sale of timber grown in the Madras territory. The Chief Commissioner desires me to report on the above.

2. Major Beddome, the Conservator of Madras Forests, met me in Bangalore on the 27th ultimo, and, after talking over the matter, we came to the decision that a separate depôt for the sale of Madras wood at periodical auctions might be established at Mysore on condition of the Madras Forest Officers agreeing not to sell any Wynaad timber coming east or north at any other place than Mysore. They will thus be debarred from selling at Autersanti, Gundri, or Hirinandi. I am personally of opinion that they should also be debarred from selling in the *Wynaad to any*

timber sent by the Madras Forest Department into Mysore

merchant bringing timber east or north through the Mysore territories. They, if granted a depôt at Mysore, must sell all their wood there. The Madras Forest Department to give up its depôt at Autersanti, but to be allowed to retain Gundri as a floating station only, and Hirinandi, below Gundri on the river Kabani, as a landing place only. It is of course to be an understood thing that all timber sent by the Madras Forest Department into Mysore for sale shall be marked with the Madras stamp, and each batch of carts be covered by a Passport from the officer in charge of the Wynaad range. This is necessary to prevent private individuals passing in their wood, as wood, the property of the Madras Government. If any wood of the Madras Government should come in unmarked, and not covered by a Passport, the Mysore Forest Department will seize and detain it.

3. Considering the position of Mysore, surrounded as it is by foreign States, it is simply indispensable that a strict system of Passports be retained and carefully worked, or we shall run the chance of great theft being committed in the Mysore forest, through which the roads from the Wynaad run. This matter is so clear that it only requires to be mentioned to be acknowledged as just.

4. Having reported for the Chief Commissioner's information the result arrived at by Major Beddome and myself, I must notice some matters in the letters from Major Morgan, Deputy-Conservator of Madras, and Mr. Cherry in the Wynaad forests.

5. Both these officers state that Madras timber is so superior to that of Mysore that if it were not for the "number of restrictions and vexatious delays to merchants," imposed by the Mysore authorities, Madras wood would virtually beat ours out of the market. Major Morgan has not, I believe, visited Mysore for several years, that therefore goes only by what merchants tell him; and it is plainly to their interests to make him believe that our restrictions are so vexatious that the finer Madras wood must necessarily be sold to them at a low rate.

6. Mr. Cherry, in the first paragraph of his letter, has "the honour to remark that a timber depôt at Mysore is not absolutely important, as wood can be sold at Hirinandi almost as easily as at Mysore." Why he should be so anxious to get a depôt at Mysore is not therefore very apparent. But if he is right, and if his wood can be sold at Hirinandi (which is only twenty-one miles from Mysore), almost as well as at that town itself, why is it always sold at from 2 to 5 Annas per cubic foot cheaper than the Mysore Forest Department? The only time the Madras Officers sold their wood almost at Mysore prices was when Mr. Turnbull (now in Jail) sold it at higher rates than usual, but promised the merchants that he would be very easy in measuring it.

7. My opinion is that Madras and Mysore wood are equally good; the difference in selling prices being caused by the men who purchase the Madras wood having to carry it a little further, an expense saved, in the first instance, by the Madras Forest Department. But as this is the Mysore State, it is only reasonable that the Mysore revenues should benefit by any local advantages which do not in reality militate against general interests of the public at large.

8. The Wynaad forests are *richer* than ours in teak, and whether selling at Mysore or elsewhere, they will, I think, sell many more cubic feet of teak than we shall, and all Mr. Cherry's remarks in his paragraph 7 go for nothing, and I trust he will always obtain the "full independent value of his timber." I do not think Mr. Cherry has carefully read over my proposals for a joint depôt, or he has thoroughly misunderstood them. Only in one way or the other can I account for what he has written in paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 of his letter.

9. Mr. Cherry, in his paragraphs 4 and 5, shows that he has not made himself acquainted with the rules for obtaining Passports in Mysore. Once only, since January 1869, have merchants complained to me of delay caused them by Mr. Ludlow, and the reason alleged was his absence from head-quarters. I at once brought the matter to the Chief Commissioner's notice, and in January last, I was permitted to direct that, in the absence of the Assistant Conservator from his head-quarters, an Assistant Superintendent of the district might grant Passports. This was made known by notices throughout the Town of Mysore. I have had no complaints made me since. Native merchants are not slow at complaining of "vexatious delays," and I prefer to think that, as they have not complained to me, Mr. Cherry has written without due thought, or has been much misled by statements made by wood-merchants.

10. Mr. Ludlow has to my knowledge been most careful to avoid all unnecessary delay in granting Passports, and I cannot help stating my opinion that Mr. Cherry's last words in his paragraph 4, that Mr. Ludlow delays merchants by "any little excuse he may find for delaying the Passport," are both uncourteous and groundless. I differ altogether from the belief expressed by Mr. Cherry in his paragraph 5, but that is perhaps a matter of opinion.

11. Major Morgan complains of "vexatious delays", I must point out that these vexatious delays may equally arise from the carelessness of Madras Officers, as from the alleged carelessness of Mysore Officers. I will mention one case. In January 1869, Major Morgan telegraphed officially to Mr. Ludlow that a quantity of wood had been sold by him to a merchant named Nagcomaria, and that he (Major Morgan) had directed his Overseer to stamp it. Mr. Ludlow shortly afterwards seized a quantity of unstamped wood coming from Madras without a Passport. It was then claimed by Nagcomaria, and on Mr. Ludlow referring the case to Major Morgan, a reply came that Major Morgan's Overseer had forgotten to stamp the wood. The case requires little comment.

12. As the Proceedings of the Madras Government, embodying Major Morgan's and Mr. Cherry's letters, have been printed, it is necessary that I should show that the Mysore Forest Department is not what these gentlemen have declared it to be. I feel confident that Major Beddome will allow that I have no wish to prevent his department doing its best in getting high prices for timber, while I am naturally anxious to sell Mysore wood as well as I can. Mr. Campbell Walker, lately Deputy-Conservator of the Salem and South Arcot ranges, fully recognized the mutual advantages gained by a careful and vigilant supervision of Passports, and more than once requested me to watch men bringing in wood and bamboos from Madras. He saw that as wood was sent from Madras into Mysore, that while both countries were bounded by an imaginary line running through forest, it was to the advantage of the Madras Government that the Mysore Officers should carefully watch all wood and other forest-products coming in, as theft from Madras Forests is thus prevented, or made more difficult.

13. Before concluding, I beg to state that it is not clear how the fact of the Madras Government holding a depôt at Mysore Town for the sale of wood would "prevent the recurrence of fraud similar to Turnbull's". Turnbull could have robbed them as easily at Mysore as he did at Hirinandi, and an unconscientious officer could do the same again at Mysore, if he wished to do. The whole matter hinges on the money-interests of Madras and Mysore. To check theft in our jungles is a great point, and if the Madras authorities will carefully act up to their part of the agreement, they are welcome to bring their wood to Mysore and sell it there. I do not think it will materially affect our sales, for as I have already shown in my Annual Report for 1869-70, (paragraph 3) the imports of wood into Mysore during that year were 3,973 logs, of which 3,394 were teak. This does not argue much "vexatious delay" caused to importers by Mysore Officers. This is not to lay before the Chief Commissioner the advisability of requiring the wood, felled by Major Morgan, to be also sent to Mysore in return for the privilege now granted by the Mysore State. If this is not done, we shall have to be constantly detaining Madras wood sold from the Mudumallay range, for being unstamped and without a Passport.

14. The subject referred to me for report is simply regarding the Wynaad timber. I beg

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No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 8th October 1870, No. 1,523.

Forests, No. 1.

THE Government resolve to adopt the arrangement proposed by Major Beddome and Lieutenant vanSomeren, as approved by the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, for the formation, as an experimental measure, of a depôt at the Town of Mysore for the sale of Wynaad timber, and the Conservator of Forests is requested to communicate with the Mysore district authorities, with a view to obtaining a suitable site.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th October 1870.

2. As soon as the depôt is established at Mysore, Major Beddome is directed to close that at Autersanti, to discontinue the sale on behalf of this Government of Wynaad timber at any other place within the Astragram Division than Mysore, and to see that all Wynaad timber sent for sale at the Mysore depôt is stamped and covered by a Pass.

3. The Conservator is requested to impress on the officer in charge of the Wynaad Range the propriety of evincing a conciliatory spirit towards the officers of the Mysore Forest Department in his dealings at Mysore, in order that no disagreements may occur to interfere with the success of the arrangement which, it must be remembered, is an experiment.

4. The Government desire to be informed as to the system which the Conservator proposes to adopt for the sale of wood at Mysore, and for receiving the sale-proceeds.

(True Extract,)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

timber sent by the Madras Forest Department into Mysore

5-8-05 ✓

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

&c., &c., &c.

V-No 550/71

22-2-05 ✓

3/12/12

Dated October, 8th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 8th October 1870, *No.* 1,523.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 46-47.

Timber depôt at Mysore for sale of Wynaad Timber.—Arrangements proposed by Major Beddome and Lieutenant vanSomeren in connection with its formation, approved.

for sale shall be marked with the Madras stamp and each batch of casks be covered by a passport from the Officer in charge of the Wynaad range. This is necessary to prevent private individuals passing in their wood, as wood, the property of the Madras Government. If any wood of the Madras Government should come in unmarked, and not covered by a passport, the Mysore Forest Department will seize and detain it.

3. Considering the position of Mysore, surrounded as it is by foreign states, it is simply indispensable that a strict system of passports be retained, and carefully worked, or we shall run the chance of great theft being committed in the Mysore Forest through which the roads from the Wynaad run. This matter is so clear, that it only requires to be mentioned to be acknowledged as just.

4. Having reported for the Chief Commissioner's information, the result arrived at by Major Beddome and myself, I must notice some mistakes in the letters from Major Morgan, Deputy Conservator of Madras, and Mr. Cleghorn in the Wynaad Forests.

5. Both these Officers state that Madras timber is inferior to that of Mysore, that if it were not for the number of restrictions and vexatious delays to merchants, imposed by the Mysore authorities, Madras wood would virtually beat ours out of the markets. Major Morgan has not, I believe, visited Mysore for several years, that therefore goes only by what merchants tell him, and it is plainly to their interests to make

Rev. Kpt. 9

No. 1523.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. Under date 8th Dec. 70.

Read the following letter from the Secy: to the Chief Commr. of Mysore - No. 22nd Aug. 1870, from

The Govt resolve to adopt the arrangement proposed by Major Beddome & Lieut. Vansomeren as approved by the Chief Commr. of Mysore, for the formation as an experimental measure of a depôt at the town of Mysore for the sale of Wynaad timber, & the Conservator of Forests is requested to communicate with the

the Mysore district authorities with a view to obtaining a suitable site.

2. As soon as the depot is established at Mysore, Major Beddome will be directed to close that at Antersante, to discontinue the sale on behalf of this Govt of Wynaad timber at any other place within the Astragrom division than Mysore, and to see that all Wynaad timber sent for sale at the Mysore depôt is stamped & covered by a pass.

3. The Conservator is requested to impress on the officer in charge of the Wynaad Range the propriety of evincing a conciliatory spirit towards the officers of the Mysore Govt deputed in their dealings at Mysore, in order that no disagreements may occur to interfere with the success of the arrangement which, it must be remembered, is an experiment

4. The Govt desire to be informed as to the system which the Conservator proposes to adopt for the sale of wood at Mysore, & for receiving the sale proceeds

13. Letter Conservator Forests Bangalore 11th
14 — Govt of Mysore

5/4/

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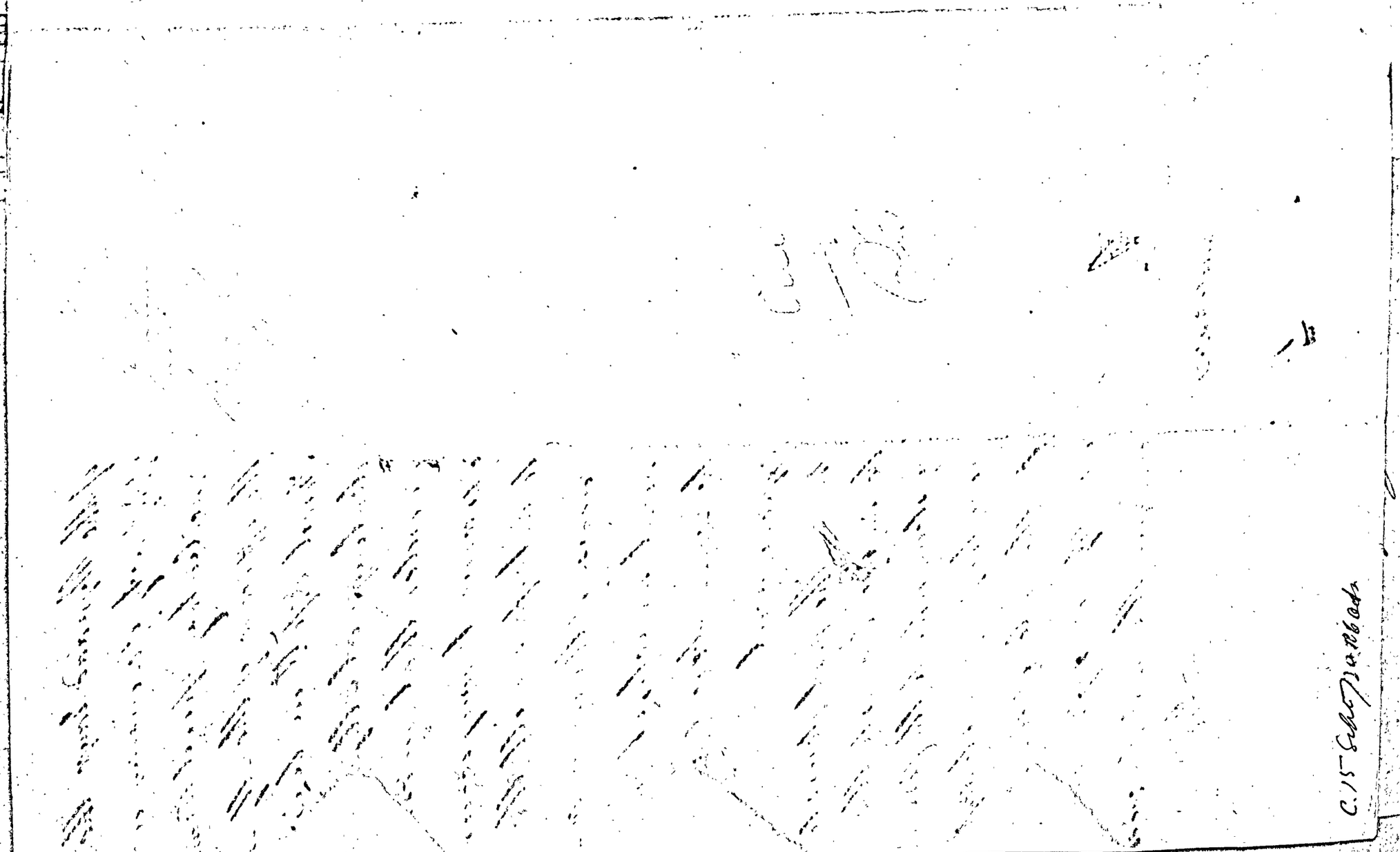
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C. 15 Sheets Plate 86 adds