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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 167 A Press Mis.

284-280
Dated 7-2-1870 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th February 1870.

No. 28A. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th December 1869, No. 9,202 :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 22nd October 1869, No. 1,572 :—

In forwarding the enclosed letter from Captain Gosling, the Forest Officer of the Annamallay Range, I have the honour to inform you that there appears no chance of our procuring cart contractors in that range without advances, and I would advise that the present prohibition on advances be relaxed as far as the Annamallay is concerned. The only other alternative is a large increase of our own plant in the way of carts and bullocks, which I do not think advisable.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Captain H. M. GOSLING, Deputy-Conservator of Forests, to the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated Annamallay, 17th October 1869, No. 1,501.

I have the honour to request, you will be good enough to bring to the notice of Government the extreme difficulty experienced in this range in procuring contractors for carting timber in the forest above ghaut, since the publication of the Order by Government prohibiting advances.

2. I am well aware that existing outstandings in this range and others was the cause that led the Government to pass this Order. But, at the same time, it is well known that these outstandings arose chiefly from great carelessness evinced by those who made the advances in not ascertaining the character and means of the individuals to whom the advances were made.

3. When I assumed charge of this range in October 1866, the prohibitive Order had just come into force. I found that no carting above or below ghaut had been carried on during the working season of that year. I immediately applied to Government for permission to form a Departmental Cart Establishment which was sanctioned, and has been the only means used for the conveyance of timber above ghaut since that period.

4. To compensate in some measure the abolition of advances with the sanction of the Government, a ghaut road was constructed last year, and a new and more direct road opened above ghaut, connecting the depôts in the interior of the forest with the ghaut, thereby lessening the distance for carting above ghaut by four miles. Notwithstanding the assistance which the execution of these two works rendered in the conveyance of timber and the increase of rates for carting, to double what was formerly given, prompt payment and the advantage of free grazing, up to date, not a single contractor has come forward, except at ruinous and exorbitant rates.

5. I have tried every expedient to induce these contractors to proceed to work. I have personally spoken to them, advertised for tenders in the *Local Gazettes*, caused proclamation to be made throughout the district, addressed the Collectors of Coimbatore and Malabar, requesting them to urge the Tahsildars to use their local influence with the contractors, but without avail. The fact is, there are now no contractors in the proper acceptation of that term. So many years have elapsed since cart contractors have been engaged by this department, that those formerly employed having no use for them, have disposed of all their carts and bullocks. They are averse to spend capital in the purchase of others, feeling that their employment by the department will be only temporary and confined to six months in the year. Without advances they are disinclined to risk investing their capital in so uncertain a speculation. The only persons now who possess carts and bullocks are the ryots and agriculturalists. These will only come to work when it suits their convenience, and when there are no crops to collect. Under these circumstances, I see no

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alternative but a recurrence to the advance-system to procure labour above ghaut. The Government Cart Establishment, though extremely useful as an auxiliary, conveys only a small portion of the amount which should be carted annually out of the forest. The department possesses at present an establishment consisting of 40 carts and 67 bullocks, with 6 sling carts. It is not advisable for Government to increase this establishment, as it involves so much risk of loss by death of cattle, and wear and tear of carts. It is more economical to hire when required, than maintain a large permanent establishment of this description. I have therefore ventured to recommend that the prohibitive Order of Government regarding advances be experimentally relaxed in this range, and that I be entrusted to advance sums not exceeding 1,000 rupees at my discretion to such persons of wealth, consideration, and character, whose position is well known to the Tahsildars and local authorities in the district, who are able to give security either in money or land for the due fulfilment of their engagements, and that agreements be in no case executed except in the presence of the Head Assistant Magistrates of Coimbatore and Palghaut. These precautions will, I am satisfied, secure the Government from any loss.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue for their observations.

FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
29th November 1869. *Acting Secretary to Government.*

THE Board objected on principle to the system of advances, and are still convinced that a resort to the open market for the supply of carts, even at a considerable sacrifice at the outset, will be found in the long run to be productive of far less trouble, risk, and loss to the department.

2. But under the circumstances set forth by Captain Gosling, there is no alternative left but to revert to the advance-system, the evils of which might be considerably mitigated by proper vigilance on the part of the officers, and by restricting the advances, as proposed by Captain Gosling, to sums not exceeding Rupees 1,000, and to persons of wealth, consideration, and character, well known to the local authorities, and able to give security either in money or land for the fulfilment of their engagements.

No. 28B. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1870, No. 167A.

Forests, No. 1A.

IN their Order, dated 15th October 1860, No. 2,793, the Government, at the recommendation of the Board "that the system of advances and contracts should have a fair trial for some years," directed that the advance-system should cease with the then current official year. The Conservator of Forests, it may be observed, was at the time strongly of opinion that the advance-system should not be abolished in favour of contracts; and he pointed out that the change would, in the case of the Mudumallay Forest, involve an annual surplus expenditure of Rupees 3,750 for carting.

2. Captain Gosling now reports that having tried every expedient, he has failed to induce contractors to come forward in the Annamallay Range; that the Departmental Cart Establishment is insufficient for the conveyance of timber above ghaut; and that a recurrence to the advance-system appears to him the only alter-

native. He therefore recommends that the prohibitive order of Government regarding advances should be experimentally relaxed in the Annamallay Range, and that he should be authorized to advance sums not exceeding Rupees 1,000 to persons of position who are able to give proper security for the due fulfilment of their engagements by agreements executed before a Magistrate. Captain Gosling's propositions are supported by bo... the Officiating Conservator and the Boa...

3. The Government resolve to adopt them as an experimental measure, applicable only to the Annamallay Range. The result should be specially noticed in the Deputy-Conservator's next annual report.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Fd. F. R. Bantleman.

The

Revenue Department

Fy. 167-A

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 7th February 1870.

Read the following papers

From the Offg. Conservator of Forests.

Reporting on the difficulty of procuring bark contractors in Anna: -mallay ranges without advances & requesting sanction for the relaxation of that system to the ranges in question.

(R. & C. 23rd Dec.r/69 No. 1,772.)

Pro: of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting remarks with reference to recommendation of Conr. of Forests that present prohibition on advances to bark Contractors for certaining timber be relaxed so far as Anamallay forests are concerned.

(R. & C. 18th Dec.r/69 No. 9,292.)

In their Order dated 15th October 1866, No. 2798, the Govt. on the recommendation of the Board "that the system of no advances and Short Contracts should have a fair trial for some years" directed "that the advance system should cease with the then current official year.

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The Conservator of Forests, it may be observed, was at the time strongly of opinion that the advance system should not be abolished in favour of contracts, and he pointed out that the change would, in the case of the Munnumallay forest, involve an annual surplus expendi= ture of Rs. 3,750 for carting.

2. Captain Gosling now reports that having tried every expedient, he has failed to induce contractors to come forward in the Annamallay Range; that the departmental cart establishment is insuffi= cient for the conveyance of timber already shaped, and that a recurrence to the advance system appears to him the only alternative. He there= fore recommends that the prohibitive order of Govt. regarding advances should be experimentally relaxed in the Annamallay range, and that he should be authorized to advance sums not exceeding Rs. 1,000 to persons of position who are able to give proper secu= rity for the due fulfilment of their engagements, by agree= ments executed before a Magistrate. Captain Gosling's propositions are supported by both the Offg. Conservator and the Board.

3. The Govt. resolves to adopt them as an experi= mental measure, applica= ble only to the Annamallay range. The result should be specially noticed in the Dy. Conservator's next annual report.

To Board of Rs. Conservancy Forests Dec. 19
14 Board of Revenue
6 Accountant

E. Thurston

Proceedings
of the Conference
on the Assassination
of