Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd June 1872.

No. 231. Read the following endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 19th June 1872:—

Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Officiating Secretary to Government, Department Public Works,

Fort St. George, dated Madura, 11th June 1872, No. 1,058.

In reference to G. O. of the 29th April 1872, No. 263, requesting me to report from what sources the timber used by the Department Public Works in the Madura and Tinnevelly Ranges is obtained, I have the honour to state that the small supply of timber required during the past year by this department has been, as a rule, obtained from local markets, as the Forest Department cannot be depended upon for the supply we require.

2. I may mention, as an instance in point, that Executive Engineer Mr. J. W. Rundall reports that he has endeavoured, as far as possible, to draw our supplies of timber from the Forest Department; but at present they do not seem to be able to supply us satisfactorily, as on two occasions he has been obliged to reject a large percentage of the wood supplied. They sent us some very good Congo planks for the Soolachanum bridge; but as they had no seasoned timber of suitable size, we were obliged to obtain elsewhere, and at great inconvenience, the timber for the centerings both of Ambasamoodrum and Soolachanum bridges.

3. Mr. Rundall inspected the depôts at Calacad and Ambasamoodrum, but found that the timber there is not of scantlings likely to be of any use to us; scarcely any pieces being more than 12 feet in length, and all of very small size.

4. At present, therefore, unless we can wait for the wood until it is cut and seasoned, we cannot buy from the Forest Department.

5. We are now in want of timber for the Ambasamoodrum Cutcherry, but there is no seasoned wood of suitable dimensions in the depôts in the Tinnevelly Range.

6. The Government complain apparently of the Department Public Works not purchasing from the Forest Department, and at the same time seem to restrict the Forest Officers from keeping large stocks. It is clear, however, that unless stock is maintained, the wood will never be seasoned, and therefore never suitable for purchase by us, as we also are prohibited from keeping stock.

7. It must be remembered, moreover, that the Public Works Department is in this matter simply in the position of an ordinary buyer, and if the Forest Department charge more for their timber than Zemindars or others, without any compensating advantages, such as superior quality, prompt execution of orders, or regularity of supply, I certainly do not consider that we are bound to buy from the former in preference to the latter, though, of course, we should be very glad if we could do so, with due justice to the interest of our employers, the rate-payers to the Local Funds.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd June 1872.

No. 232. ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1872, No. 969.

Forests, No. 16.

COMMUNICATED to the Conservator of Forests. It appears to Government that an estimate of the probable annual requirements of the Public Works Department might be obtained for each district, and measures adopted for securing this supply from the Forest Department instead of from the general market.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 1058 Superintending Engineer's Office, 8th October
Madura 11th June 1872.

From

Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Moreno,
Superintending Engineer
&c. &c. &c.

To

Colonel C. H. H. Baker, R.E.
Offg. Secretary to Government of Madras.

Sir,

In reference to G.O. of the 29th April 1872, No. 363, requesting me to report from what sources the timber used by the P.W.D. in the Madura and Tinnevelly ranges is obtained, I have the honor to state that the annual supply of timber required during the last year by the Department has been as a rules obtained from local markets

markets, as the Forest Department cannot be depended upon for the supplies we require. —

2. I must mention as an instance in point that Executive Engineer Mr. Off Rundall reports that he has endeavoured as far as possible to draw our supplies of timber from the Forest Department, but at present they do not seem to be able to supply us satisfactorily, as on two occasions he has been obliged to reject a large percentage of the wood supplied. They sent us some very good Congo planks for the Soolachanum bridges; but as they had no seasoned timber of suitable size, we were obliged to obtain elsewhere, and

and at great inconvenience, the timber for the Erskerungo both of Imbasamoodum and Soolachanum bridges. —

3. Mr. Rundall inspected the Depôts at Calacad and Imbasamoodum but found that the timber there is not of scantlings likely to be of any use to us; scarcely any pieces being more than 12" in length, and all of very small size. —

4. At present therefore unless we can wait for the wood until it is cut and seasoned, we cannot look to the Forest Department. —

5. We are now in want of timber for the Imbasamoodum & Cutcherry but there is no seasoned wood

woods of suitable dimensions for the
Depots in the Riverside Ranges.

6. The Government complains
apparently of the Navy not purchasing
from the Forest Departments, and at
the same time seem to restrict the
Forest Officers from keeping large
stocks. We can however assure that
under such circumstances the woods
will never be accessed, and therefore
never available for purchase by us, as
we also are precluded from keeping
stock.

7. It must be remembered,
moreover, that the Public Works
Departments in this matter simply
as the position of an ordinary buyer,
and

and if the Forest Department
Charge more for their timber than
Zemindars, or others, without any
Compensating advantages, such as
Superior quality, prompt execution of
orders, or regularity of supply, I
Certainly do not Consider that we are
bound to buy from Government on
preference to the latter, though of
Course we should be very glad if we
Could do so, with due justice to
the interests of our employers, the
rate payers to the Local Funds.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servt
Richd Roberts Lieut Colo.

Comptr

Pro 29th April /72 No 263
9 mo

P. W. 1872 No 1058
Rec'd No 2963

From
The Sup.t Engineer
8. Division

To
The Secretary to Govt.
of B.W.
Akyab.

Dated 11th
Rec.d 15th June 1872

Transferred to the
Revenue Department.

Lt. Wrather Col. R.E.
Secy. to Govt
P. W. D.

19th June 1872.

States that for reasons
assigned the supply of
timber required in this
Dept.t is obtained from
Local markets.—

Transferred

Submitted for favour

Rev: 1872: Deptt.
No. 2055

From Secy to Govt.
P. W. Deptt

Dated 15 } June 1872
Recd 20 }

Transferring letter from Supdg Engr. 8th Dn. stating that the supply of timber required in this Dept. is obtained from local markets.

Wittower

No. 969 / 22 June 1872.

No. 980

Send to the Supt of Forests. In offering Supt: that an estimate of the probable annual requirements of the P.W.D. might [illegible] be obtained from each Dist. [illegible], in order for determining the supply from the Forest Dept. instead of from the general markets. D.

13 Conservator of Forests. Rec: 15 July 1872.
21 Public Works Deptt "
14 Board of Revenue "

22 June 1872. No. 981–983