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(3) Initials of the Referencer..... *[Signature]*

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1541.

Press
Mis.

Dated

11-12-1874.

196

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 138. Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, — November 1874, No. 413:—

I HAVE the honor to report that I have recently inspected the fuel-yielding tracts and floating operations at Neeringapett, in the Bhowany Taluq, of the Coimbatore District.

2. Colonel Morgan met me at Erode, and, with Mr. Pennington's approval, I took with us Mr. Hadfield, the Assistant Conservator in charge of the Trichinopoly Plantations and Reserves, in order that he might gain an insight into the system pursued and the supply available from the natural forests near Neeringapett.

3. Colonel Morgan has experienced great difficulties with regard to the supply of wood-fuel to the Railway Company this year. His floating Overseer neglected the work, and was not properly supervised by the Taluq Forester, Mr. Grant. The allotment for widening the channel was not sanctioned until the river (Cauvery) was too full to admit of anything being done this year, and the boats have, therefore, still to pass through with half loads which greatly increases the expense of supply. Hence the operations of the year have been circumscribed, and bear no comparison with what may be done in the future.

4. I cannot help thinking that some method may yet be adopted for floating the firewood billets more simple and less costly than by means of basket boats which have to be carried back in carts or on men's heads.

Colonel Morgan informs me that he tried rafting on bamboos, but gave it up, because the large quantity required was denuding the jungles near Cauverypooram, and they did not find so ready a sale as might have been expected at Trichinopoly. Again he states that the billets will not float alone, but sink after being in the stream for a few hours, and that, even if they did, a large proportion would be lost or swept out to sea by floods. I have not visited the bamboo jungles referred to, but can scarcely imagine that they could not supply the quantity annually required, and that, if proper arrangements were made in communication with the Trichinopoly Forest Officer, a good market might not be found at Trichinopoly, or even at Erode and Caroor. Large rafts stacked with firewood would then be floated down the river at half flood, and the requisite supply made available at Erode, or further down.

5. On this last point definite arrangements are necessary, and it shall have attention at the meeting on the general question of the supply of wood-fuel to the railways shortly to be held.

In G. O., No. 661, dated 25th June 1873, Government approved of the establishment of a depôt at Chavadypolliem (below Passoor Railway Station) as a temporary measure, and Colonel Morgan has supplied some firewood there; but under existing arrangements finds that it does not pay, and has informed Mr. Betts that he cannot supply any more at that place.

If it can be arranged that the South India Railway take their supply at Erode, it would be most satisfactory; and, considering the comparatively few trains which run over the Madras line and the short distance betwixt the station and the bridge, I should imagine that it could be managed without the necessity of a special siding.

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1541

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th December 1874.*

We could then arrange for a direct supply to both lines at the bridge where the firewood would be stacked, measured, and handed over by the department to the Locomotive Department of the Railway. At present there is often much delay in taking over what is brought down, and Colonel Morgan states that quantities have been rejected without sufficient cause, but there were probably reasons of which Colonel Morgan and his Overseer are not aware.

6. As regards the supply available, I can fully endorse Colonel Morgan and Colonel Beddome's opinion, that *with proper care* it is amply sufficient. At present the system pursued is to fell suitable trees over a large area stated by Colonel Morgan in paragraph 2 of his letter recorded with G. O., No. 859, dated 15th August 1873, to extend over "twenty-four square miles of scrub jungle," from which he states that about a ton an acre is taken out *per annum* I presume. I do not approve of this plan which gives us no data as to the rate of re-production and affords no guarantee that we are not over felling, and still less that we are getting the highest possible yield from the jungles.

Colonel Morgan quite agrees with me that, if it is definitely settled that we are to supply both lines, fuel reserves should be formed as in Salem and other districts and the blocks worked in rotation. In the formation of the reserves due regard will be maintained for the rights and privileges of the inhabitants, and no difficulty is anticipated on this score, as the neighbourhood is but scantily populated, and there is still ample room for the legitimate spread of cultivation.

7. We returned to Erode by means of basket boats in about six hours, and thus had an opportunity of judging the rate at which the fuel was floated and the difficulties and dangers of the journey which are considerable.

8. I have communicated a copy of this report to the Collector of Coimbatore for his information.

No. 139.

ORDER THEREON, 11th December 1874, No. 1,541.

Forests, No. 14.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Acting Inspector's remarks in paragraph 6 should receive the special attention of the Conservator and Deputy-Conservator. The necessity of securing the permanence of the supply of fuel from this source has* already been impressed on Colonel Morgan.

* G. O., 24th April 1874, No. 503, para. 15.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. A. Grubert.

No. 413.

From

Office of Inspector of forests.

Cotacamund November 1874

Captain Campbell Walker

Off^r Inspector of Forests.

To,

C. G. Master Esq^r

As^y Secretary to Government
R. R.

Sir,

I have the honor to report
that I have recently inspected the
fuel yielding tracts and floating
operations at Neeringapett in the
Bhiwani Talug of the Coimbatore
District.

2.- Colonel Morgan met me at
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Govt. of 1874 Mysore.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

No. 138-139.

Dated December 11th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 11th December 1874, No. 1341.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 138-139.

Fuel tracts in Bhowny Talug.—Communicating
to the Board of Revenue report of the Inspector
of Forests on the inspection of —, and directing
the special attention of the Conservator and
Deputy-Conservator to Captain Walker's remarks
regarding the supply of fuel for Railways.

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154
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8/54
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I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant

Campbell ~~is~~ ^{the} Captain
Offg Inspector of Forests }

Q. A. 25 June 193 or 200 202
1875 193 or 191-192.

No 3986
Bosman in the
French Department

From the Office of the
Inspector of
Towns

To the Hon. Secy to Govt
J. R. D.

Recd 18
November 1894

Enclosed here
Subject

Submitting the in-
=pection report of the
Bosman living in the
Canton of the District.

23/11/94, 12/11/94.
1875 193 or 191-192.

138-139
The Hon. Secy to Govt
11/11/94

1894

1894

Communicated to the
Board of Revenue.

2. The Acting Secretary

Respects in, from, & should

serve the special attention

the Government should

immediately. The necessity of

securing the permanency of the

subject of the present

in which is also included

the lot: the organ of

the 24th April 1904

1893 June 15.

1894
11/11/94