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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	891.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-7-	1874. 196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/591

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th July 1874.*

No. 139. Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Ootacamund, dated Palghaut, 13th July 1874, No. E/1 :—

I HAVE the honor to inform you, in continuation of my demi-official on the subject of purchasing certain lands at Walliar, that I have been in negotiation with the parties interested in the tract in question, and that it can be purchased for the sum of Rs. 22,500. This will include payment to the tenant for the unexpired portion of his lease and will satisfy all claims. To effect this, however, it is necessary that the transaction should be at once closed. As regards the value of the land, I have no hesitation whatever in saying that the purchase will be singularly favorable as a pecuniary investment, and that, leaving altogether out of question the return from fuel, the purchase-money could be recouped in a few years and without further outlay by the sale of the Teak trees already growing on the land.

2. It is, however, mainly on account of the facilities afforded for growth of fuel for the railway that I am induced to press the Government not to lose this opportunity of securing the land.

3. The neighbourhood of Walliar is of all places the most favorable as a source of supply for fuel to the Madras Railway; the jungles where the fuel grows are actually traversed by the line. They have an abundant rain-fall and therefore rapid growth, and being situated in the extreme eastern verge of the tract enjoying this rain-fall, the cost of carriage to the dry treeless tracts eastward is reduced to a minimum.

4. The management of the railway fuel depôt is also secured,—a point to which the Agent attaches much importance, as a depot here serves to supply the line eighty miles westward to Beypore and a similar distance eastwards. Unfortunately it has been drawn upon for many years and without system to such an extent that it is to be apprehended that in a short time the supply will fail.

4. Considering that Government have forbidden the Company to make arrangements for growing their own fuel, they have some right to expect that our fuel management shall be so conducted, where it can be done without loss, as to ensure them from the inconvenience and loss of a failure of supply.

5. The practice among native land-owners in this locality is to let out jungles to a contractor for a term of years for a certain sum down.

6. It thus becomes the interest of the contractor to cut every stick before his lease expires; and, in some instances, I have known a contractor employ the last few months of his lease in digging up the roots of the trees, so that even re-production from the stool is impossible.

7. The quantity of fuel purchased by the Company during the last two years between Palghaut and Walliar is 23,135 tons, as shown by a return which the Consulting Engineer for Railways kindly got prepared for me.

8. The Palghaut and Walliar jungles are by no means extensive, being reduced to a narrow belt between cultivation on the one hand and the rocky and precipitous range of the hills on the other; and I have no hesitation in saying that such a demand as this cannot much longer be met under the existing wasteful system.

9. The purchase now advocated by me would give, added to the previous purchase, a compact block of about 4,000 acres, which could be worked on such a system as to afford a continuous and uniform supply for an indefinite period. Though no

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grazing rights exist, pasturage of cattle would be allowed over the greater part of the area, as it would be necessary to exclude cattle only from such portions as had been recently coppiced.

10. I beg that the earliest intimation of the decision of Government on this subject may be conveyed to me.

No. 140. ORDER THEREON, 17th July 1874, No. 891.

Forest, No. 6.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor in Council sanctions the payment of Rs. 2,500 in addition to the sum of Rs. 20,000,

permission for the disbursement of which was accorded in G. O., 13th July 1874, No. 873.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Collector of Malabar.
„ the Inspector of Forests.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Malabar Collectors office
in Circuit
Palghat 13 July 1874

From,

A. Macgregor Esq^r
Collector of Malabar

To,

C. G. Master Esq^r
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Botacamund.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform
you in continuation of my semi-official
on the subject of purchasing certain
lands at Wallia, that I have been
in negotiation with the parties
interested in the tract in question
and that it can be purchased
for the sum of Rupees 22500. This
will include payment to the tenant
for the unexpired portion of his lease
and will satisfy all claims. To ef-
fect this however, it is necessary
that the transaction should be at
once closed. As regards the value of
the land, I have no hesitation what-
ever in saying that the purchase

Cost of 1874

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will be singularly favorable as a pecuniary investment, and that leaving altogether out of question the return from fuel, the purchase money could be recouped in a few years and without further outlay by the sale of the Teak trees already growing on the land.

2. It is however mainly on account of the facilities afforded for growth of fuel for the railway that I am induced to press the Government not to lose this opportunity of securing the land.

3. The neighbourhood of Walliar is of all places the most favorable as a source of supply for fuel to the Madras Railway; the jungles where the fuel grows are actually traversed by the line. They have an abundant rain fall, and therefore rapid growth, and being situated in the extreme eastern verge of the tract enjoying this rain fall, the cost of carriage to the dry treeless tracts eastward is reduced to a minimum. Economy and efficiency

4/29/2
in management of the Railway fuel Depot is also secured, a point to which the Agent attaches much importance, as a Depot here serves to supply the line 80 miles westward to Bangalore and a similar distance eastwards. Unfortunately it has been drawn upon for many years and without system to such an extent that it is to be apprehended that in a short time the supply will fail.

4. Considering that Government have forbidden the Company to make arrangements for felling their own fuel, they have some right to expect that our Forest management shall be so conducted, where it can be done without loss, as to ensure them from the inconvenience and loss of a failure of supply.

5. The practice among native landowners in this locality is to let out jungles to a contractor for a term of years for a certain sum down.

6. It thus becomes the interest of the contractor to cut every stick

before his lease expires, and in some instances I have known a contractor employ the last few months of his lease in digging up the roots of the trees so that even reproduction from the stock is impossible.

7. The quantity of fuel purchased by the Company during the last two years between Palghat and Walliar is 23,135 Tons as shown by a return which the Consulting Engineer for Railways kindly got prepared for me.

8. The Palghat and Walliar Jungles are by no means extensive, being reduced to a narrow belt between cultivation on the one hand and the rocky and precipitous range of the Hills on the other, and I have no hesitation in saying that such a demand as this cannot much longer be met under the existing wasteful system.

9. The purchase now advocated by

by one would give, ^{adapting} to the previous purchase, a compact block of about 4,000 acres, which could be worked on such a system as to afford a continuous and uniform supply for an indefinite period. Though as grazing rights exist, pasturage of cattle would be allowed over the greater part of the area, as it would be necessary to exclude cattle only from such portions as had been recently coppiced.

10. I beg that the earliest re-termination of the decision of Government on this subject may be conveyed to me.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servant,

A. S. S. S.
Collector.

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