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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1194	Press
~~B.P. No.~~	~~Mis.~~
Dated 19-9-1874	~~196~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1194

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th September 1874.

Read the following :—

No. 179. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th September 1874, No. 2,588.

Read again :—

Board's Proceedings, dated 1st September 1874, No. 2,474, Forest No. 151.

Read the following telegrams :—

From the Collector of South Canara, dated 28th August 1874, requesting sanction for purchasing three elephants out of those advertised for sale by Mysore Government.

From the Inspector of Forests, Trichinopoly, on this subject, dated 29th August 1874.

Read also the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 29th August 1874, No. 1,694 :—

In forwarding herewith the post-copy of my telegram, requesting the Board's sanction for the purchase of three elephants for the Forest Department, I have the honor to represent the circumstances which have induced me to make the application.

2. Our timber operations are, and must continue to be, mostly carried on in parts of the district where elephant labor is indispensable for dragging logs to the point whence water-carriage is available, and even then elephants can give material aid in floating timber as witnessed by Major Beddome in North Canara.

3. The Forest Department at present possesses no elephants, and there being only a very few of them in the district, it is difficult to hire a sufficient number of them for our operations, while for those that we do get hire is charged at the exorbitant rate of Rs. 10 per diem, and the cost of conveyance of our timber to the market is thus rendered so heavy that it is found to be more profitable to sell the standing trees than to have them felled and brought down by the department. Moreover, hundreds of logs lie rotting in the forest and unavailable for sale or proper seasoning, because we have not at hand the means of dragging them.

4. Owing to the unwillingness of the owners of elephants to forego the certainty of high rates of hire now obtained by them for the problematical profits of a contract for scattered work such as our operations afford, the Deputy-Conservator has hitherto tried in vain to secure contracts for elephant labor on anything like reasonable rates.

5. If, therefore, the Forest Department is to work the forests profitably, and not to return to the justly discarded license and voucher system, it is necessary that it should possess elephants, which are one of the principal means of working our forests.

6. From a memorandum kindly supplied to me by the Inspector of Forests, I find that the establishment of elephants maintained by the department in the Anamallays has been found to work very well, and has paid its expenses over and over again. If such is the result of experience, where the best animals can be hired at Rs. 7 or Rupees 8 at most, it should certainly be still more paying in this district where a much higher rate of hire is demanded.

7. There is yet another great advantage to the department in having a few animals of its own, as it is thereby enabled to test the work done by the hired ones, which are now generally found to do less work than they should do for their daily hire.

8. I also gather from the above memorandum that the risks attending the keeping of these animals is far less than those connected with horned cattle, the mortality among the former being only 2½ per cent., while that among oxen amounts to 20 per cent. Moreover, as regards usefulness there can be no comparison between the two.

9. It would thus appear that the possession of elephants by the department is not only a necessity but also a great advantage in every respect; and I have no doubt that the amount laid out in their purchase will be fully recovered by the value of work done by them in two years, so that even if more animals were available in the district for hire it would still be to the interest of the department to possess them.

10. As the Mysore Government is now selling by auction a large number of these animals of various ages, there is an excellent opportunity for selecting good and young ones, and obtaining them, in all probability, at comparatively moderate rates. I can send there a trustworthy man for the purpose, and also avail myself of the assistance of gentlemen known to me on the spot.

11. If the purchase of the animals is sanctioned, the charge can be met from savings from the sum of Rs. 10,000 provided in the current year's budget for timber expenses (Item No. 1), as, judging from what has already been done in this direction, not more than one-half of that amount is likely to be expended within the year under that head.

12. Should my proposal, therefore, meet with the Board's approval, I request that their sanction may be communicated to me by wire, so as to enable me to make the necessary arrangements before the auction, which has been fixed for the 15th September 1874, and which is at some distance from here.

13. A copy of the memorandum referred to is enclosed for the Board's information.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Post-copy of Telegram.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Memorandum on working of Forest Elephants.

THE Board observe that the allotment for timber-expenses in the revised budget is Rs. 11,000.

2. The following telegram will be despatched to the Collector of South Canara :—

"Purchase of three elephants at moderate prices paid out of budget savings sanctioned."

Read also the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Erode, 3rd September 1874, No. 269 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit copy of a telegram despatched to you from Trichinopoly on the 29th August 1874 in reply to yours of the same date on the subject of the purchase of elephants for the South Canara forests.

2. I believe that elephants are required to work the South Canara forest to advantage, and that there is probably a sufficient stock of timber lying felled in the forest to keep them at work for some time; if not their purchase out of the amount available for working charges during the current official year would leave little or no balance available, and we would have the elephants but nothing for them to do. In all probability,

however, they would take some time to train, and might be employed at first in Mudumallay or Anamallay with those already broken in; and I presume that the Collector consulted the Forest Assistant on all these points before addressing the Board.

3. I have already been in communication with Mr. Thomas on the subject of the more general employment of elephants for our forest work and agree with him that the Military elephants at Hoonsoor might be most advantageously utilised in this way; the Forest Department defraying all charges for keep, *etc.*, whilst the elephants are engaged in forest work. The main difficulty has, I believe, always been that the Military authorities consider it necessary to remove the elephants to Hoonsoor during the rains, the very season when we get the most work out of our forest elephants, and when they enjoy the best health. As I have stated to Mr. Thomas this action of the Military authorities is probably based more or less on the representations of the Foundars and Mahouts, who naturally prefer comfortable quarters at Hoonsoor to forest work during the rains; but there may be valid objections of which I am ignorant.

4. If the Board agree with me, I think a reference should be made to Government in the Military Department on the subject of the more general employment of Military elephants in forest work when not otherwise required.

Note.—Since writing the above I have heard that sixteen elephants have recently been caught in the Coimbatore District, which will probably obviate the necessity of buying from the Mysore Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of Telegram.

THE purchase of the elephants has been sanctioned in Board's Proceedings, 1st September 1874, No. 2,474 (Forest No. 151).

2. With regard to paragraph 3, the Board resolve to request Government to ascertain if the Military elephants at Hoonsoor can be utilised for forest work.

No. 180. ORDER THEREON, 19th September 1874, No. 1,194.

Miscellaneous.

THE Board of Revenue are referred to the G. O., in the Military Department, dated 8th January 1872, No. 50, a copy of which will be furnished to them.

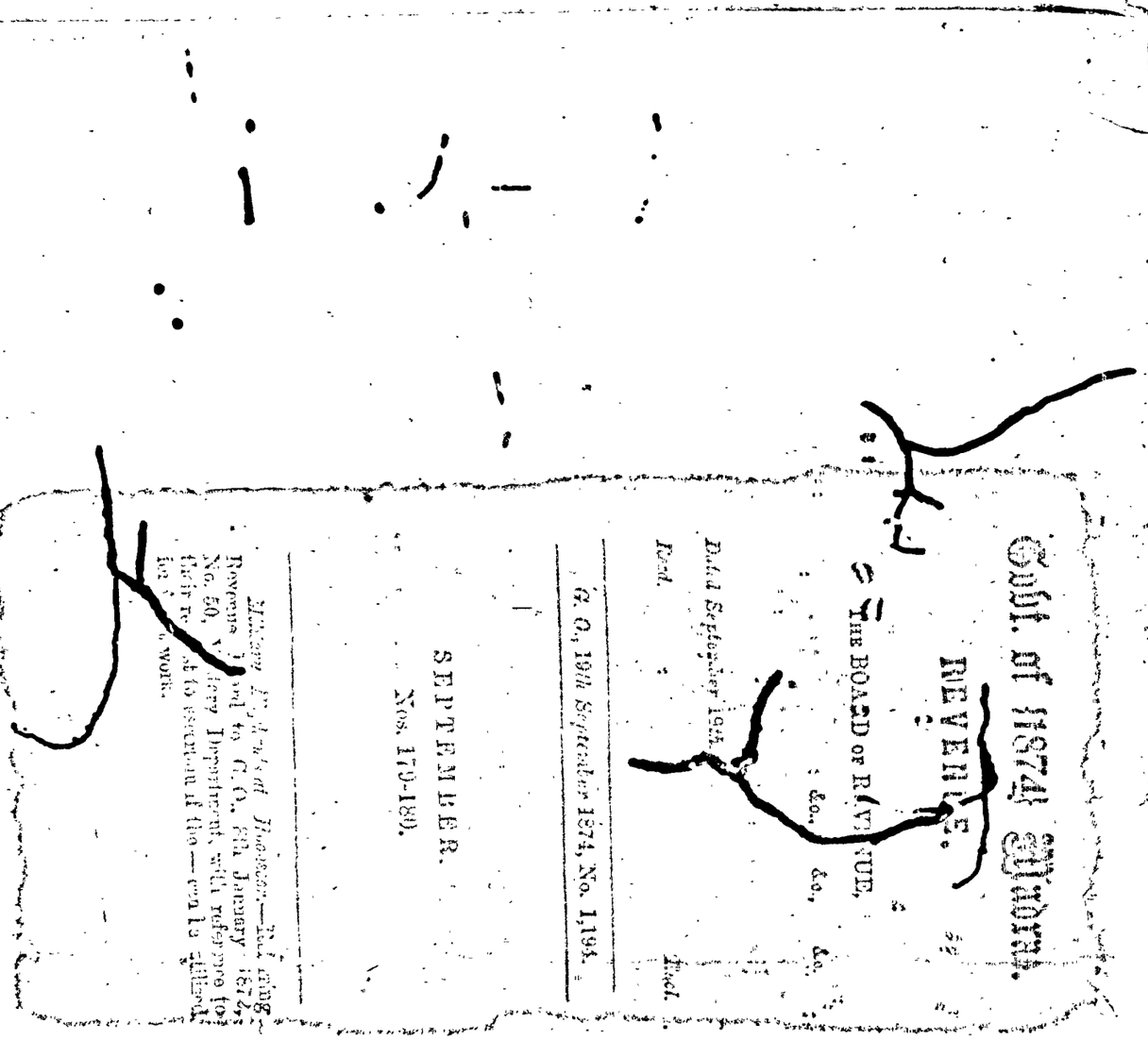
2. The order in question was communicated at the time to the then Conservator of Forests.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.



Govt. of India
REVENUE.
To THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c.,
&c.,
&c.
Dated September 1874.
Read.

G. O., 19th September 1874, No. 1,194.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 179-180.

Forest No. 151.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st September 1874, No. 2,474.

Read the following telegrams:—

From the Collector of South Canara, dated 28th August 1874, requesting sanction for purchasing three Elephants out of those advertised for sale by Mysore Government.

From the Inspector of Forests, Trichinopoly, on this subject, dated 29th August 1874.

Read also the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 29th August 1874, No. 1,694:—

IN forwarding herewith the post copy of my telegram, requesting the Board's sanction for the purchase of three elephants for the Forest Department, I have the honor to represent the circumstances which have induced me to make the application.

2. Our timber operations are, and must continue to be, mostly carried on in parts of the district where elephant labor is indispensable for dragging logs to the point whence water carriage is available, and even then elephants can give material aid in floating timber as witnessed by Major Beddome in North Canara.

3. The Forest Department at present possesses no elephants, and there being only a very few of them in the district it is difficult to hire a sufficient number of them for our operations, while for those that we do get hire is charged at the exorbitant rate of Rupees 10 per diem, and the cost of conveyance of our timber to the market is thus rendered so heavy that it is found to be more profitable to sell the standing trees than to have them felled and brought down by the department. Moreover, hundreds of logs lie rotting in the forest, and unavailable for sale or proper seasoning because we have not at hand the means of dragging them.

4. Owing to the unwillingness of the owners of elephants to forego the certainty of high rates of hire now obtained by them for the problematical profits of a contract for scattered work such as our operations afford, the Deputy Conservator has hitherto tried in vain to secure contracts for elephant labor on anything like reasonable rates.

5. If therefore the Forest Department is to work the forests profitably, and not to return to the justly discarded License and Voucher system, it is necessary that it should possess elephants, which are one of the principal means of working our forests.

6. From a Memorandum kindly supplied to me by the Inspector of Forests I find that the establishment of elephants maintained by the department in the Anamallays has been found to work very well, and has paid its expenses over and over again. If such is the result of experience, where the best animals can be hired at Rupees 7 or Rupees 8 at most, it should certainly be still more paying in this district where a much higher rate of hire is demanded.

7. There is yet another great advantage to the department in having a few animals of its own, as it is thereby enabled to test the work done by the hired ones, which are now generally found to do less work than they should do for their daily hire.

8. I also gather from the above Memorandum, that the risks attending the keeping of these animals is far less than those connected with horned cattle, the mortality among the former being only 2½ per cent., while that among oxen amounts to 20 per cent. Moreover, as regards usefulness there can be no comparison between the two.

9. It would thus appear that the possession of elephants by the department is not only a necessity but also a great advantage in every respect, and I have no doubt that the amount laid out in their purchase will be fully recovered by the value of work done by them in two years, so that even if more animals were available in the district for hire it would still be to the interest of the department to possess them.

10. As the Mysore Government is now selling by auction a large number of these animals of various ages there is an excellent opportunity for selecting good and young ones, and obtaining them in all probability at comparatively moderate rates. I can send there a trustworthy man for the purpose, and also avail myself of the assistance of gentlemen known to me on the spot.

11. If the purchase of the animals is sanctioned the charge can be met from savings from the sum of Rupees 10,000 provided in the current year's budget for timber expenses (Item 1) as, judging from what has already been done in this direction, not more than one-half of that amount is likely to be expended within the year under that head.

12. Should my proposal therefore meet with the Board's approval, I request that their sanction may be communicated to me by wire, so as to enable me to make the necessary arrangements before the auction, which has been fixed for the 15th September 1874, and which is at some distance from here.

13. A copy of the Memorandum referred to is enclosed for the Board's information.

Enclosure No. 1.—Post copy of Telegram.

Enclosure No. 2.—Memorandum on working of Forest Elephants.

The Board observe that the allotment for timber expenses in the revised budget is Rupees 11,000.

2. The following telegram will be despatched to the Collector of South Canara:—

"Purchase of three elephants at moderate prices paid out of Budget savings sanctioned."

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Collector of South Canara.
Copy to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Rev. 323/74.

1874.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 1ST SEPTEMBER 1874, No. 2,474.

Encl.

Rev. 1327/74

Received
Dy. 719 Sept 5/74
Sec. 13 B.P. 176/74

SEPTEMBER.

Forest No. 151.

Elephants—required for use of Forest Department in South Canara District.—Purchase of certain number of — out of those advertised for sale by Mysore Government at moderate prices sanctioned. Cost to be met from savings in Forest Budget.

of the purchase of elephants for the South Canara Forests.

2. I believe that elephants are required to work the South Canara Forest to advantage and that there is probably a sufficient stock of timber lying felled in the Forest to keep them at work for some time, if not their purchase out of the amount available for working charges during the current Official year one can little or no balance available and we would have two elephants hunting for nothing for them to do. In all probability however they would take some kind to train and might be employed at first in Mudumallay or Annamallay with those already broken in and I presume that the Collector consulted the Forest Assistant on all these points before addressing the Board.

3 I have already been in Communication with Sir Thomas on the subject of the more general employment of Elephants for our Forest work, and agree with him that the Military Elephants at Poonoor might be most advantageously utilized in this way, the Forest Department defraying all charges for keep &c whilst the Elephants are engaged in Forest work. The training difficulty has, I believe, always been that the Military authorities consider it necessary to remove the Elephants to Poonoor

Shandur during the rains the best season when we get the most work out of our Forest Elephants and when they enjoy the best health. As I have stated to Mr Thomas their action of the Military authorities is probably based more or less on the representations of the Toongdars and Mahouts who naturally prefer comfortable quarters at Soonkur to Forest work during the rains; but there may be valid objections of which I am ignorant.

4. If the Board agree with me I think a reference should be made to Government in the Military Department

Department on the subject of the more general employment of Military Elephants in Forest work when not otherwise required.

I have &c

Office of Inspector of Forests
Camp Erode
3rd September 1874

Sig.d/ Campbell Walker Captain
Off.g Inspector of Forests

Note. Since writing the above I have heard that 16 Elephants have recently been caught in the Coimbatore District which will probably obviate the necessity of buying from the Mysore Government.

Sig.d/ C. W.

The purchase of the Elephants has been sanctioned in Board's Proceedings 1st September 1874 No. 2474/Forest No. 151/.

With regard to para 3 the Board

Board resolve to request Govern-
ment to ascertain if the Mili-
tary Elephants at Hoonsoor
can be utilized for Forest
work.

True Copy & Extract

J Grote
Secretary

To
The Ag Secretary to
Government Revenue
Department
with Board's Proceedings
dated 1st September 1874
No. 2474.

No 3231.

Revenue 1874 Departmt.

No 1327

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 12 September 1874
Desp'd. 17th "
Recd 16th "

Elephants for South Canara Forests – Inspector of Forests informs that purchase of —— has already been sanctioned: Govt requests to ascertain if the Military Elephants at Shoranoor can be utilized for Forest work.

With Order

G.O. 30th April 71 Nos 208–209 & 10th Jany 72 – Nos 63 & 64.

179–180

No 1194.

The Bd of Rev: are requested to the G.O. on the subject of the Military Depot dated 8th January 1872, No 50, a copy of which will be furnished to them.

2. The same is communicated to the Conservator of Forests.

Bd Revenue Proc 2-10/74
Inspr of Forests

19 Septr 74.