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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***Revenue***DEPARTMENT**

G.O. No.

B.P. No.

1457

Press

Mis.

Dated

4-10-1875

196

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*Not to be folded or roughly handled**Blame*

1457

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1875.*

No. 26. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th August 1875, No. 2,323:—

Read the following papers of—

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 13th June
1875, No. 202:—

WITH reference to Proceedings, Forest Miscellaneous No. 162/3,784, of 4th May 1875, I have the honor to forward copies of correspondence with the Collector of Coimbatore and the District Engineer, Bangalore, on the subject of the supply of Teak timber to the Public Works Department, and to report.

2. The short supply available from the Anamalais in 1874-75 was due to the late period of the year at which the orders for supply were received, to the want of specifications from Public Works Department officers, and the rejection of two-thirds of the logs brought in as unsuitable. This last is indeed characterized by the Chief Engineer as "refuse," although the Superintending Engineer in paragraph 2 of his letter, No. 153, speaks of the whole 1000 logs as *very good seasoned wood*. Mr. Douglas is now squaring these rejected logs by hand-sawing, and hopes to realize Rupees 2 per cubic foot for them.

3. The Public Works officers of course know best what they require, but I venture to think that they are at times too much guided by external appearance, and do not sufficiently bear in mind that if sawn to wantling the timber would cost at least 3 Rupees if purchased from private merchants, and that our measurements are so close, and allowance so liberal, that it might be found profitable to take even rough-looking logs and convert them with the saw.

4. The auction sales of those rejected logs at Coimbatore appeared certainly to support the view of the Superintending Engineer, but it was clearly proved that there was combination to keep down rates which advanced the second day on our raising our upset price, after which Mr. Douglas, at my suggestion, stopped the sale. The fact is that, as Mr. Douglas admits, the Superintending Engineer and Collector had both so depreciated the logs that he began at last to believe them almost worthless, and that it was better to let them go at any price, a state of things which the native merchants were not slow to profit by. On my arrival and pointing out how the timber could be converted, and attain a market value, at comparatively small expenditure, he took heart, and the sale at such abnormally low rates as ruled the first day was stopped.

5. It will be observed that the Collector of Coimbatore states that he is unable as yet to send any satisfactory reply to my letter, No. 128, of 14th ultimo, but I learn from Mr. Douglas demi-officially that he has some 45,000 cubic feet (900 tons) of old stock in the forest and below ghaut, including, I presume, the stock at Ponany, which is only 7,000 cubic feet and not 20,000 cubic feet as understood by the Chief Engineer. This 7,000 cubic feet as well as 400 logs now at Mungara, which will be floated to Ponany, will be available for Public Works Department purposes at the rate proposed by Colonel Walker, Rupees 1-12-0. It has cost much more than Rupees 1-6-6, which, I must repeat, was the estimated actual cost of felling and delivering *unseasoned* logs of *all sizes* on the coast, without any allowance for interest, depôt and watching charges, &c.

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6. Besides this, we have 1,800 cubic feet of Mudumalai timber at Mysore (not 25,000 as stated by the Superintending Engineer), 31,000 cubic feet at Mudumalai, and 8,000 cubic feet at Tippacadu, besides 774 logs containing 15,700 cubic feet in depôt here, and probably some Wynaad Teak at Mysore, how much I do not know as I receive no statements, but the Board will, I presume, be able to ascertain from those submitted to their office.

7. How much of this stock will suit the Public Works Department we cannot say, probably a very small percentage, and, as it is useless our carting in a number of logs which will be rejected, I would suggest that the Public Works Department officers should inspect and select from the depôts where it is lying, *e.g.*, Anamalai, Mudumalai, Mysore, Ponany, &c. We shall then proceed to work up and dispose of what they do not require, the duty should not be left to Overseers or subordinates of either department. Captain Jago has experienced the greatest inconvenience from the adoption of this course here, and if we send an officer of the controlling grade to point out the wood, the Public Works Department should, I submit, do the same.

8. In addition to the above, Mr. Douglas proposes to fell, trim, and deliver 650 logs containing 23,450 cubic feet or, say, 450 tons in December, January and February according to specifications which he appears to have obtained, but *this wood will not be seasoned.*

9. I think I have thus sketched in sufficient detail the programme for 1875-76, which shows that we are doing our best to meet the Public Works demand, and I have no doubt will gradually be able to do so, if the Public Departments meet us half way.

10. As regards the rate for 1875-76, I am willing that it should remain at Rupees 1-8-0 for the old stock untrimmed or sawn, but it should certainly be raised to Rupees 2, if not higher, for the new logs which are to be carefully selected and prepared with the saw. Messrs. Hinde and Massey are now advertising sawn Teak delivered at Madras at from Rupees 3 to 4 per cubic foot, and I doubt if theirs is equal in quality to our Anamalai or Mudumalai timber. Much of the "refuse" sold at the Coimbatore auction has been cut up for building purposes, and turned out admirably in spite of the outward defects which induced Colonel Wilkieson to reject it. I would submit that the rate should be fixed by the Board or Government for the whole Presidency after consulting the Chief Engineer and Inspector of Forests, instead of being left to the Superintending Engineer and Collector of one district.

11. I must also call the attention of the Board and Government to the delay and inconvenience caused by the "existing arrangements" for forest administration in this and similar operations.

I am quite in the dark as regards the stock in the several depôts, and, if I want information have to write to half-a-dozen different Collectors who refer to the forest officers. All this causes delay, and in some cases, notably in Coimbatore, the Collector, who is an amateur forester, can know nothing of the relative qualities of the wood, the best methods of preparation, the difficulties of transport, and how they may be surmounted, &c., delays matters still further by entering into details, and holding back information which I should imagine he must have received, if the forest officer's views are not in accordance with his own.

Under the old system I could at once have reported what stocks we had, what were the arrangements for the year, and, by direct communication with the district

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forest officers, obtained all requisite information in ten days which it now takes months to procure, and even then I only get what the Collector chooses to send on.

It may be said that the Board have the information as to stock and can readily obtain reports from Collectors, but I would ask the Board themselves whether they consider it their province to check stock accounts, give opinions as to the relative value of Anamalai, Mudumalai, or Burmah Teak, the best methods of conversion and bringing it to market, and whether the forests can or cannot supply 600 tons to the Public Works Department annually? I think their reply will be in the negative. It is notably in such questions as these, relating to Imperial questions of great importance, that the want of one responsible and experienced administrative officer, in a position to arrange matters with other heads of department, is felt.

12. With reference to G. O., No. 1,051, dated 18th May, I may state that the Coimbatore Timber-yard has been formed for sales to the public as well as for the Government supply, and it would never do to have it at Pothanore; but, if the Department of Public Works will select these logs at out depôts, such as Polachy or Anamalai as now proposed, I presume there would be no difficulty in delivering them at Pothanore instead of Coimbatore, provided that they are no longer in our charge after delivery.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain, H. W. VIBART, R.E., District Engineer, Bangalore, to Captain C. WALKER, District Engineer, Bangalore, dated 24th April 1875, No. 118.

I HAVE the honor to forward a copy of G. O., No. 1,033, dated 14th April 1875 (to be returned), and request that you will be good enough to inform me of the cost of 25,000 cubic feet of Teakwood therein alluded to, and at what price it could be delivered to me at Bangalore.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to Captain H. W. VIBART, R.E., District Engineer, Bangalore, dated Ootacamund, 29th April 1875, No. 110.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 118, dated 24th instant (enclosure returned), I have the honor to inform you that the rate for selected Teak at the Mysore Depôt will be Rupees 75 per ton of 50 cubic feet or Rupees 1-8-0 per cubic foot, as arranged by Colonel Wilkieson and Mr. Douglas at Coimbatore.

2. I regret that this department cannot undertake to cart the timber to Bangalore, nor can I state what the rate of cartage per ton or cubic foot will be; you would, however, doubtless experience no difficulty in getting contractors to undertake the work at reasonable rates, and any assistance which we can give is at your command.

3. Captain Jago, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nilgiri Range, to whom I have shown your letter, and to whom future communications had better be addressed, will forward to you a statement of logs and scantlings in the Mysore, Depôt and I would recommend that, if you find a number apparently suitable, you should arrange to meet him at Mysore towards the end of June, and select what you require prior to his exposing the stock to public auction in July, as it

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4th October 1875.

is proposed to close the depôt, although we should consider it our duty to supply your department Mysore, if required.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq.,
Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ootacamund, 14th May 1875, No. 128.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, Forest Miscellaneous No. 162/378, dated 4th May, I have the honor to request that you will favor me with an expression of your views, and those of the Anamalai Deputy Conservator, on the subject of the supply of the 600 tons of seasoned Teak from the Coimbatore (not Pothanore) Depôt, which will enable me, after consulting the officers in charge of Mudumalai and other forests, to report on the whole matter. Indeed, if you will kindly forward your report called for by the Board through my office, it would save much time and trouble.

2. I observe that the Chief Engineer in his memorandum harps upon the price and quality of the timber, forgetting that we could not tell what class or description of timber the Public Works Department required, as they would never give us information as to scantlings, &c., and that the rate originally fixed, Rupees 100 per ton, was lower than that which we had been in the habit of obtaining from another market than the present market price of Burmah Teak of inferior quality but better prepared.

3. I doubt whether the present rate of Rupees 75 per ton, or Rupees 1-8-0 per cubic foot fixed by you and the Superintending Engineer, leaves any real margin of profit to the department, and it is certainly not the intention of Government that we should work our forests without exhibiting any departmental profit, even if purely nominal, still less at a loss.

4. I have already expressed my views as to our present stock at some length (*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 55/915, dated 14th April 1875), but for new stock carefully prepared and of dimensions suited to the Department of Public Works requirements, I do not think we should charge less than Rupees 100 per ton at Coimbatore Depôt.

5. The Chief Engineer again refers to the Ponany timber and its costs, although it has already been pointed out to him (G. O., No. 803, dated 20th April) that Mr. Douglas' estimate was for actual cost to the department of unseasoned Teak of all sizes and classes delivered at Ponany. I presume, however, that there would be no objection to the officers of the Public Works Department selecting what they require from the Ponany stock at the rate proposed by Colonel Walker, *viz.*, Rs. 1-12-0 per cubic foot.

6. I do not think that the Anamalai Forests should be indented on for the full annual supply of 600 tons, but that a considerable proportion can be made available from the Mudumalai and Wynaad Forests, with regard to which I shall, whilst awaiting your reply, ascertain the views of the forest officers in charge, and the Collector of Malabar and Commissioner, Nilgiris.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, Ootacamund, dated 7th June 1875, No. 281.

With reference to your letter of the 14th May 1875, No. 128, I regret that I am unable as yet to send you a satisfactory reply as regards the 600 tons of seasoned Teak. Mr. Douglas, 27th May, states his inability to give the information.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1875.

2. I have asked him, 29th May, to inform me what quantity of wood is in the Anamalai Depôt open to inspection, and then, if it be worthwhile, I shall ask Colonel Wilkinson to state on inspection what quantity of it may be useful for his department.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 31st July 1875, No. 396.

In forwarding the accompanying letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, I have the honor, in continuation of my letter, No. 202, of 19th ultimo, to inform the Board that, finding it difficult to arrive at satisfactory conclusions regarding the Department of Public Works timber-supply from the Anamalai forests by writing, I proceeded to Coimbatore, and the Collector, at my request, held the meeting on which he now reports.

2. We are agreed that the timber at Mungary (6,000 cubic feet) and Ponany and Beypore (7,245 cubic feet) should be disposed of as early as possible, the best means of doing so to the best advantage being left to Mr. Douglas' discretion. The Public Works Department might find some of it suitable for their work in Malabar ~~and~~ that Colonel Wilkinson was to inspect it with Mr. Douglas.

3. I find that the 45,000 cubic feet mentioned in my former letter did not include the timber at the above or other depôts, and that Mr. Douglas has altogether in round numbers 77,000 cubic feet of old stock, of which 35,400 cubic feet is in the forest, 15,300 cubic feet in Coimbatore, and 13,000 cubic feet at Anamalai and Setamudi. It is from this stock that the Public Works Department requirements of 600 tons or 30,000 cubic feet must mainly be met for this and next official year, and Mr. Douglas has, therefore, been instructed to bring 1,200 logs out of the forests and convert them and those already below ghaut with the saw, so as to render them acceptable to the Public Works Department at higher rates, in order to recoup cost of sawing, wastage, &c. From experiments which Mr. Douglas has already made, I am pretty confident that this course will succeed, and is preferable to offering the timber in its present rough state.

4. Besides this, Mr. Douglas will sell 650 logs, but not trim or deliver them as originally proposed. This will be done next year, so as to render them available towards the end of 1876-77.

5. Mr. Douglas may also have to float all or part of the Mungary logs to Ponany, for which funds are provided in the redistribution of allotment sanctioned by the Board in their Proceedings, No. 143/2,003, of 17th instant.

6. I think that now the Deputy Conservator has definite instructions the matter may safely be left in his hands, the question of rate alone remaining for settlement in the manner proposed in the latter portion of paragraph 10 of my former letter already quoted.

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4th October 1875.*

7. I am in correspondence with Major Vibart, Executive Engineer, Bangalore, regarding our stock of Teak in the Wynaad, which includes some splendid logs containing 150—200 cubic feet each.

8. The question of supplying a portion of the Public Works Department demand from that, and the Anamalai forest should, I think, not be lost sight of, as the Anamalai cannot probably long stand a steady drain of 650 first-class logs annually, at least it would be rash to subject them to it until we have valuation surveys and extend our system of natural reproduction.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, dated 6th July 1875, No. 350.

Revenue Board's Proceedings, Forest Miscellaneous
No. 162-3,784, of 4th May 1875.

I have the honor to submit the following
Memorandum on the Anamalai available Teak
stock.

MEMORANDUM.

At a meeting held, when the following officers were present, viz.,

A. Wedderburn, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Captain C. Walker, Inspector of Forests.

C. G. Douglas, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore.

Colonel C. V. Wilkieson, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore.

it came to notice that there is a considerable quantity of wood at the depôts of—

C. Feet.
Mungary 6,000.

Ponany and Beypore 7,245.

and it was decided that it is not advisable that this wood, either on the sea-coast or on its way to it, should be brought to Coimbatore for the use of the Public Works Department, as such a proceeding would greatly add to its present valuation cost, and cause such carriage charges to entail a dead loss to the Forest Department, viz., it is valued more at the depôt than the market price at Coimbatore. Besides, it is probable that much of this timber, prepared for a very different market, would not be suitable for Public Works Department building purposes.

2. It is also understood that the consignment of this Teak to Bombay for sale there is not likely to be a financial success.

3. The Collector, therefore, suggests that, as the exposure of Teakwood to sun and rain for a long series of years cannot but be detrimental to the stock which has accumulated in these depôts should be advertised at fixed price at an early date and sold on the spot. There is a great demand for wood, and many merchants are concerned in the trade, and there is every reason to expect that a fair price will be realized.

4. To retain such wood longer in stock is to add to its valuation cost (not value) by the charge for depôt-keeper, &c.

5. The departmental work now marked out for the current year is to supply the Department of Public Works with all the available forest timber at Anamalai, which is to be selected from Government, in fact, are to have the pick of their own wood. Whether such selection will ensure the 600 tons required can only be known after the result of selection, and the price will be fixed when the Public Works Department take delivery of the wood at the Coimbatore Depôt.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1875.*

REQUESTING that this Memorandum may be forwarded, with your remarks, for the information of the Board of Revenue and Government.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

From J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of Nilgiris, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 7th August
1875, No. 82.

WITH reference to paragraph 5 of my letter to the Board in their Proceedings, Forest No. 114, dated 22nd June 1875, No. 1,725, in which I state I concur in thinking with Captain Walker that the Mysore Timber Depôt should be abolished, I have now the honor to report that the District Engineer of Bangalore lately visited the depôt for the purpose of selecting timber for works at Bangalore, but made no purchase finding the scantling of the logs too small and the timber crooked.

THESE papers will be submitted for the information of Government with reference to G. O., dated 20th April 1875, No. 803.

2. It appears that there are now 77,000 cubic feet of old stock of Anamalai timber, of which half or 35,400 cubic feet are in the forests, and one-fifth or 15,300 cubic feet at Coimbatore, besides 54,700 cubic feet at Mudumalai, Tippacadu and on the Nilgiris. The resources to meet the requirements of the Department of Public Works for 1875-76 and part of 1876-77 are therefore 131,700 cubic feet, of which, however, a considerable portion will no doubt be rejected. As to the timber in the Mysore Depôt, it will be seen from the letter from the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, that the District Engineer, Bangalore, on visiting the depôt, found the timber unsuited, the scantlings being too small and the timber crooked. It is stated that the stock in the Wynaad includes some splendid logs.

3. There are further some 13,245 cubic feet of Teak in depôt on the west coast or on the way to it; and Captain Walker states that it was arranged that Colonel Wilkieson should inspect a portion of this timber, to see whether it would suit for Public Works Department purposes.

4. The Deputy Conservator, Anamalais, is to bring 1,200 logs out of the forest to Anamalai, and convert them as well as some of the old stock with the saw, so as to make them more acceptable to the Public Works Department; and 650 logs are to be felled to be ready for supply in the end of 1876-77.

5. Captain Walker suggests that in order to save the expense of cartage, superior officers of the Public Works Department should visit the depôts and select from the stock such timber as might suit them, when the rest could be disposed of to the best advantage. He considers that the rate for old stock may remain at Rupees 1-8-0 for 1875-76, but that for logs converted with the saw it should be at least Rupees 2, and that the rate which is to apply to the whole Presidency, should be settled by the Board or Government in communication with the Chief Engineer and Inspector of Forests; and the Board approve these suggestions.

6. It seems that every effort is being made by the forest officers to meet the requirements of the Public Works Department. The Board call attention to

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4th October 1875.*

paragraph 8 of the Inspector's second letter, in which he states the necessity of not relying on the Anmalai Forests alone.

7. The Board have elsewhere dealt with the matters referred to at the close of his first letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed)

H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 27.

ORDER THEREON, 4th October 1875, No. 1,457.

Forests, No. 2.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works
Department with reference to the Order
in that Department, dated 14th April
1875, No. 1,033.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Read the following papers:—

Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 19th June 1875, No. 202:—

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2. The short supply available from the Anamalais in 1874-75 was due to the late period of the year at which the orders for supply were received, to the want of specifications from Public Works Department officers, and the rejection of two-thirds of the logs brought in as unsuitable. This last is indeed characterized by the Chief Engineer as "refuse," although the Superintending Engineer in paragraph 2 of his letter, No. 153, speaks of the whole 1000 logs as *very good seasoned wood*. Mr. Douglas is now squaring these rejected logs by hand-sawing, and hopes to realize Rupees 2 per cubic foot for them.

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Colt. of 1875

REVENUE.

TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c.,

Dated October, 4th.

To.

End.

G. O., 4th October 1875, No. 1,467.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 26-27.

Supply of Teak Timber to the Public Works Department from Government Forests.—Communications relating to the Public Works Department Proceedings of the Board of Revenue forwarding certain papers relating to the —

unseasoned logs of all sizes on the coast, without any allowance for interest, depôt and ges, &c.

besides this, we have 1,800 cubic feet of Mudumalai timber at Mysore (as stated by the Superintending Engineer), 31,000 cubic feet at ~~the~~ and 8,000 cubic feet at Tippacadu, besides 774 logs containing 15,700 cubic feet in depôt here, and probably some Wynnad Teak at Mysore, how much I do not know as I receive no statements, but the Board will, I presume, be able to ascertain from those submitted to their office

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain, H. W. VIBART, R. E., District Engineer, Bangalore, to Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, Ootacamund, dated Bangalore, 24th April 1875, No. 118.

I HAVE the honor to forward a copy of G. O., No. 1,033, dated 14th April 1875 (to be returned), and request that you will be good enough to inform me of the cost of 25,000 cubic feet of Teakwood therein alluded to, and at what price it could be delivered to me at Bangalore.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to Captain H. W. VIBART, R. E., District Engineer, Bangalore, dated Ootacamund, 29th April 1875, No. 110.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 118, dated 24th instant (enclosure returned), I have the honor to inform you that the rate for selected Teak at the Mysore Depôt will be Rupees 75 per ton of 50 cubic feet or Rupees 1-8-0 per cubic foot, as arranged by Colonel Wilkieson and Mr. Douglas at Coimbatore.

2. I regret that this department cannot undertake to cart the timber to Bangalore, nor can I state what the rate of cartage per ton or cubic foot will be; you would, however, doubtless experience no difficulty in getting contractors to undertake the work at reasonable rates, and any assistance which we can give is at your command.

3. Captain Sago, the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nilgiri Range, to whom I have shown your letter, and to whom future communications had better be addressed, will forward to you a statement of logs and scantlings in the Mysore, Depôt and I would recommend that, if you find a number apparently suitable, you should arrange to meet him at Mysore towards the end of June, and select what you require prior to his exposing the stock to public auction in July, as it is proposed to close the depôt, although we should consider it our duty to supply your department at Mysore, if required.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq.,
Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ootacamund, 14th May 1875, No. 128.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, Forest Miscellaneous No. 162/378, dated 4th May, I have the honor to request that you will favor me with an expression of your views, and those of the Anamalai Deputy Conservator, on the subject of the supply of the 600 tons of seasoned Teak from the Coimbatore (not Pothanore) Depôt, which will enable me, after consulting the officers in charge of Mudumalai and other forests, to report on the whole matter. Indeed, if you will kindly forward your report called for by the Board through my office, it would save much time and trouble.

2. I observe that the Chief Engineer in his memorandum harps upon the price and quality of the timber, forgetting that we could not tell what class or description of timber the Public Works Department required, as they would never give us information as to scantlings, &c., and that the rate originally fixed, Rupees 100 per ton, was lower than that which we had been in the habit of obtaining from another market than the present market price of Burmah Teak of inferior quality but better prepared.

3. I doubt whether the present rate of Rupees 75 per ton, or Rupees 1-8-0 per cubic foot fixed by you and the Superintending Engineer, leaves any real margin of profit to this department, and it is certainly not the intention of Government that we should work our forests without exhibiting any departmental profit, even if purely nominal, still less at a loss.

4. I have already expressed my views as to our present stock at some length (*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 55/915, dated 14th April 1875), but for new stock carefully prepared and of dimensions suited to the Department of Public Works requirements, I do not think we should charge less than Rupees 100 per ton at Coimbatore Depôt.

5. The Chief Engineer again refers to the Ponany timber and its costs, although it has already been pointed out to him (G. O., No. 803, dated 20th April) that Mr. Douglas' estimate was for actual cost to the department of unseasoned Teak of all sizes and classes delivered at Ponany. I presume, however, that there would be no objection to the officers of the Public Works Department selecting what they require from the Ponany stock at the rate proposed by Colonel Walker, *viz.*, Rs. 1-12-0 per cubic foot.

6. I do not think that the Anamalai Forests should be indented on for the full annual supply of 600 tons, but that a considerable proportion can be made available from the Mudumalai and Wynaad Forests, with regard to which I shall, whilst awaiting your reply, ascertain the views of the forest officers in charge, and the Collector of Malabar and Commissioner, Nilgiris.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Offg. Inspector of Forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, Ootacamund, dated 7th June 1875, No. 281.

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th May 1875, No. 128, I regret that I am unable as yet to send you a satisfactory reply as regards the 600 tons of seasoned Teak. Mr. Douglas, 27th May, states his inability to give the information.

2. I have asked him, 29th May, to inform me what quantity of wood is in the Anamalai Depôt open to inspection, and then, if it be worthwhile, I shall ask Colonel Wilkieson to state on inspection what quantity of it may be useful for his department.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. WALKER, Captain,
Offg. Inspector of Forests.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq.,
Acting Secretary to the Board Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 31st July 1875, No. 396.

In forwarding the accompanying letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, I have the honor, in continuation of my letter, No. 202, of 19th ultimo, to inform the Board that, finding it difficult to arrive at satisfactory conclusions regarding the Department of Public Works timber-supply from the Anamalai forests by writing, I proceeded to Coimbatore, and the Collector, at my request, held the meeting on which he now reports.

2. We are agreed that the timber at Mungary (6,000 cubic feet) and Ponany and Beypore (7,245 cubic feet) should be disposed of as early as possible, the best means of doing so to the best advantage being left to Mr. Douglas' discretion. The Public Works Department might find some of it suitable for their work in Malabar or South Canara, and I understood that Colonel Wilkieson was to inspect it with Mr. Douglas.

3. I find that the 45,000 cubic feet mentioned in my former letter did not include the timber at the above or other depôts, and that Mr. Douglas has altogether in round numbers 77,000 cubic feet of old stock, of which 35,400 cubic feet is in the forest, 15,300 cubic feet in Coimbatore, and 13,000 cubic feet at Anamalai and Setamudi. It is from this stock that the Public Works Department requirements of 600 tons or 30,000 cubic feet must mainly be met for this and next official year, and Mr. Douglas has, therefore, been instructed to bring 1,200 logs out of the forest and convert them and those already below ghaut with the saw, so as to render them acceptable to the Public Works Department at higher rates, in order to recoup cost of sawing, wastage, &c. From experiments which Mr. Douglas has already made, I am pretty confident that this course will succeed, and is preferable to offering the timber in its present rough state.

4. Besides this, Mr. Douglas will fell 650 logs, but not trim or deliver them as originally proposed. This will be done next year, so as to render them available towards the end of 1876-77.

5. Mr. Douglas may also have to float all or part of the Mungary logs to Ponany, for which funds are provided in the redistribution of allotment sanctioned by the Board in their Proceedings, No. 143/2,003, of 17th instant.

not Commenced
Govt

6. I think that now the Deputy Conservator has definite instructions the matter may safely be left in his hands, the question of rate alone remaining for settlement in the manner proposed in the latter portion of paragraph 10 of my former letter already quoted.

I am in correspondence with Major Vibart, Executive Engineer, Bangalore, regarding our stock of Teak in the Wynaad, which includes some splendid logs containing 150—200 cubic feet each.

8. The question of supplying a portion of the Public Works Department demand from that, and the Mudumalai forest should, I think, not be lost sight of, as the Anamalai cannot probably long stand a steady drain of 650 first-class logs annually, at least it would be rash to subject them to it until we have valuation surveys and extend our system of natural reproduction.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, dated 6th July 1875, No. 350.

Revenue Board's Proceedings, Forest Miscellaneous
No. 162 3,784, of 4th M y 1875.

I have the honor to submit the following
Memorandum on the Anamalai available Teak
stock.

MEMORANDUM.

At a meeting held, when the following officers were present, viz.,

A. Wedderburn, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Captain C. Walker, Inspector of Forests.

C. G. Douglas, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Anamalai.

Colonel G. V. Wilkieson, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore.

it came to notice that there is a considerable quantity of wood at the depôts of—

	C. Feet.
Mungary	6,000.
Ponany and Beyyore	7,245.

and it was decided that it is not advisable that this wood, either on the sea-coast or on its way to it, should be brought to Coimbatore for the use of the Public Works Department, as such a proceeding would greatly add to its present valuation cost, and cause such carriage charges to entail a dead loss to the Forest Department, viz., it is valued more at the depôt than the market price at Coimbatore. Besides, it is probable that much of this timber, prepared for a very different market, would not be suitable for Public Works Department building purposes.

2. It is also understood that the consignment of this Teak to Bombay for sale there is not likely to be a financial success.

3. The Collector, therefore, suggests that, as the exposure of Teakwood to sun and rain for a long series of years cannot but be detrimental, the stock which has accumulated in these depôts should be advertised at fixed price at an early date and sold on the spot. There is a great demand for wood, and many merchants are concerned in the trade, and there is every reason to expect that a fair price will be realized.

4. To retain such wood longer in stock is to add to its valuation cost (not value) by the charge for depôt-keeper, &c.

5. The departmental work now marked out for the current year is to supply the Department of Public Works with all the available forest timber at Anamalai, which is to be selected from Government, in fact, are to have the pick of their own wood. Whether such selection will ensure the 600 tons required can only be known after the result of selection, and the price will be fixed when the Public Works Department take delivery of the wood at the Coimbatore Depôt.

REQUESTING that this Memorandum may be forwarded, with your remarks, for the information of the Board of Revenue and Government.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

From J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of Nilgiris, to R. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 7th August 1875, No. 82.

WITH reference to paragraph 5 of my letter to the Board in their Proceedings, Forest No. 114, dated 22nd June 1875, No. 1,725, in which I state I concur in thinking with Captain Walker that the Mysore Timber Depôt should be abolished, I have now the honor to report that the District Engineer of Bangalore lately visited the depôt for the purpose of selecting timber for works at Bangalore, but made no purchase finding the scantling of the logs too small and the timber crooked.

THESE papers will be submitted for the information of Government with reference to G. O., dated 20th April 1875, No. 803.

2. It appears that there are now 77,000 cubic feet of old stock of Anamalai timber, of which half or 35,400 cubic feet are in the forests, and one-fifth or 15,300 cubic feet at Coimbatore, besides 54,700 cubic feet at Mudumalai, Tippiacadu and on the Nilgiris. The resources to meet the requirements of the Department of Public Works for 1875-76 and part of 1876-77 are therefore 131,700 cubic feet, of which, however, a considerable portion will no doubt be rejected. As to the timber in the Mysore Depôt, it will be seen from the letter from the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, that the District Engineer, Bangalore, on visiting the depôt, found the timber unsuited, the scantlings being too small and the timber crooked. It is stated that the stock in the Wynaad includes some splendid logs.

3. There are further some 13,245 cubic feet of Teak in depôt on the west coast or on the way to it; and Captain Walker states that it was arranged that Colonel Wilkieson should inspect a portion of this timber, to see whether it would suit for Public Works Department purposes.

4. The Deputy Conservator, Anamalais, is to bring 1,200 logs out of the forest to Anamalai, and convert them as well as some of the old stock with the saw, so as to make them more acceptable to the Public Works Department; and 650 logs are to be felled to be ready for supply in the end of 1876-77.

5. Captain Walker suggests that in order to save the expense of cartage, superior officers of the Public Works Department should visit the depôts and select from the stock such timber as might suit them, when the rest could be disposed of to the best advantage. He considers that the rate for old stock may remain at Rupees 1-8-0 for 1875-76, but that for logs converted with the saw it should be at least Rupees 2, and that the rate which is to apply to the whole Presidency, should be settled by the Board or Government in communication with the Chief Engineer and Inspector of Forests; and the Board approve these suggestions.

6. It seems that every effort is being made by the forest officers to meet the requirements of the Public Works Department. The Board call attention to

paragraph 8 of the Inspector's second letter, in which he states the necessity of not relying on the Anamalai Forests alone.

7. The Board have elsewhere dealt with the matters referred to at the close of his first letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H. P. ...

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

„ to the Commissioner of Nilgiris.

„ to the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Exd. W. H. French.

*N^o 1457
Communicated to the Public Works*

*Dept. with reference to the order in that
Department of 14 April 1875, No. 1033.*

*24 To Mr. ...
21 — Mr. ...
3 — Inspector of Forests*

4 Oct 75

22/10

*20 ...
15 ...
17 ...*

BOARD
REVENUE,
MASS.

PROCEEDINGS, 18th AUGUST 1875, No. 2,323.

20/3/1875

Encl

AUGUST.
Forest No. 172.

Supply of Teak Timber — to Public Works
Department from Government Forests. — Certain
papers from Inspector of Forests and Commis-
sioner of Nilgiris relating to —, submitted to
Government with remarks.

20/3/1875 No 1457

with order

*1875-2045
24.3506.*