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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1750	Press
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

1750

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th July 1876. No. 1,721.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 112. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 4th October 1875, No. 1,457.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th August 1875, No. 2,323.
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.

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 1,000 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 scantling 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.

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 regard 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 preparations, 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 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 converting 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. M. 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. M. 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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th July 1876. No. 1,721.*

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.

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.*, Rupees 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 Wynad 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.

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.

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6th July 1876. No. 1,721.*

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 go on inspection what quantity of it may be useful for his department.

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 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 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.

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.

7. I am in correspondence with Major Vibart, Executive Engineer, Bangalore, regarding our stock of Teak in the Wynad, 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.

I HAVE the honor to submit the following
Revenue Board's Proceedings, Forest Miscellaneous Memorandum on the Anamalai available Teak
No. 162/3,784, of 4th May 1876. 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 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 Bey pore	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 H. 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, 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 Wynad 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.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

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.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under Secy. to Govt.

No. 112-A. Chief Engineer's Memorandum, dated 17th March 1876, No. 498.

No. 112-B. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 19th May 1876, No. 1,183.

From the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated 16th May 1876, No. 704.

In reply to the G.O., No. 958, of the 26th April last, ordering me to report on paragraph 1 of the Government Order, Public Works Department, No. 888, dated 4th April, regarding the alleged inability of the Forest Department to meet the requisitions of the Public Works Officers in Wynaad, I have the honor to forward a letter* from the Forest Officer of the Wynaad Division.

* No. 34, dated 10th May 1876.

2. It appears that although there is plenty of timber in the Wynaad it is impossible for our department, without due notice, to supply seasoned logs of specified dimensions or to procure transport; the fault rather rests with the Department of Public Works that they do not give us sufficient intimation of their probable requirements; the Anamalai Forest Office has made the same complaint.

No. 112-C. From A. W. PEET, Esq., Deputy Conservator, Wynaad Forest, (through the Collector), to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated 10th May 1876, No. 34.

In answer to your letter, No. 633, of the 3rd May 1876, referring to G.O., No. 888, of the 4th ultimo, and G.O., No. 958 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor to state:—

That I received an indent from Colonel Kennedy, Special Executive Engineer, for certain logs for the Burdoor and Noolpoya Bridges. I delivered five long logs, all of which were rejected by him, on account of their being insufficiently seasoned. I went and met him at Sultan's Battery in February 1875; and then informed him and the Overseer, Mr. Brown, that my regular depôt was at Gundry, and asked that the logs might be selected there. I had at that time some very fine logs in depôt at Gundry, and over 400 in all. As I heard no more about the matter, I sent the whole of the Gundry timber to Mysore during the year.

2. The next intimation that I received was from the Acting Special Executive Engineer in a letter, dated the 4th December 1875, No. 878, requiring some long logs from the forests at once for the Noolpoya and Burdoor Bridges. I could not, although I had gone to Mysore for the purpose, get any carts to work at that time in the forests. The contractors all said that Sultan's Battery was out of their way, for there was not a good market there for their grain, and mere timber traffic did not pay them.

Besides this, all my best seasoned logs were already disposed of; I cannot cut seasoned logs to order.

3. I received a letter, No. 16, of the 7th March 1876, from the officer in charge of the Ernaad Range, stating that Mr. Brown had marked certain timber for delivery.

As I had no official intimation of the matter I am inclined to think, that the timber referred to must have been marked in the Ootacamund Forest. I referred the letter to the late Acting Special Executive Engineer, and he was of the same opinion.

4. I received a further letter, No. 4 of the 22nd April 1876, from Mr. Harris, in charge of the Calicut Range, and in answer, informed him, that I had certain logs of the required measurement in depôt at Anantoddy; but that I could not deliver them at Sultan's Battery, from want of carts.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

H. B. GRIGG,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt.

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 2nd June 1876, No. 741.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1876, No. 1,254, Forest No. 45.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 19th April 1876, No. 545.

With reference to G.O., No. 1,754, of the 4th December last, forwarded to me for remarks with the Board's docket, No. 61-2,859, of the 4th instant, I have the honor to inform you that, as far as my department is concerned, the question is answered in Captain Campbell Walker's letter, No. 202, of the 19th of June last, recorded in G.O., 4th October 1875, No. 1,457.

2. I forward, herewith, a copy of a letter* from Mr. Douglas, the Deputy Conservator of the Anamalai Division, by which you will perceive that there is a great want of system on the side of the Department of Public Works, with reference to their indents on our department for timber; it is impossible that we can continue to supply their requirements in this manner without proper indents except at a considerable loss. I do not myself think that it is the province of this department to supply timber in sawn scantlings, but if we have to do this, indents giving the measurements should be supplied at least a year before the timber is to be delivered. I would, however, strongly advise that the Forest Department should only be called upon to deliver timber in squared and sawn logs of such dimensions as may be indented for.

3. Another question requiring the consideration of the Board and Government is the price at which our Anamalai timber is now being delivered to the Public Works Department. By Captain Walker's letters recorded in the G.O., No. 1,457, of the 4th of October last, it will be seen that he agreed to a rate of Rupees 1-8-0 per cubic foot for our Anamalai logs (unsawn) at Coimbatore, and the Board sanctioned this. It had been ascertained that the timber actually cost Rupees 1-6-6 per cubic foot when layed down at Pothanore; this, however, did not include superintendence

which may be put down at 2 to 3 Annas per cubic foot according to the amount felled during the year, so it is very evident that these rates could not be remunerative even cover the working expenses of the forest; and, as all the timber has been delivered at these rates during the last two years, the forest has consequently been worked at a loss and shown an annual deficit. Captain Walker never calculated that the Teak in the Anamalais has a standing value of 8 Annas per cubic foot, as contractors have constantly come forward and agreed to give this price for any trees that might be marked and handed over to them; it appears to me, therefore, that the Public Works Department should certainly pay this 8 Annas in addition to the actual charges incurred in felling and delivering, so that a fair rate to fix for the supply all round at Pothanore or Coimbatore would be Rupees 2 per cubic foot. It cannot, I think, be the wish of Government that our department should supply the timber at less than the cost of felling and delivering *plus* its standing value; it cheapens the Public Works Department estimates fictitiously, and our department does not show a correct return.

4. The Public Works Department could probably always get Burmah Teak at a cheaper rate; but this timber is acknowledged to be inferior, and it is surely better for one Government Department to indent on another as far as possible. Timber from Zemindari forests and other private tracts worked by contractors without any respect to conservancy and without establishments can often be thrown into the market at rates that far under-sell us, but such supplies are limited and uncertain, and if Government Departments are allowed to look to these because one day they happen to be much cheaper than the regular supply from the Forest Department, our revenues will suffer considerably and forest conservancy will be made more difficult.

5. I cannot second Captain Walker's proposition that a uniform rate should be fixed for Teak throughout the Presidency; the rate in different districts must vary as it depends on the distance the wood has to be carried; for instance, Mudumalai Teak can be laid down much cheaper even up at Ootacamund than Anamalai Teak can at Coimbatore or Pothanore. It might, however, be a good plan to fix a certain value on Teak, Blackwood and all our principal timbers as they stand in the forest and charge this, *plus* the cost of felling, delivering and superintendence.

6. An early settlement of these questions is of great importance.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. G. DOUGLAS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Anamalai Range, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated Coimbatore, 25th February 1876, No. 321.

I HAVE the honor to submit for your consideration the following remarks concerning the supply of timber to the Department of Public Works during the last and current official years.

2. In August 1874, after some correspondence on the subject had passed, Government issued an order that 600 tons Teak should be delivered to the Department of Public Works at Coimbatore at current market rates; I pointed out at the time that no specification as to dimensions required accompanied the indent. By the month of January 1875, 455 tons of timber were brought to Coimbatore Depot where the want of such specification was at once felt, and after some trouble in picking out timber in accordance with details, only then received, it was ordered

that all logs of good quality and likely to cut up economically should be passed. Only 366 logs, containing 7,179 cubic feet, were passed as answering to this description, and the balance condemned as unfit for Public Works Department purposes.

3. The success of this transaction was all important; other means of securing revenue had been for the time set aside, and on its issue depended the receipts of the year. In the hopes therefore of repairing the failure to some extent auctions of the rejected stock were tried, but proved so unsatisfactory, owing to combination among the dealers, that they had to be stopped.

4. The loss and inconvenience to all concerned might in this instance have been obviated by a clear statement of the sort of timber wanted, or by a personal inspection of stock by a Department of Public Works Officer before the expense of removal to Coimbatore had been incurred.

5. It is exceedingly difficult, almost impossible, to secure a sale here in the open market; the trade is not sufficiently brisk, and this is the more felt if the sale has to be forced on to meet a deficiency in revenue within the last few weeks of the official year.

6. The Public Works Department indent for 1875-76 was for the same quantity of Teak, and in view of the objections raised to our rough timber, it was decided only to offer sawn. I accordingly prepared at Anamalai 3,067 rafters containing 3,240 cubic feet, and 165 logs containing 1,501 cubic feet; at Coimbatore 1,071 rafters containing 972 cubic feet and 713 logs containing 7,416 cubic feet; total 262½ tons. This was reported ready for inspection on the 6th of January, and a further consignment of 8,000 cubic feet promised by the end of February; a list of the timber was then called for by the Superintending Engineer and furnished, and on the 10th of February, the District Engineer, Presidency, inspected and selected 486 logs and 393 rafters. It must be noted that the balance is not rejected on the score of quality, but as merely not being suitable in dimension.

7. I have received from the same officer a list of the scantlings wanted for the Post and Telegraph Offices and Military Hospital at Madras, which, had I known of in good time, I could, in all probability, have provided for, but which, from the difficulty of working out timber from the forests at this late period as well as of getting sawyers to work at Anamalai on account of the cholera, I cannot now undertake to supply in the short time left before the end of the official year.

8. The timber now being sawn at Anamalai will be offered in squared logs of which there will be some 600, and the contents are calculated at 8,000 cubic feet. My object is to sell this, and I would suggest that if the timber is sound and of good quality, the Public Works Department be requested to take it over, irrespective of its dimensions, as it was prepared for them without specification. I would not recommend its being sawn into scantlings, with reference to which it was not selected and to produce which might cause heavy wastage; it would be preferable in my opinion to submit to the temporary loss of revenue, as the timber is good and sure to be wanted eventually. Under these circumstances, however, I think the Public Works Department should take it at once.

9. Of course, any of the timber already prepared in Coimbatore and Anamalai which can be further sawn into the scantlings contained in the list furnished by the Presidency District Engineer shall be so converted and forwarded without delay, and for the rest I must just do my best to obtain a sale before the end of next month.

10. The present system of supplying timber is, I think, defective, and one on which no contractor could, I imagine, be got to work. The mistake is to allow this department to collect a stock as was done last year, or to work it up as was done this year, and then to test it by a standard of qualification which is not previously communicated. The timber may be of the best and may be eagerly sought after next year, and yet be quite unsuitable for the purposes of the moment. Instead of supplying the Forest Department with a list of requirements at the beginning, the Public Works Department calls for a list of measurements from which to select what is suitable at the end of the year; this is, I think, reversing the proper order of things.

11. It is not fair to the forest officer whose time might be more profitably occupied and whose reputation in his department is to a great extent dependent on the financial success of his range.

12. It must lead, too, to some inconvenience in the Public Works Department, though not so much felt, as by resorting to other forests or to the open market it is generally possible to procure the timber required.

13. During the past two years this annual supply of timber to the Public Works Department may be regarded more as an experiment than anything else; the timber was not prepared for them originally, and the two departments have not dealt hitherto on a large scale, and transactions require to be put into thorough working order. During the past season 108,760 cubic feet have been cut to season with the view of supplying the Public Works Department and Ordnance Department, and therefore, if it is intended to continue the system, you will doubtless be able, in consultation with officers of Public Works Department, to remedy its defects.

14. Precise details, such as I have alluded to, may not be procurable early in the year, but, if not, it is clear that some regular standard be adopted for guidance and for economy of time and money.

15. Out of 422½ tons of timber prepared this year, only 5,600 cubic feet are at present taken and even if the 160 tons at Anamalai are accepted, there is a considerable balance left on hand, saleable doubtless in due course, but not easily so within the next few weeks, and this result is due, I think, to the want of proper arrangement and understanding between the two departments.

* SUBMITTED for the information and orders of Government with reference to, G.O., dated 4th December 1875, No. 1,754.

2. From the correspondence already before Government and now submitted, it appears that the insufficient scantling complained of was due partly to the fact that the requirements of the Department of Public Works were not known, and partly to want of means for bringing large beams into Coimbatore.

3. The Conservator raises one or two points of general principle upon which it is desirable that Government should pass a decision. Colonel Boddome suggests that the Forest Department should only be called upon to supply timber in squared and sawn logs of such dimensions as may be indented for and on regular indents only. If the Forest Department is to be required to supply timber in sawn scantlings, measurements should be given at least a year beforehand. The Board consider that it is certainly necessary for the forest officers to have long notice and exact descriptions of the timber required. The Board also consider that the timber should be inspected at the depôts by a responsible officer of the Department of Public Works, as suggested by Captain Walker, and that the Forest Department should not be called upon to transport timber to Coimbatore for selection there.

4. As regards price, the Board consider that Colonel Boddome's proposal to charge the actual cost of felling and delivery in addition to the value of the standing timber is fair. A uniform rate throughout the Presidency is not feasible as cost of carriage must vary greatly. The Board think that the wood should be selected by an officer of the Department of Public Works at the depôts, and either transported and converted at its own cost, or, if transported and worked up by the Forest Department, a price sufficient to cover the cost of these operations in addition to the value of the timber should be charged. Rupees 2 a cubic foot for Teak logs delivered at Pothanore or Coimbatore, appears a reasonable price. The proposal that the Depart-

ment of Public Works should be precluded from purchasing timber in the open market does not commend itself to the Board.

5. To obviate misunderstanding in future, it is advisable that definite rules on these points should be laid down by Government in the Department of Public Works.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

Forest, No. 2.

PARAGRAPHS 3 and 4 will be referred to the Public Works Department for consideration and for the issue of the

necessary orders. Without sufficient notice being given to the Forest Department, it cannot be expected that the requisite timber can be supplied by them: and the system of indents and previous inspection by Public Works officers, as proposed, will remove much of the inconvenience and difficulty experienced under existing arrangements.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

No. 993.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 112-D.

THE Chief Engineer has the honor to remark with reference to the papers recorded with Revenue Department Order, No. 741, of 2nd June, that it was never desired that the Forest Department should supply Public Works Officers with squared and sawn logs of timber. The idea originated with Captain Campbell Walker, who was dissatisfied with the rate which the Anamalai timber in log was priced at in Coimbatore, and hoped to realize a higher price by converting it into scantlings—See his letter of 19th June 1875, recorded with Revenue Department Order, No. 1,457, of 4th October.

2. Individual Public Works Officers can never tell precisely what scantlings to order till all the Budgets are passed, i.e., till near the end of the official year; by which time it is generally too late for the Forest Officers to get work done in the jungles. All that Public Works Officers expect of Forest Officers, is to lay down sound well-seasoned logs, in accessible places, of ordinary dimensions, such as specified in the accompanying note; and it would facilitate business very much, if lists of all timbers available in Forest Depôts were annually or half-yearly communicated to the Chief Engineer for the information of his Department, Public Works Officers would then know where to go to look for what they want. But they cannot buy in out-of-the-way places; if, as stated in paragraph 2 of the Revenue Board's Proceedings of the 13th May, No. 1,254, the Forest Department Officers fail to get their large timber moved from their depôts, how can the Public Works Officers expect to succeed.

(See also Wynaad Deputy Conservator's letter of 10th May, communicated with Revenue Department Order of 19th May, No. 1,183).

3. The question of price to be charged is in itself quite immaterial, the transactions being between Government Departments. In the absence of a market rate, as established by open sales, at accessible depôts, after good notice given, it rests with Government to say what profit per cubic foot shall be allowed the Forest Department over and above what it costs them to lay down the timber where the Public Works Officers can accept delivery of it. Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome claims 8 Annas per foot profit, and a gross price of Rupees 2 all round at Pothanore or Coimbatore. The accompanying letter, No. 4,249, of 11th January, from the District Engineer, Presidency, shows that the rate of Rupees 1½, which was paid in 1875, makes Rupees 2-1-6 at Madras, or Rupees 104-11-0 per ton; contractors' rates for Burmah Teak having averaged only Rupees 82 for three years previously. Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome may call the latter inferior timber, but that is not the opinion of the Public Works Officers who use both, (ordinary purposes only being considered); and the wastage is decidedly less on Burmah wood—Rupees 1½ a cubic foot at Pothanore allows the Forest Department a profit of 4 Annas, the statements made in paragraph 3 of Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome's letter of 19th April being incorrect.—See papers recorded with Revenue Department Orders, Nos. 199 of 13th February 1874, and 972 of 3rd August 1874.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
27th June 1876. Chief Engineer, Department Public Works.

NOTE.

THE Forest Department may rely upon all good timber in log from 16 to 25 feet in length, out of which squared beams from 12 inches × 8 inches to 18 inches × 12 inches can be cut, being suitable for the purposes of the Public Works Department; also shorter logs of 8 to 16 feet in length, out of which squared joists from 4 inches × 2 inches to 8 inches × 4 inches can be cut.

2. If it suits the Forest Department to supply sawn timber, the most useful scantlings will be 6 inches × 4 inches and 4 inches × 3 inches; but they must be supplied assorted in lots of equal lengths, not of all lengths mixed up together.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Chief Engineer, Department Public Works.

From Captain ROSS THOMPSON, R.E., District Engineer, Presidency, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 11th January 1876, No. 4,249.

I HAVE the honor to submit a statement showing the value of Anamalai Teak received from the Forest Department, which cost in all Rupees 2-1-6 per cubic foot in rough, or Rupees 104-11-0 per ton of 50 cubic feet.

2. This rate is excessive compared with the rates tendered by contractors during the last three years, viz. :—

1872-73, Rupees 82-0-0 per ton.
1873-74, „ 79-8-0 „
1874-75, „ 85-0-0 „

3. The timber supplied by the Forest Department in 1875-76 at this enhanced rate is inferior to that supplied by contractors during the past three years. I have therefore invited tenders for the supply of Teak timber for the year 1876-77 for works in this district.

Value of Anamalai Teak received from Forest Department.

	RS.	A.	P.
To actual cost of 3,198 cubic feet of Anamalai Teak...	4,797	7	2
„ Railway charges ...	1,538	4	0
„ removal charges at Madras ..	189	5	0
„ Do. at Coimbatore, vide District Engineer's No. 2,922, dated 5th October 1875 ...	115	2	0
Total ...	6,640	2	2
Therefore for 1 cubic foot ...	2	1	3
Workshops contingencies ...	0	0	3
Total ...	2	1	6

CHEFAUK,
October

(Signed) R. E. HAMILTON, Lieutenant, R.E.,
In charge of Presidency Workshop, D.P.W.

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 6th July 1876, No. 1,721.

ACCOUNT, No. 14.

It is the duty of the Public Works Officers to obtain their timber of good quality in the cheapest manner. They will deal with the Forest Department preferentially for timber at such prices as shall not over-enhance their ordinary rates of working. For their ordinary supply they will let the Forest Officers know on the 1st April at latest date, how many logs of certain lengths and scantlings they require delivered at certain Forest Depôts, Work sites or Railway Stations during the ensuing calendar year. If the Forest Officer undertakes to deliver, mutual arrangements shall be made for inspection and transfer of the timber; which will be done with precisely as if supplied by an ordinary contractor.

2. The Forest Department is not expected to supply squared or sawn timber except by special agreement. But it is expected to supply at convenient depôts, such as Railway Stations, not in the forests—except in the case of specially long or large timber being required, when the Public Works Officer may be required to go to the forest to make his own selection. The Forest Department must decide on their prices with reference to their estimate of revenue and the market; but Public Works Officers' dealings with them will be on the same footing as their dealings with ordinary contractors.

(True Extract.)

Adm. Secy.

Major R.E.

Off. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department.
To District Engineers.
To the Consulting Architect.

Exd. W. H. French.

W Spare Copies

N^o 2984
Revenue Dept
Govt. of 1876 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 6th.

Issued

Recd. *22nd July 1876*

Encl.

G. O., 6th July 1876, No. 1,721.

JULY.

Nos. 112-113.

Dr. line

Timber for the Public Works Department.
— Certain instructions issued to District
Engineers regarding the purchase of —
from the Forest Department. *No. 1760*

communicated to the District Engineers of the Forest Department.

*8 80th Bounding Dec 29 1876
& the Conservation of Forests.*