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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1773 / ~~B.P. No.~~	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated 23-11-1876	~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department;
23rd November 1876.

No. 420. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th November 1876, No. 2,775 :—

Read the following letters :—

From C. G. DOUGLAS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Coimbatore Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Toonacadavoo, 21st October 1876, No. 183.

I HAVE the honor to submit for consideration whether it would not be advisable to postpone the Travancore boundary operations to a later period than that fixed for the meeting of the settlement officers at the tri-junction, viz., the 20th November.

2. When consulted by Mr. Macgregor as to the best time for beginning, I mentioned the end of November, because the working season in the teak forests above ghaut is supposed to terminate about the 20th, and I thought I should then be able to devote more time to boundary matters; by that date also the heavy rains of the north-east monsoon, which in the dense forests along the Travancore frontier would be a serious impediment, might be expected to have passed. This was in June, when I did not anticipate the delays and difficulties that have arisen in forest operations owing to the failure of the south-west monsoon. In the four months of June, July, August, and September, I do not think there have been more than twenty days' heavy rain, while, with the exception of occasional slight showers, the weather during the rest of that period has been quite fine. The supply of water and forage was so scanty that it was not until the beginning of July that the elephants could be sent up to work, and this retarded the storage of timber, and I have great difficulty in making up lost time, even by hiring extra elephants. Felling, which owing to good showers in May I was able to begin early, had to be discontinued from the forests drying up and the men falling sick, and could not be resumed before July. The season has been most unhealthy and the interruptions caused by the prevalence of fever, &c., incessant. The elephants have been repeatedly knocked up by work and the prolonged droughts.

3. Under these circumstances, I do not expect to complete operations, which this year are extensive, within the allotted time, and the press of work which is generally experienced at the close of the season will be greater than usual, and at present I see no prospect of concluding before the 1st December. Unless, however, the north-east rains are abundant, I am apprehensive that water may fail us long before that, and if it does we shall be compelled to quit the forest. The interior is still well supplied, but at the ghats, both here and in the leased forest, there are indications of failure, and the forest is drier than I remember ever to have seen it, at this time, in those places where, for the next two months, the work of collecting and bringing down timber is to be carried on, and where for men, cattle and elephants water is of course indispensable.

4. If water fails there is nothing for it but to break up and leave the forest whether the event occurs before or after the regulation time. But the north-east monsoon may improve the outlook, and, in any case, I do not think I should absent myself from work until the last moment, whereas, if I am to take up the boundary affair on the 20th proximo, I must leave this some days before to arrange labor, supplies, &c., &c., and it is not easy to say how long I may be detained, but certainly until too late to do any good here on my return.

5. I would suggest a postponement until the 20th December or, if this be not approved, the end of the Christmas holidays. This will enable me to wind up operations in the forest and arrange for the transport of the various consignments of timber to Coimbatore, Madras, and the Coast, after which occasional inspections of progress will be sufficient and not interfere with boundary work.

6. There is another consideration which it may be well to mention. I have, as you are aware, been out in the forests since the middle of June 17th, and, weather permitting, I do not propose, if my plans are sanctioned, leaving till the 1st of December, and even then a return to head-quarters will not be possble; this is a long spell in camp, and I am afraid I shall have some difficulty in getting my present servants and followers to accompany me without a break to the out-of-the way places in which they will have to spend the next four or five months. Indeed, I expect all of them to be laid up with fever as soon as they go down, and therefore I may require time to beat up recruits.

7. Lastly, it is probable that as usual I shall myself get fever on the first change of climate, and, if this were to happen after joining the boundary party, it would only tend to delay and inconvenience.

8. I do not think the boundary work will suffer to any serious extent by the proposed change, but adherence to the original scheme may be disadvantageous to forest work, in which at present every hour is of great value. Early orders are requested.

9. I have sent a copy of this letter to Colonel Beddome that he may communicate direct to the Board any observations he may deem necessary; there is consequently no occasion to incur the delay of passing this reference through his office.

10. Knowing how much the completion of the boundaries of this district is desired, I have thought it best to write in detail as to my reasons for suggesting any thing new, especially as I have not in my progress reports given much prominence to the difficulties experienced in forest work. I trust therefore the length of this letter will be excused.

No. 217.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue with reference to Proceedings, No. 1,880, of 21st July 1876, for orders. When Mr. Douglas wrote this letter he had not received the Board's Proceedings of 12th October, No. 2,565. The Collector is aware that work in the forest has been exceptionally difficult this season.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

COIMBATORE,
25th October 1876.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 25th October 1876, No. 1,234.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 2,565, dated 12th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I do not consider Mr. Brougham quite competent for the work in question. I would rather that Mr. Munro should be met by a Revenue officer of some standing from the Madura District; Mr. Brougham has besides much important forest work which would suffer if he were detailed for this boundary work. If the work could be taken in hand by a competent Revenue officer, Mr. Brougham might occasionally relieve him, and, acting under his orders, supervise it, and this could be arranged by the Collector of the district.

2. With reference to paragraph 6 of Mr. Macgregor's letter, I think that Government must be careful how any boundary line, except that of the water-shed, be accepted; greatly to the detriment of our revenue and to the conservancy of our forests, the Travancore Government are already importing timber into the Madura District by way of Combay, and I learn that they contemplate more extensive operations; every acre of forest along the west side of the Cumbum valley is of great value to this Government.

3. With reference to the Travancore and Coimbatore boundary, Mr. Douglas has just informed me that it will be utterly impossible for him to quit his work in time to meet Mr. Munro at the tri-junction as early as the end of November the failure of the monsoon and a very unhealthy season have much retarded his operations, and he will not be free before the end of December. The timber operations in the Anamallays are very important this season, and the revenue would greatly suffer if Mr. Douglas were to be taken away before the work is completed. I would suggest therefore that, unless the meeting at the tri-junction can be postponed till the 20th of December or early in January, that a Revenue officer should commence and carry on the work until Mr. Douglas may be at liberty.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 12th October 1876, No. 2,565.

2. The Conservator of Forests does not consider Mr. Brougham fit for the duty which it was proposed to assign to him, and suggests that a Revenue officer from the Madura District should be sent instead; and the Collector of Coimbatore forwards a letter from Mr. Douglas in which it is represented that, owing to the unfavorable nature of the season, forest operations in the Anamallays are very backward, and that it is desirable on this and other grounds that Mr. Douglas should not be required to join the boundary settlement until the 20th December or even until the end of the Christmas holidays.

3. In these circumstances, it appears to the Board that the Madura and Travancore sections of the boundary had best be taken up first and the operations in Coimbatore deferred until the close of the season. The Collector of Madura will be requested to report whether the Sub-Collector can be deputed to meet Mr. Munro for the settlement of the Madura boundary, or, if not, whom he would propose to send.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd November 1876.

No. 421. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1876, No. 1,773.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government approve the Board's proposal and await report from the Collector of Madura.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.

Esd. F. E. Bantleman.

Extract of 1876 Proceedings
REVENUE.
To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.
Dated November, 23rd.
Rec'd. Encl.
G.O., 23rd November 1876, No. 1,773.
NOVEMBER.
Nos. 420-421.
Boundary between Travancore and Madura.—Approving the proposals of the Board of Revenue with reference to the settlement of the — first, and awaiting the report called for from the Collector.

1773/1 Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 6th November 1876.
Read the following:-

No. 183.

From
C. G. Douglas Esqr.
Dy: Conservator of Forests
South Coimbatore Dn.

To
A. Wedderburn Esqr.
Collector of Coimbatore.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for consideration whether it would not be advisable to postpone the Travancore boundary operations to a later period than that fixed for the meeting of the Settlement Officers at the Injunction viz the 20th November.

2. When consulted by Mr. MacGregor as to the best time for beginning, I mentioned the end of November, because the working season in the Teak forests above that is supposed

supposed to terminate about the 20th and I thought I should then be able to devote more time to boundary matters; by that date also the heavy rains of the N.E. Monsoon, which in the dense forests along the Travancore frontier would be a serious impediment, might be expected to have passed. This was in June when I did not anticipate the delays and difficulties that have arisen in forest operations owing to the failure of the S.W. Monsoon. In the four months of June, July, August and September, I do not think there have been more than 20 days heavy rain, which, with the exception of occasional slight showers, the weather during the rest of that period has been quite fine. The supply of water and forage was so scanty that it was not until the beginning of July that the elephants could be sent up to work and this retarded the storage of timber and I have great difficulty in making up last time, even by hiring extra elephants. Felling, which, owing to good showers in May, I was able to begin early, had to be discontinued, from the forests drying up, and the men falling sick, and could not be resumed before July. The season has been most unhealthy and the interruptions caused by the prevalence of fever [illegible] incessant. The elephants have been repeatedly knocked up by work and the prolonged drought.

3. Under these circumstances I do not expect to complete operations, which this year are extensive, within the allotted time and the press of work which is generally experienced at the close of the season with

will be greater than usual and at present I see no prospect of concluding before the 1st December. Unless, however, the N.E. rains are abundant I am apprehensive that water may fail us long before that and if it does we shall be compelled to quit the forest. The interior is still well supplied but at the ghats, both here and in the Laud Forest, there are indications of failure and the forest is drier than I remember ever to have seen it at this time, in those places where for the next 2 months, the work of collecting and bringing down timber has to be carried on and where for men, cattle, and elephants, water is of course indispensable.

4. If water fails there is nothing for it but to break up and leave the forest, whether the event occurs before or after

after the regulation time. But the N.E. Monsoon may improve the outlook and, in any case, I do not think I should absent myself from work until the last moment, whereas, if I am to take up the boundary affair on the 20th proximo I must leave this some days before starting labour, supplies, &c. &c. and it is not easy to say how long I may be detained, - but certainly until too late to do any good here on my return.

5. I would suggest a postponement until the 20th December or, if this be not approved, the end of the Xmas - Holidays. This will enable me to wind up operations in the forest and arrange for the transport of the various consign- -ments of timber to Coimbatore, Madras and the Coast, after which occasional inspections

inspections of progress will be sufficient and not interfere with Boundary work.

6. There is another consideration which it may be well to mention. I have, as you are aware, been out in the forests since the middle of June, 17th, and, weather permitting, I do not propose, if my plans are sanctioned, leaving till the 1st of December and even then a return to Head Quarters will not be possible; this is a long spell in Camp and I am afraid I shall have some difficulty in getting my present servants and followers to accompany me, without a break, to the out of the way places in which they will have to spend the next four or five months. Indeed I expect all of them to be laid up with fever as soon as they go down and therefore I may

may require time to beat up recruits.

7. Lastly it is probable that as usual I shall myself get fever on the first change of climate and if this were to happen after joining the boundary party it would only tend to delay and inconvenience.

8. I do not think the boundary work will suffer to any serious extent by the proposed change, but adherence to the original scheme may be disadvantageous to forest work in which at present every hour is of great value. Early orders are requested.

9. I have sent a copy of this letter to Colonel Beddome that he may communicate direct to the Board any observations he may deem necessary - there is consequently no occasion to incur the delay of passing

passing this reference through his Office.

10. Knowing how much the completion of the boundaries of this District is desired I have thought it best to write in detail as to my reasons for suggesting any thing new, especially as I have not in my Progress Reports given much prominence to the difficulties experienced in forest work, I trust therefore the length of this letter will be excused.

I have &c.
(Sd.) C. G. Douglas
Dy: Conservator

South Coimbatore
Dy: Conservator's Office
Camp Coonacadavoo
21st October 1876

No. 217.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue with reference to Proceedings — No. 1880 of 21st July 1876, for orders. When Mr. Douglas wrote this letter he had not received the Board's Proceedings of 12th

12th October, No. 2565. The Collector is aware that work in the Forest has been exceptionally difficult this season.

Coimbatore Collr's Office 25th October 1876

(Sd.) A. Wedderburn
Collector

Read also the following:—

No. 1234.

From.

Lieut. Col. R. H. Beddome,
Conservator of Forests.
Coteacamund.

To

H. E. Stokes Esquire
Actg: Secretary to the
Board of Revenue Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board No. 2565 dated 12th instant I have the honor to inform you that I do not consider Mr. Brougham quite competent for the work in question; I would rather that Mr. Munro should be met by a Revenue Officer of some standing from the Madura District: Mr. Brougham has

has besides much important forest work which would suffer if he were detailed for this boundary work. If the work could be taken in hand by a Competent Revenue Officer Mr. Brayshaw might occasionally relieve him, and, acting under his orders, supervise it and this could be arranged by the Collector of the District.

2. With reference to para 6 of Mr. MacGregor's letter I think that Government must be careful how any boundary line except that of the watershed be accepted, greatly to the detriment of our revenue and to the Conservancy of our forests - the Travancore Government are already importing timber into the Madura District by way of Combay and I learn that they contemplate more extensive operations, every acre of forest along the east side of the Cumbum valley is great value to this Government

3. With reference to the Travancore and Coimbatore boundary Mr. Douglas has just informed me that it will be utterly impossible for him to quit his work in time to meet Mr. Munro at the trijunction as early as the end of November, the failure of the Mansoon and a very unhealthy season, have much retarded his operations and he will not be free before the end of December. The timber operations in the Anamallays are very important this season and the revenue would greatly suffer if Mr. Douglas were to be taken away before the work is completed. I would suggest therefore that unless the meeting at the trijunction can be postponed till the 20th of December or early in January that a Revenue Officer should commence and carry on the work until Mr. Douglas

Mr. Douglas may be at liberty.

Shaw Wallace

Office of Conservator of Forests Coimbatore 25th October 1876

(Sd.) R. H. Beddome, Lt. Col.
Conservator of Forests.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings 12th October 1876 No. 2565.

2. The Conservator of Forests does not consider Mr. Brougham fit for the duty which it was proposed to assign him, and suggests that a revenue Officer from the Madura District should be sent instead; and the Collector of Coimbatore forwards a letter from Mr. Douglas in which it is represented that owing to the unfavorable nature of the season forest operations in the Anamallais are very backward, and that it is desirable on this and other grounds that Mr. Douglas should not

1773

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(True Copies and Extract)

W. Elliott
Acting Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department

Wolstenholme & Co. Printers

Revenue 1876 Despatches
No 4724
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 6 } November
Desp 6 } 1876
Read 7.

No 1773

Re fort Capt Evans claim to Reformado
amount expended &c. Collr of Customs

16.11.76

enthader

Boundary between
Travancore & Madura. -
Suggesting that settlement of
— should be taken up first
and operations in Coimbatore
deferred until the close of the
season, and requesting Collr.
of Madura & the Poligar Shevagiri
and deputy Collr the
Officer appointed by Travancore