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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	958	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis. ✓
Dated	26.4.1876	196

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DA

958

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1876.*

No. 64. Read the following letter from T. D. HARRIS, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, Malabar, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Calicut, 14th March 1876, No. 217 :—

With reference to latter part of your memorandum, No. 201, dated 28th January 1876, I have the honor to inform you that, owing to the scarcity of timber in consequence of the river near Malliappooram being nearly dried up, and logs cannot be easily floated down, and difficulty to procure skilled labor on account of cholera raging in the locality, the Supervisor in charge of the Ernaad Range reports that a sum of Rupees 1,500 will remain unexpended out of the estimate of Rupees 4,800 for asphaltting verandah and reboarding floors of barracks and hospital at Malliappooram. I regret that anything should have interfered with the completion of this work, but there is no doubt this is an exceptional season. Cholera has made sad havoc, and my time has been so fully occupied I could not be present to rally the forces myself.

2. I take this opportunity to report that the Executive Engineer in charge of the Kurumbranaad Range reports on the 12th instant that, owing to a strike amongst the bricklayers for refusal on their part to do work at a certain liberal rate of work offered to them by the above officer, to the non-arrival of masons expected from Mysore and Goodalore, and to the failure of the Forest Department Contractors for cartage of timber, a sum of Rupees 3,600 can be surrendered from the allotment of Rupees 10,116 for constructing Deputy Collector's Cutcherry at Manantoddy; the principal amount is due to the fact that the Forest Department are unable to comply with indents or supply timber in any quantity or of given scantling within a reasonable period. I have always found this to be the case, and I fear it must continue, I very much regret to say, until some improvement takes place in the system or administration which will enable the Forest Department to do its office fairly and well.

No. 65.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1876, No. 888.

ACCOUNT, No. 5-A.

INQUIRIES will be made in the Revenue Department as to the alleged inability of the Forest Department to meet requisitions of Public Works Officers in Wynaad within a reasonable time. It is remarked that in the correspondence recorded with G.O., No. 1,457, of 4th October 1875, no details of the timber available in the Mudumallay and Wynaad Forests generally have been given, but only an assertion made that amongst it are some "splendid logs." Such logs, if stored in accessible depôts and lists of their dimensions furnished, ought to be most acceptable to the Public Works Officers of Wynaad, Bangalore, or the Nilgiris.

2. The Government, however, are not disposed to clear the Public Works Officers of Wynaad of blame for continued failure to utilize the sums placed at their disposal at the expense of the Forest Department. The failure of last year was attempted to be accounted for in a manner that did not satisfy Government as recorded in G.Os., No. 1,491, of 31st May, and No. 1,951, of 10th July 1875. In G.O., No. 2,288, of

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9th August, authority was given to proceed with the work of the Deputy Collector's Catcherry at Manantoddy in anticipation of the Budget grant of Rupees 2,000 being supplemented to the full extent required to work out the revised estimate of Rupees 19,600 sanctioned in G.O., No. 1,878, of 3rd July; and it is now most unsatisfactory to be told in the middle of March that no less than Rupees 3,600 out of an allotment of Rupees 10,116 are to be surrendered. The Executive Engineer has himself declared that it is "all-important" that the roof shall be over the building before next rains; and in a district with such natural resources as Malabar, and with such high rates as are asked and granted for Wynaad work, it is not, in the opinion of His Grace the Governor in Council, creditable to the highly-paid Public Works Officers of that district that they should fail to utilize to the utmost the funds supplied them.

(True Extract.)



Colonel,

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

To the District Engineer, Malabar
Revenue Department

Exd. A. Grubert.

20 Spare Copies *sent to the Secy. to Govt.*

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c 1899
Revenue 1876 Department
Govt. of 1876: Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

No 958

Para. referred to
the Conservator of
Forests for early report.

26 June 1876

14th The Conservator of Forests & Wild
Office.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MALABAR
Secy. &c. &c.

Dated April 11th.

Issued

Recd. 23

Encl.

G. O., 11th April 1876, No. 838.

APRIL

Nos. 64-65

Vide No 1975/76.

26-6-75

Dr. J. S.
Surrender of Funds, Malabar District
Passing orders on letter from the
Engineer reporting certain

No 958 - 26 June 1876
encl.

DEPARTMENT

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