

(1) Number of pages 20
(2) Date of repair 11.4.72
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	829	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26.2.1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

828

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th February 1877.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 799. From Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Nilgiris, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 30th October 1876, No. 350.

I HAVE the honor to address you on the unsatisfactory manner in which I am supplied with timber by the Forest Department.

2. The following statement shows my annual demands on that department and the actual quantity taken :—

	Quantity. Cubic feet.	Balance not taken. Cubic feet.
Timber indented for in 1874-75 in February 1874 ...	10,000	
Do. actually taken in 1874-75	5,683	
		4,317
Timber indented for in 1875-76 in October 1874 ...	40,000	
Do. actually taken in 1875-76	18,319	
		21,681
Half the quantity indented for in 1876-77 in December 1875	17,500	
Timber actually taken up to end of September 1876, i.e., for six months	8,584	
		8,916
Total Balance which might now be in the Ootacamund yard...		21,914

3. Thus, had my indents for the past three years been fully complied with, there might be now in the Ootacamund yard at least 35,000 cubic feet of timber. There are only 3,620 cubic feet, of which 2,600 cubic feet are very inferior and unfit for use in public buildings, being old rejected logs which have been in the yard for the past ten years. Six months of the current official year have passed, and I have not been able to take more than one-third of the supply indented for, though I have throughout the year been in urgent need of timber, and the progress of my works has suffered from want of it.

4. The construction of the No. 4 Block at the Wellington Barracks has been greatly retarded for want of timber. I addressed complaints to the Forest Officer on the 24th of June and 23rd and 26th of August 1875, and on the 7th of January, 7th of March, 6th of May, and 8th of September 1876. Frequent verbal complaints have also been made to Major Jago. Since last June I have, with difficulty, obtained for the barrack 3,000 cubic feet of sawn timber from a contractor at Mettapolliem. Had the Forest Department, from the first, met by demands, the barrack would have been completed last August. It will not now be finished till December. A bridge on the Coonoor Ghaut was washed away in December last. Its abutments were built up six months ago, and all the smaller timber has been collected from private dealers at Mettapolliem; but I have as yet been unable to obtain more than one of the five beams to span it. The size of each beam is 28" x 14½" x 10½".

5. From the time when the Forest Department began to work in this district up to the year 1874 it was never the practice of this department to send any one down to the Muddumallay Forests to select the timber required. On the 1st of September 1874, at the request of Colonel Morgan, I sent a very experienced carpenter maistry to select some timber for the Wellington Barracks. He was ordered to mark 300 logs. He returned on the 17th idem, having been able to select only 104 logs, from their being scattered all over the forest, and more or less covered with undergrowth. It thus took him seventeen days to choose and mark 104 logs, and ten months passed before the last of them reached Ootacamund. A second time, at the request of Major Jago, I sent the same maistry to select 400 logs. He could only choose 200, which occupied him twenty-eight days. Nine months elapsed before all these logs were delivered at Ootacamund. On both occasions the maistry on his return was attacked with fever, and was *hors de combat* for six weeks each time.

6. I have no wish to press the point, but it is the fact that not only has the supply thus fallen very far short of our demands and caused us great inconvenience, but the quality of the timber has been inferior. Much of it is immature and unseasoned. I have evidence to prove this, but I will not say more now.

7. The large and extensive buildings now begun at Norwood will require a large supply of first-class timber. I hope, with the help of Mr. Chisholm, to get this supply from Madras. Failing this, the buildings cannot be completed in time to be occupied by His Grace the Governor next year.

8. I may add that Rupees 1,500 were expended on the Sengoor Ghaut last year to make it fit to be traversed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. This year the road has been in unusually good order. The Forest Department timber is conveyed over it.

9. I beg in conclusion to be allowed to say that, in writing this letter, I have no wish to complain in the very least of the local Forest Officer. Major Jago has always been very courteous to me, and I have no reason whatever to think that he has not done all in his power to meet my demands; indeed, from his communications with me, I believe he has put himself to inconvenience to try and assist me.

No. 799A. Note by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated 13th February 1877.

CAPTAIN MORANT's figures differ considerably from those given by Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome in paragraph 10 of his report recorded with Revenue Department No. 1,301, of 20th September 1876. He indented in 1875-76 for 40,000 cubic feet of teak, having in hand the building of the new barrack range at Wellington. But he was supplied with 18,319 only, though Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome states that about 30,000 cubic feet were taken out of the Wynaad Forests for the Public Works Department in that year.

But the failure to supply is universal. It is complained of by the Public Works Officers in Wynaad in a letter recorded with G.O., No. 888, of 4th April 1876. It is very clearly proved at Coimbatore, Madras, and Bangalore by the papers recorded with G.O., No. 1,033, of 14th April 1875. But since the issue of G.O.,

No. 1,301, of 20th July 1876, freeing Public Works Officers from the obligation to deal with the Forest Department, these latter places are independent and have other resources. If unable to get what they want in the open market at reasonable rates, they may indent on the Forest Department of Burmah at rates recorded in G.O., No. 1,265, of 5th May 1875. But such is not the case with the Public Works Officers of the Nilgiris and Wynaad. They have no resource but to take what quantity and quality of timber the Forest Department actually manages to supply, without regard to indents, and at a rate arbitrarily fixed by them. Which is probably as much above its fair value as the prices demanded for Anaymally teak in Coimbatore and Malabar proved to be, when tested in Bombay, as recorded in Revenue Department Order, No. 702, of 8th May 1875, barely Rupee 1 per cubic foot being averaged at Bombay for timber which is charged Rupees 1½ to Rupees 2 a foot at Coimbatore or Palghaut. It is very desirable, therefore, that the Government should insist upon efficient arrangements being made for supply of good timber at cost price at Ootacamund and at Goodaloor, Sultan's Battery, and Manantoddy in the Wynaad. The attempt to have logs scattered all over a forest selected by Public Works agents has been fairly tried by Captain Morant and resulted in disabling a useful subordinate for several months without a sufficient supply being secured, or a scanty supply being much facilitated.

The matter could easily be settled when Government is up at Ootacamund by personal discussion between the Conservator of Forests and the District Engineers of Malabar and the Nilgiris before Council.

G. W. WALKER, M. General, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 403.

TRANSFERRED, in original, to the Revenue Department.

FORT ST. GEORGE, (Signed) W. T. F. FAREWELL, Colonel,
19th February 1877. Acting Joint Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 800. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1877, No. 829.

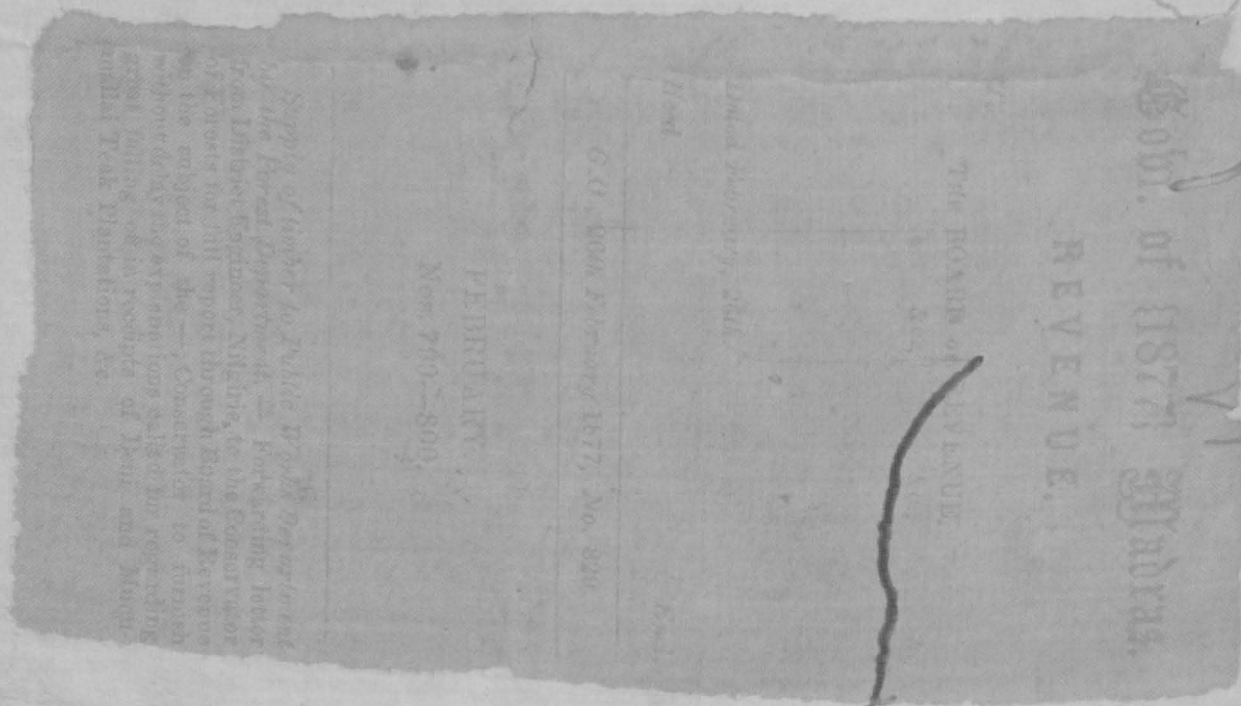
Forests, No. 26.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council resolves to forward the letter from the District Engineer, Nilgiris, to the Conservator of Forests for full report through the Board of Revenue. If timber indented for cannot be supplied, this should be at once stated, so that purchases may be made elsewhere and delay in works avoided. The Conservator will also furnish without delay the explanations called for in G.O., 22nd December 1876, No. 2,128.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Public Works Department.
Exd. A. F. Goodall.



Rs 350/-
From,

29/10/77
District Engineer's Office
Ootacamund 30th October 1876.

The District Engineer
Mylapore.

To,

The Chief Engineer
Public Works Department
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to address you on the unsatisfactory manner in which I am supplied with timber by the Forest Department.

2. The following statement shows my annual demands on that Department and the actual quantity taken.

	Quantity Cubic ft.	Balance not taken Cubic ft.
Timber indentured for in 1874-75 in February 1874.	10,000.	
Timber actually taken in 1874-75	5683.	4317.
Timber indentured for in 1875-76 in October 1874.	40,000.	
Timber actually taken in 1875-76	18319.	21681.
Half the quantity indentured for in 1876-77 in December 1875.	17500.	
Timber actually taken up to end of Sept 1876. i.e. 6 months	8584.	8916.
Total Balance which might now be in the Ootacamund Yard		34914.

3. Thus, had my indents for the past 3 years been fully complied with, there might be now in the Ootacamund Yard at least 35,000/ Cubic feet of timber. There are only 3620/ Cubic feet, of which 2600/ Cubic feet are very inferior, and unfit for use in

in Public Buildings, being old rejected logs, which have been in the yard for the past ten years. Six months of the current official year have passed, and I have not been able to take more than one third of the supply indented for, though I have throughout the year been in urgent need of timber, and the progress of my works has suffered from want of it.

14. The construction of the No 4 Block at the Wellington Barracks has been greatly retarded for want of timber. I addressed Complaints to the Forest Officer on the 24th of June, and 23rd and 26th of August 1875, and on the 7th of January, 7th of March, 6th of May, and 8th of September 1876. Frequent verbal Complaints have also been made to Major Jago. Since last June I have with difficulty obtained for the Barrack 3000 Cubic feet of sawn timber from a contractor at Muttapollim. Had the Forest Department, from the first, met my demands, the Barrack would have been completed last August. It will not now be finished till December. A bridge on the Coonoor Ghaut was washed away in December last. Its abutments were built up six months ago, and all the smaller timber has been collected from private dealers at Muttapollim: but I have as yet been unable to obtain more than one of the five beams to span it.

The

87/2
The size of each beam is $28' \times 14\frac{1}{2}" \times 10\frac{1}{2}"$.
5. From the time when the Forest Department began to work in this District up to the year 1874 it was never the practice of this Department to send any one down to the Muddamulay Forests to select the timber required. On the 1st of September 1874, at the request of Colonel Morgan, I sent a very experienced carpenter Maistry to select some timber for the Wellington Barracks. He was ordered to mark 300 logs. He returned on the 17th Idem having been able to select only 104 logs, from their being scattered all over the Forest, and more or less covered with undergrowth. It thus took him 17 days to choose and mark 104 logs; and ten months passed before the last of them reached Ootacamund. A second time, at the request of Major Jago, I sent the same Maistry to select 400 logs. He could only choose 200, which occupied him 28 days. Nine months elapsed before all these logs were delivered at Ootacamund. On both occasions the Maistry

On

On his return was attacked with fever, and was hors de combat for six weeks each time.

6. I have no wish to press the point, but it is the fact, that not only has the supply thus fallen very far short of our demands, and caused us great inconvenience, but the quality of the timber has been inferior. Much of it is immature and unseasoned. I have evidence to prove this, but I will not say more now.

7. The large and extensive buildings now begun at Norwood will require a large supply of first class timber. I hope, with the help of Mr Chisholm, to get this supply from Madras. Failing this the buildings cannot be completed in time to be occupied by His Grace the Governor next year.

8. I may ~~in conclusion~~ add that Rs 1500 were expended on the Suvoor Shant last year to make it fit to be traversed by N. N. N. The Prince of Wales. This year the road has been in unusually good order. The Forest Department timber is conveyed over it.

I

9. I beg in conclusion to be allowed to say, that, in writing this letter, I have no wish to complain in the very least of the local Forest Officer. Major Jago has always been very courteous to me, and I have no reason whatever to think that he has not done all in his power to meet my demands; indeed, from his communications with me, I believe he has put himself to inconvenience to try and assist me.

I have the honor to be
for

Yours Most Obedient Servant
J. E. Morant
Captain R.E.
District Engineer

Ind
del

7th Sep^r 1874. Rs. 41
 14th Apr^l 1875. " 1033.
 5 May " " 1365.
 23 June " " 256.
 10 July " " 73.
 21 " " " 153.
 27 Oct^r " " 3027.
 4 Apr^l 1876 " 888.
 6 July " " 1721.

Rev: Order 20th Sep^r 1876. No. 1301.

P.W.D.
 15 FEB 77
 No. 1600

Rev: $\frac{2}{1365/77}$

Corr: 15.2.77

C. 24/2/77.

Letter from the District Engineer,
 Nilgiris, No. 350 of 30th Oct^r 1876.

Captain Morant's figures
 differ considerably from those given
 by Lt. Colonel Beddome in para 10
 of his report recorded with Revenue
 Department No. 1301 of 20th September
 1876. He indicated in 1875-76 for 40,000
 cubic feet of teak, having in hand
 the building of the New Barrack
 Range at Wellington. But he was
 supplied with 18,319 only, though Lt.
 Colonel Beddome states that about
 30,000 cubic feet were taken out of
 the Wynnad Forests for the Public
 Works Department in that year.

But the failure to supply is
 universal. It is complained of by the
 Public Works Officers in Wynnad, in

a letter recorded with G.O. No. 888 of
4th April 1876. It is very clearly proved at
Coimbatore, Madras and Bangalore
by the papers recorded with G.O. No. 1033
of 14th April 1875. But since the issue
of G.O. No. 1721 of 6th July 1876 freeing
Public Works Officers from the obligation
to deal with the Forest Department,
these latter places are independent
and have other resources. If unable
to get what they want in the open
market, at reasonable rates they
may indent on the Forest Dept. of
Burmah at rates recorded in G.O.
No. 1265 of 3rd May 1875. But such
is not the case with the Public Works
Officers of the Nilgiris and Wynnad.
They have no resource but to take
what quantity and quality of timber
the Forest Dept. actually manages
to supply, without regard to Indents,
and at a rate arbitrarily fixed
by them. Which is probably much
above its fair value, as the prices,

Demanded

8/25
demanded for Anaymallay Teak in
Coimbatore and Malabar, proved
to be when tested in Bombay, as
recorded in Revenue Dept. Order No.
702 of 8th May 1875, barely Rs. 1
per cubic foot being averaged at
Bombay, for timber which is charged
Rs. 1½ to Rs. 2 a foot at Coimbatore
or Palghat. It is very desirable
therefore that the Govt. should insist
upon efficient arrangements being
made for supply of good timber at
cost price at Ootacamund, and at
Gondaloor, Sultan's Battery, and
Manantoddy in the Wynnad. The
attempt to have logs scattered all
over a Forest selected by Public
Works Agents, has been fairly tried
by Captain Morant, and resulted
in disabling a useful subordinate
for several months without a sufficient
supply being secured, or a scanty
supply

supply being much facilitated.

The matter could easily be settled when Government is up at Ootacamund, by personal discussions between the Conservator of Forests and the District Engineers of Malabar and the Nilgiris, before Council.

C. M. Nather
Major Genl. R.E.

13.2.77

Rev: 1365/77

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Read the following:—

Letter from the District Engineer
Nilgiris No 350 of 30th Oct. 1876.

Memorandum by Major Genl. G. Walker
dated 13th February 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

Warrant to Colonel

Adg. Joint Secy to Govt. P.W.D.

Is. & for immediate
reply, calling attention
at same time to the
non receipt of explanation
as to log, re referred to
& Major. as before that
+ below B.C. 4/2

Ex: 13.2.77

Ca. 24/4/77

FOR ORDERS.

No. 403-

Transferred in
original — to the
Revenue Department.

W. H. M. Colonel
Sgt. J. H. Lacy, Lieut.
P. H. D.

Lt. St. George
19th Feby/73

Revenue 1877 Dept
No 1365

From
the joint Secy to Gov
D. P. W.

Dated 19 } Febry 1877
Received 20 }

No 403.

Transferring, in
original, letter from
the District Engineer,
Dacca, regarding
the timber supplied
to P. W. D. by the Forest
Department.

Despatch

With order

Order No 2413.

1877

The Secy to Govt. in Council
has ordered to forward the
letter from the Dist. Engr. Dacca
to the Commissioner of Forests
for full report. - If timber
indicated for cannot be
supplied this should be
mentioned, so that
purchases may be
made elsewhere and
delay in work avoided.

The Commissioner will also
forward without delay
the explanation called
for L. G. O. 22 Dec. 76

No. 2, 128.

26-2-77.

24.2.77

14 Secy to Govt. of Revenue
21 Secy to Govt. of Forests
24 Secy to P. W. Dept.

C 24/2/77. R. 26/2/77