C C J

Revenue (1892) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1917
No 578.

DATED 9th April 1892

[Despatch Abstract.]

Declining to reconsider the orders passed regarding the purchase of the Kanya Forests, South Arcot.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O	No	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O	No.	Department.	Date.

Confidential

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

Dated 29th March 1892

Forest No. 333. Mis:

The Hon. Mr. L. Grose.

READ the following letter from W. Drummond Esqre, Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Commrs of Land Revenue, (thro' the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle,) dated 14th March 1892

Ref on C. No. 230/F. 92.

With reference to Board's Proceedings dated 26th November 1891, Forest No. 916 Mis: Communicating G. O. dated 19th November 1891 No. 5961 Mis, in which Government negatived the proposal to purchase the Peria block No. 7 in the list, I have the honor to submit a copy of an office note dated the 10th instant from the District Forest Officer, North Malabar, from which it will be seen that Parapparavan Bavotte Haji, the owner of the block in question, is now willing to accept Rs 20,000 for it.

* The Secty: Retd by the Board with the Proys: are resubmitted.

2. After the decision arrived at by Govern-
-ment I would not venture to suggest a
reconsideration of the matter, were it not
for two facts. The first is that the price
now asked is Rs 10,000 less than the actual
value, as estimated by the District Forest
Officer, and the purchase, therefore, is likely
to be a profitable one.

3. The second is, that the abandonment of
the Forest will not only involve loss in
respect of the Cardamom plantation
opened by the Forest Department within the
limits of the block, but is also likely to
lead to litigation or dead loss in respect of
land actually bought by Government with-
in the Forest. This land was originally
sold by Government to Mr. Dismas who in
turn sold it to Mr. Fletcher. When it
was proposed to constitute the block a
reserved forest, Government not only paid
Mr. Fletcher Rs 3000 in money for the land
but also made over to him some land at
Mannotte. The land thus bought by Govern-
-ment from Mr. Fletcher is a part of
Bavotte Hajji's claim and as the whole of
this claim was allowed in appeal by the
High Court, it would probably be hopeless to
contest any part of it now. If so, the three
thousand

thousand Rupees and the land at Mannotte
given to Mr. Fletcher represent so much
dead loss to Government.

4. I regret that this fact of what is
known as "Fletcher's Cardamom Garden"
being actually included in Bavotte Hajji's
Peria claim was not brought to the
notice of the Board earlier, but I as-
-certained it only recently on personal
inspection of the locality.

5. My inspection also confirmed me
in the opinion I expressed in my letter
Referred on C. No. 722/F. 91 dated 19th September
1891, that as the whole block forms a
wedge between two blocks of Government
forest, its surrender will seriously pre-
-judice the management of the blocks.

Under these circumstances, I
submit that the question deserves re-
-consideration.

Read also the following Endorsement
of the Conservator of Forests, Southern
Circle, dated 22nd March 1892, No. 699.

Forwarded.

I agree with the District Forest Officer,
and

and the Collector that the sum of Rs 20,000 now named is worth Consideration.

It represents about Rs 4 an acre all round. Mr Ellor Hardie's valuation was Rs 30,000, Mr Morgan's Rs 40,000, and the prices demanded originally varied from 1¼ to 4 Lacs!

I recommend the purchase on the ground, that to secure a continuous block of reserved forest along the flats from the Peria to the Kuttiadi roads, is important.

That the financial success in Minor produce at present, and Major produce in the future, is probable.

And that the acquisition in regard to the two Plantations and the probable litigation which the Collector refers to is expedient.

Resolution

Submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 19th November 1891, No 5961.

2. The Board supports the Collector's and Conservator's renewed recommendations to purchase the block in question. They give further reasons for the acquisition and the Board therefore begs to recommend a reconsideration of the decision already arrived at, seeing that the cost has been reduced from Rs 40,000 to Rs 20,000.

True Copies and Extracts

Ag. Secretary.

To The Secretary to Government R.D
with Misc: in No. to be ret.
" Conservator of Forests, S.C.
" Collector of Malabar.

J.R.B

Confidential No 35

1892.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Current Number 3067.

To

The Secretary to
Government R.D

31 MAR 92

Proceedings, dated 29th March 1892

Forest No. 333, Mis. ~~Routine~~. Enclosures/

Subject.

Submg: to Govt, with Board's
support letter from Conservator
of Forests, S. Circle, asking
to purchase the Peria Forests
(Block No 2) S. Malabar

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 3067/92

From The Board of Revenue

Dated 29th March 1892.

FOR ORDERS.

The question of the advisability
of buying the Peria Forests
was discussed in the Note for orders
under G.O. 5961 dt. 19-11-91.
The proposal then made was to
purchase them from Bavath
Haji then reputed owner for not more
than Rs 40,000 and
Rs 40,000 ~~and upwards~~. Govt decided
in the above G.O that the case
for the purchase was very weak
& that the forest was not worth
buying at all.

2. Mr. Eberhardie the Dt
Forest Officer of North Malabar
has now reopened the question &
moved the Board through the
Collector of Malabar, the Conservator Southern Circle, to
recommend the purchase of the Forest
by Govt on the grounds:—
(1) That the owner is now willing
to accept Rs 20,000 for the Forest

that the purchase, at that price, is likely to be a profitable investment as he considers that there is a great future for our wood ash which it abounds

(2) That the Forest cuts the Periya Range in two & that the purchase is therefore desirable in order to make the range compact

(3) That if the Forest is not purchased, its reduction to Board's Kaji under the terms of the High Court decree, will perhaps involve litigation for damages, and will in any case cause a loss of Govt Rs 3000/- which they paid for Fletcher's Cardamom gardens, that Govt will also lose a plantation opened by the Forest Dept called the Mukki Cardamom Garden

The ~~Collector~~ Collector, Conservator & Board all recommend the purchase of the Forest on the above grounds.

3. ~~The principal reasons originally urged by the Board for purchasing the Forest are appreciable [illegible] Board's~~ The only new reasons adduced for purchasing the Forest are (1) the low price now asked and (2) the loss that its reduction will entail to Govt. The facts connected with

FOR ORDERS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated 18

FOR ORDERS.

the purchase of Fletcher's Cardamom gardens are explained in the Collector's letter read in the Current Board's Proceedings. It appears that when it was proposed to reduce the block a reserved Forest, Govt bought out Mr. Fletcher the owner of the gardens, which were situated in the block, for Rs 3000/- & also gave him some land at a place called Kannattu, as the gardens forms part of the block which has been decreed to Board's Kaji it will have to be given up & then the money will be lost. It is not clear how Govt is to avoid this loss by purchasing the Forest, as by so doing it will pay over again for Fletcher's gardens which forms part of the Block to be purchased. The loss to

Govt by litigation for damages which Mr. Ebenezer Kandiah apprehends is not likely to be ~~to be~~ as likely as the Estimates and it is ~~pronounced~~ that Govt has enjoyed the Forest ~~under~~ It seems therefore that this ground of possible loss to Govt is not very strong one in favour of the purchase.

3. Assuming that Bandhi Naji has a valid title Govt is likely to make a profitable investment of the purchase of the Forest for Rs 20,000, a sum which is considerably less than the Estimated market value, but ~~but~~ it will be seen from para 8 of the Board's Proceedings cited in G.O. 5961 dt 19-11-91 that the Forest is more or less inaccessible ~~at~~ at present & of little Commercial value that its reservation is of great importance for climatic reasons. It is submitted therefore that no good case for the purchase has been made out that Govt should adhere to their former decision not to purchase the Forest. ~~Cases~~ cases are likely to arise in which Govt will find it necessary to purchase private forests in other

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No.

From

Dated 18 .

FOR ORDERS.

parts of the Presidency for real climatic reasons. One case of the kind which has actually arisen is that of the Bodinayakanur Forests the papers in connection with which will be circulated shortly, and it is thought that Govt should not spend needlessly, in the present case, money which it may require in the immediate future for bona fide climatic ~~reasons~~ purposes

RMS
3-4-92

Agree
CH
4/4

Dr. Cornish to see. I do not think the case has been made out for purchase at present. If any thing of the kind should arise hereafter it will be time enough to consider it. I am not in favour of purchasing the Forest at present. It is practically worthless & the owner values it at Rs 20,000 Rs it will not be worth much more than it is now.

6/4/92

I agree fully — besides we have no money

WMH
6/4/92

FOR ORDERS.

C No 3067/92

Re:
Purchase of the
Peria Forest in Malabar

The Hon'ble W. Garstin CSI
The Hon'ble W. Stokes CSI.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read C. No 3067.

G.O. Mis. No 1917 dated 9 April 1892

The Govt see no reason to reconsider their order No 5961. dt. 19-11-91. The fact that the owner has reduced the price demanded from one half of the sum which he formerly agreed to accept is no argument for buying a Forest which, it has already been decided, is of no value either from a Commercial or a climatic point of view, and the other grounds in favour of the purchase which the District Forest Officer has now brought forward are not, the Govt consider, sufficient strong to outweigh the above consideration. The Govt adhere therefore to their former decision not to purchase the Forest.

Rell

7. 4 92

CL
6/4

To the Conservator of F.R.

Draft - G.O.

declining to purchase
the Peria Forest, S. Malabar
for Rs 20,000 from
Broothi Hajee.

Secy
(from orders)

GOVT ORDER
1917
9-4-92

When given for copying ____
When copied ____
When examined ____
When signed ____
} 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189 , DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT							
STATEMENT WITH DITTO							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

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