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Reserve Department

Minutes of Consultation

22nd June 1855

Bach No 62 to 64

Enter No 8592/21st June 1855

(6 Sheets)

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு -1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் :

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக்- கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்.

18/12/08
சரிபார்க்கும் முதல் முறியாள கையொப்பம்

18/1/09
சரிபார்க்கும் 2ம் முறியாள கையொப்பம்

ஆராய்ச்சி உதவியாளர் கையொப்பம்

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 22d June 1858.

No. 62. Read the following Extracts from the Minutes of Consultation in the Financial Railway Department, dated 4th June 1858, No. 295.

Read the following letter from Captain C. C. JOHNSTON, Officiating Consulting Engineer for Railways; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 2nd June 1858, No. 147.

SIR,

Having learnt from the Agent and Manager that the Conservator of Forests has called upon Mr. Sullivan, the Sub-Collector of North Arcot to pay a Seignorage of 3 Annas on each Sleeper supplied to the Railway, it is important to ascertain at once, whether or not the demand is to have a retrospective effect.

2. Government are aware that from the first commencement of the Railway operations, Mr. Sullivan has been actively employed in supplying Sleepers, but there is nothing on the records of this office to show that the question of paying Seignorage on them, has ever been raised until now.

3. In Malabar where the Resident Engineer Mr. Ross has been cutting timber, in communication with the Conservancy Department, I am aware that a sum of Rupees 1½ has been paid for each tree, but with this exception it does not appear that the demand has been made from other parties.

4. No mention of such a demand has, I believe, ever been made in the terms of the several contracts hitherto accepted by the Agent or his predecessor, and though there is no doubt of the justice of it, I do not see how it can be enforced retrospectively.

5. The practice hitherto pursued generally of felling timber in the Government Forests, without reference to the authorities, is much to be deprecated; and now that a Conservancy Department has been organized, it is most desirable that the practice should be put a stop to.

6. The Contractors at present engaged in supplying Sleepers on certain stipulations, will naturally demur to the payment of Seignorage; that however is a question which scarcely concerns the Government, but one that should properly be settled between the Agent and the contracting parties. At the same time Government may probably feel disposed to exempt them from the payment of Seignorage until their present contracts are worked out.

7. This might be arranged in communication with the Agent, who would merely have to furnish to the Conservator of Forests a statement showing the names of the Contractors now employed, the number of Sleepers to be supplied by them, and the period within which the supply is to be completed; and to obtain from that officer such orders as will prevent the parties from being interfered with.

8. In the event of Government ruling that no demand for Seignorage is to be made retrospectively, I would suggest that a certain date be specified and made known by public Advertisement, from which any approved rules that may be framed by the Conservator of Forests, regarding the cutting of Government trees, will be strictly enforced.

P. S.—Since writing this letter, I have ascertained that, during my absence from Madras, the question regarding the payment of Sleepers was raised by the Collector of North Arcot, in so far that that Gentleman enquired, "whether there is any thing in the terms of the agreement "entered into between the Government and the Railway Company, regarding the construction "of the Rail-road, which implies, that timber for the Sleepers is to be supplied gratis by Go- "vernment." The reply being in the negative, no further reference was received on the subject.

Referred to the Revenue Department for consideration.

(True Extract and Copy)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 63. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Financial Railway Department, under date the 17th June 1858, No. 329.

Read the following letter from Captain C. C. JOHNSTON, Officiating Consulting Engineer for Railway; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government Fort St. George; dated Madras 16th June 1858, No. 167.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit for the special consideration and orders of Government, the accompanying letter* from the Agent and Manager, bringing to notice the serious inconvenience likely to be experienced on the 3rd Division of the South West Railway consequent on a proclamation said to have been issued by the Collector of Salem, prohibiting Contractors from cutting any more Sleepers without the permission of Mr. Williams, an Assistant in the Forest Department.

*No. 466 *dated 15th June* 1858.

2. In my letter of the 2nd Instant No. 147 I ventured an opinion as to the course which I considered might be adopted in reference to the Contractors at present engaged in supplying Sleepers, and I trust Government will be pleased to issue such early orders as will admit of the supply being continued uninterruptedly, until the Railway authorities have had time and opportunity to make such arrangements, for procuring their Sleepers and other timber, as may be required by the Conservator of Forests.

From N. B. ACWORTH, Esq., Agent and Manager; to Captain C. C. JOHNSTON, Officiating Consulting Engineer for Railways; dated Madras 15th June 1858, No. 466.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to inform you that I have just received from the Chief Engineer, a private communication to him from the Resident Engineer of the 3rd Division, from which it appears that in a Tamil proclamation issued by the Collector of Salem, on the 2nd Instant, the Contractors are now prevented from cutting any more Sleepers without the permission of Mr. Williams, of whom nothing had been heard for eight days, and that not only had the people been stopped from cutting, but that Peons had been set to watch the Jungles and prevent the removal of Sleepers already cut, thus throwing out of employment all the bandies. The writer says that so far as the local authorities know, nothing had been done towards organizing an Establishment for levying a tax, and that unless something be done the stoppage may continue for such a time as will be of the most serious consequence to the Company, for the people cannot be expected to keep their Cutters, Sawyers, and Bandies, idle, and they must be dispersed.

2. It so happens that I have also just received a letter from Mr. Williams, dated from Darampoory the 9th Instant, from which it appears he expects to be in Madras in eight days. The permission from him therefore which is required by the notice above referred to, is one which I am afraid may be delayed so long as to cause a very serious injury to the Company.

3. Probably you would be good enough to bring the subject to the early notice of Government, and they might be induced (if only as a temporary measure) to give such instructions to the Collector of Salem as would obviate the inconvenience likely to arise from a continuance of the present state of things.

Submitted (with letter) for the orders of Government.

MADRAS, 16th *June* 1858.

(Signed) C. C. JOHNSTON, Captain,
Officiating Consulting Engineer for Railway.

Referred to the Revenue Department for early consideration.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 22d June 1858.

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, No. 859; dated 21st June 1858.

1. Resolved that the letter from Captain Johnston, communicated with the first of the Extracts above recorded, be referred to the Conservator of Forests, for explanation regarding the demand of seignorage for sleepers supplied to the Railway Department, and for his opinion on the proposals made by that officer in paras. 6 to 8.

2. Resolved also that a copy of Captain Johnston's letter be communicated to the Board of Revenue, for any observations or suggestions which they may desire to offer on the subject to which it relates.

3. Resolved further that a copy of Captain Johnston's letter, and of its accompaniment, received with the second Extract, be referred for the report of the Conservator of Forests. Pending the receipt of a reply from Dr. Cleghorn, the Board of Revenue, to whom a copy of these papers will also be communicated, will request the Collector of Salem to recall, without delay, the proclamation said to have been issued by him, and to explain the circumstances under which was so it issued.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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No 859

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 21st June 1858.

Read the following extracts
from the Minutes of Consultation
in the Financial Railway
Department.

(Referred 4th and 17th June 1858.
Nos 295 and 329.)

Resolved that the
letter from Captain Johnston,
Communicated with the first
of the Extracts above recorded,
be referred to the Conservator
of Forests for explanation
regarding the demand of
Seigniorage for Sleepers
supplied to the Railway
Department, and for his
opinion on the proposals
made by that officer in
para

paras 6 to 8.

Resolved also that a copy of Captain Johnstons letter be Communicated to the Board of Revenue, for any observations or suggestions which they may desire to offer on the subject to which it relates.

Resolved further that a copy of Captain Johnstons letter, and of its accompaniment, received with the second Extract, be referred for the report of the Conservator of Forests. Pending the receipt of a reply from Dr Cleghorn, the Board of Revenue, to whom a copy of these papers will also be Communicated, will request the Collector of Salem to recall,

without

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without delay, the proclamation said to have been issued by him, and to explain the circumstances under which it was issued.

W H B

Copies to the Conservator of Forests with Copies of letter & Papers refd to - Civil Dr. 23.

Do to Bd of Rev with Do

Do to Bd of Trade / Railway / Dep.

R C 1st June 1858 Do

C 26th January 1858 Rec 3rd Feb

from Financial Railway

4th June 1858 C Le gen

1st Feby

No 62 at 64.

Revenue 1858 Dept.
D. to Cus 22d June.

No 859.

Extract Minute of Cous.
Dated 21st June 1858.

From the Cus: of Forests dated
24th June 1858 No 1015 in Cus
Extract from the Minute of Council
on the Financial Railway
Dated the 22d June 1858 No 1866
in

7 July

Referring to the
Board of Revenue and the
conservator of Forests
for report two communi-
cations from the Con-
sulting Engineer for
Railways regarding the
payment of Seignorage
for sleepers supplied
to the Railway Dept as
well as on the subject
of a Proclamation of
the Collector of Salem
prohibiting Contractors
from cutting wood

1st June