Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., Nos. 1525-26-27

DATED 20th March 97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Expressing concurrence in the Board's views as to the establishment of a Depot at Rajahmundry for the Sale of ~~the~~ timber belonging to the Central Provinces admn. and addressing that admn. and the Govt of India on the subject

Letter to India

Stating that arrangements can be made for the establishment of a Depot at Rajahmundry for the Sale of timber belonging to the Central Provinces admn

Letter to C.P.

Forwarding an advance copy of the Govt Resn regarding

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
14 MAR 97

From

The Board of Revenue,
Land Revenue,
Madras.

Order

Issued No. 2011 Miscl

Dated 26 February 97

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submg. to Govt. proposals for the establishment of a timber depôt at Rajahmundry for controlling certain timbers coming from the Central Provinces through the Godavari Dt.

Mem 5.3.97

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
14 MAR 97

From

The Board of Revenue,
Land Revenue,
Madras.

Order

Issued No. 2011 Miscl

Dated 26 February 97

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submg. to Govt. proposals for the establishment of a timber depôt at Rajahmundry for controlling certain timbers coming from the Central Provinces through the Godavari Dt.

Mem 5.3.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	4077	Rev.	17-10-96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Copy of a letter No 3592 dated the 5th September 1896, from R. H. Craddock Esqre. I.C.S., Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

The Government of India are aware that the Allapalli reserve in the Chanda District constitutes by far the most valuable teak forests administered by the Forest Department of the Central Provinces. These forests were acquired some years ago from the Zamindarin of Ahiri, and the estimate given by the Conservator in his accompanying letter of the outturn which they are capable of yielding, under the working plan now approaching completion, shows the value of the investment then made.

2. The full income that might reasonably have been expected from them, however, has not yet been attained owing to an insufficient demand. The forests are too far from the line of rail on the North to induce the Central Provinces merchants to compete for the produce, so that the dealers of Dumagudiem, whose business lies on the Godavery river, which affords a cheap and easy means of transport towards the South, have hitherto enjoyed a monopoly of the trade. This advantage they have naturally turned to account by refusing to buy, save at a price which was only accepted as an alternative to allowing the timber to rot unsold in the depôt at Sironcha.

3. The Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, has

has long been considering the practicability of establishing a timber depôt at Rajahmundri on the Godavery river, and within the limits of the Madras district of the same name, so as to bring the Allapalli teak to a market outside the influence of the Dumaqudiem merchants; and this year Mr. McKee was, at his own suggestion, deputed to visit Rajahmundri in order to discover from local enquiry the nature of the demand, and the prices that could be obtained at the timber market of that place. The results of that enquiry are given in the accompanying letter, and in the conclusions that the Conservator draws from them the Chief Commissioner concurs.

4. He would accordingly solicit the Government of India to lay before the Madras Government the facts of the case as stated in the Conservator's letter, and to request their sanction to the establishment of a depôt for the sale of the Allapalli timber at Rajahmundri. He is assured that the Forest Department of the Madras Presidency have no interests that could be injuriously affected by the proposed undertaking, and in that belief he would further request the Supreme Government to move the Government of Madras to lease to the Central Provinces Administration the site mentioned by the Conservator, and to allow the supervision by an official of the Madras Forest Department of the stock and accounts of the depôt.

5. The financial results of forest management in the Central Provinces have lately, as the Government of India are aware, been far from favourable, and the Chief Commissioner would earnestly request the good offices of the Government of India for the furtherance of a scheme which will, he has no doubt, add no inconsiderable sum to the revenues of the Department.

Copy of a letter No 13/90 dated the 19th August 1876 from J. A. McKee Esqre, Conservator of Forests Southern Circle, Central Provinces, to the Second Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces.

I have the honour to submit the following report on my late visit to Rajahmundri.

2. The object of my journey was to inform myself regarding the timber requirements of the above place, and to decide whether it would be advantageous for Government to establish a depôt there for the sale of the teak outturn we anticipate obtaining by working the forests of Allapalli in the Chanda District under a systematic plan.

3. According to this latter, it is estimated that during the next 40 years the annual teak outturn will amount to 20,000 cubic feet of sound logs and 30,000 cubic feet of scantlings obtained from unsound logs.

4. Up to the present time we have not been able to dispose of more than half the above quantity yearly, partly owing to the

small local demand and partly because of the ease and cheapness with which teak has been hitherto obtainable from the forests of Bastar and Hyderabad, which are situated lower down the Godavery than our selling depôt at Sironcha, and are therefore nearer the market to be supplied.

Moreover, not only have we been restricted in our sales but the prices obtainable for our timber at Sironcha have always been more or less at the mercy of the Dumaqudiem timber dealers, for as there are no other competitors to bid for our wood, we have been obliged to sell at the rates fixed by these men, or have had to allow our timber to remain unsold in the depôt, where exposure to weather soon reduces its value, especially if in scantling form. and to explain what considerable loss Government is subject to by the present arrangement, our experience of the past season may be recorded, when failing higher offers we were obliged to sell to one of these Dumaqudiem dealers 20,000 cubic feet of teak at the low rate of 10 annas per cubic foot, which represented only a net profit to Government of about 5 annas per foot. Whereas, I am now in a position to state, after personally inspecting all the timber depôts at Rajahmundri and making careful enquiry regarding prices that, the same timber, if sold at the latter place, would have realized at least 1/8/- per foot and would not have cost more than -/4/- per foot to transport from Sironcha.

Sironcha.

DISTRICT RECORDS 20 NOV 1896 GODAVARI

This means that the contractor or middleman was able to realize a profit of 10 annas per foot as compared with the 5 annas realized by Government to whom the property belonged, and who had the trouble of felling and transporting the material from the forests to the depôt at Sironcha, from which place all was comparatively plain sailing and considered from another point of view, the above transaction shows that the Forest Department unavoidably allowed a sum of Rs 12,500/- to go into the pockets of a contractor that might under different arrangements have been credited to Government.

5. The above facts explain, I think, that something should be done to render us independent of the Dumaqudiem merchants, or to induce these latter to offer more reasonable prices for our timber at Sironcha and the solution of the problem is, I think, to be found in the establishment of a Government depôt at Rajahmundri.

6. Unfortunately there are two difficulties in the way of this proposed arrangement (1) that there is almost no unoccupied site available at Rajahmundri for

for a depôt, and (2) that it would be nearly impracticable to supervise a depôt at that place from the Central Provinces.

7. With regard to the first point, however, I was informed and indeed was shown by the local Forest officer Mr. O'Hara, a site belonging to the Madras Forest Department, which is rented by Government to a private timber dealer, because it was not required for departmental purposes. This site is 1 acre in extent and is admirably situated for a depôt. Moreover should it prove too small for our requirements it is contiguous to the only other unoccupied site which seemed to me at all adapted for depôt purposes, and which I believe may be rented from the owner, who however was not present in Rajahmundri during my stay there, and was not therefore approached on the subject. If therefore the Madras Government can be induced to consider our requirements and in the absence of any local departmental demand for the depôt site in question will allow the Central Provinces Forest Department to rent the ground instead of the present occupant, who, I was informed, could be ousted with one month's notice to quit, the difficulty about obtaining a site for our depôt will be surmounted. If however objection is raised to this proposal I feel sure the local Divisional Forest officer will do his best to procure for us the adjoining land above mentioned at a reasonable rent. I may mention here that no teak is brought into this market from Madras Government Forests, and that we should not be entering into any sort of competition with the local Forest Department by starting a depôt for the sale of the Central Provinces timber.

8. The second difficulty is perhaps a more serious one, for I have come to the conclusion that Rajahmundri is too far away from the forests supplying our timber to admit of the fairly constant check and supervision that would be necessary for controlling the receipts and issues connected with the depôt. It would never do to allow the depôt staff and records to remain uninspected less frequently than two or three times a year by a responsible officer, and it would I fear be impracticable to supply such inspection from these Provinces because

of the great expense and loss of time that would be entailed by the constant journeys to Rajahmundri.

To obviate this difficulty, I would propose that the Madras Government be asked to allow the local officers of the Forest Department to supervise the depôt transactions. I think the local range officer, who is resident at Rajahmundri, with the assistance of a depôt establishment could do all that is necessary without the extra work interfering with his own special duties in any important respect. The daily sales would be carried on by the depôt clerk, within certain fixed limits, and a monthly inspection of the depôt accounts with a quarterly inspection of stock on the part of the ranger would be sufficient. We would, of course, be willing to pay the ranger any allowance considered reasonable by the Madras Conservator, and to defray all expenses connected with the depôt. By this means the necessary check and supervision would be attained at the smallest practicable cost, and without, I think, any important addition to the work of the local Forest staff. At any rate, it would

SECRET-NOV 08

would seem the best arrangement having regard merely to the interests of Government.

9. And I would note here my opinion that once we have established a depôt at Rajahmundri and when that fact becomes known to the timber dealers of Dumaguedem, the difficulties we at present complain of in regard to short prices will greatly disappear and the Rajahmundri depôt will become one merely in name. For I am informed that the future policy of the Baster authorities in regard to the working of their teak forests will make it more difficult for the Dumaguedem traders to obtain their past big profits, and this will cause them to rely more on our Sironcha depôt for obtaining their requirements. This short supply of Bastar timber coupled with the knowledge that we have a depôt at Rajahmundri and are able to supply that market, will, I think, nearly certainly induce the dealers to offer us reasonable prices for our Sironcha material and if such is really the result of the proposed arrangements, I shall be quite ready to meet them half way and sell them the timber at Sironcha at rates which will admit of a fair profit

profit being realized by both parties concerned. I have no wish to send wood to Rajahmundri if a fair price can be obtained for it at Sironcha, and my idea is, that when the dealers see that we are no longer in their hands, the present combination against us will give way, competition will spring up, and prices will increase. Under such circumstances the Rajahmundri depôt would remain empty but even so, it would always act I think as a stimulus on the bidding for our timber at Sironcha, and under these circumstances the cost of keeping up the establishment at Rajahmundri, even without employment, would be of no particular consequence.

8. I will not burden this report with the details I collected at Rajahmundri in regard to rates and the internal economy of the timber trade at that place. It will, I think, be sufficient to note that the rates were quite as high as I expected and will admit of our sending timber there with every chance of obtaining a fair profit. I visited depôts containing timber valued in the aggregate at four lacs of rupees and was informed that the annual trade is worth about three lacs, nearly all the timber being purchased by merchants coming from Bezwada, Masulipatam and Coconada. Most of this timber is owned by the Dumaqudiem traders who employ the Rajahmundri men to sell it for them, on a commission of 2 per cent. The timber I saw in these depôts was in no way superior to the teak we obtain from the Allapalli forests. And if only we can obtain the assistance of the Madras Government as herein indicated, I have every hope we may be able to turn the contents of the above forests to profitable account. Unfortunately I was unable to interview the Conservator and discuss with him the points in question, owing to his absence from head-quarters at Waltair, but I have addressed Mr Peet demi-officially on the business and explained the main points noticed in this letter.

11. In conclusion, I beg to report having started for Rajahmundri on the 5th instant, having arrived there on the 10th, and remaining there two days, having returned to Nagpur on the 17th

My

my journey was somewhat delayed by floods and breakages of the line.

True Copies,

D. J. Dalziel

Superintendent, Forest Branch.
Departt of Revenue and Agriculture.
P.C.

SECRETARIAT
30 SEP 96
REV. DEPT.

No. 900
224-2

30 NOV 1896

FROM

F. G. SLY, ESQ., C.S.,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

TO The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.

Simla, the 24th September 1896.

Department of Revenue and Agriculture. (Forests).

SIR,

I am directed to forward a copy No 3592 dated 5th September 1896. of a letter (with its enclosure) from the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, proposing that a depôt should be established at Rajahmundri in the Madras Presidency for the sale of Government timber from the Allapilli forests in the Central Provinces, and that the stock and accounts of this depôt should be supervised by an official of the Madras Forest Department; and to recommend the Chief Commissioner's proposals very strongly to the favourable consideration of the Madras Government.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

F G Sly

Under-Secretary.
P.C.

500
25-11-96.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE. MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

Dated 26 February 1897.

Forest No. 204 Miscellaneous.

READ again Board's Proceedings Forest No 1391 Mis, dated 16 October 1896, communicating to the Collector of Godavari for early report, letter from the Government of India, Revenue and Agriculture Department forwarding for very favorable consideration the proposals of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces that a depôt should be established at Rajahmundri for the sale of Government timber from the Allapalli forests in the Central Provinces and that the stock and accounts of this depôt should be supervised by an Official of the Madras Forest Department.

Read 2nd endorsement of the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated 28 January 97 No 1201 forwarding with remarks letter from the Collector of Godavari, dated 26 Dec 96 Do No 1095, submitting proposals for establishing

a timber depôt at Rajahmundry for the sale of Government timber from the Allapalle forests, in the Central Provinces.

Read Memorandum from the Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No 19, dated 12 February 1897.

Read also Government Order, Revenue department, No 985, dated 19 February 97

Resolution

In its Endorsement No 4077 dated 12 October 1896, the Government forwarded to the Board for early remarks certain correspondence received from the Government of India on the subject of the control by the Madras Forest department of certain timber coming from the Central Provinces through the Godavari District. The Chief Commissioner proposed, and the Government of India strongly advocated, the establishment for this purpose of a depôt at Rajahmundry, and added that the stock and accounts of this depôt should be supervised by an official of the Madras Forest Department.

2. The Board has consulted the Conservator and Collector on the above proposals. It is perhaps hardly necessary to report that all concerned are willing to assist the Central Provinces Administration in the project which they have in view. The main questions for consideration are whether a proper site can be found for the depôt, and whether the operations can be supervised by a Madras Official. To both of these questions, the answer is in the affirmative.

3. As regards the site, it is reported that the ground now used as a Government depôt may be utilised for the purpose in question. The Conservator says:- "In the first place there seems no objection to renting our depôt site, though the drawback is the smallness of the extent, however, for it will be necessary to erect some sort of building if the depôt is to be used as a sale depôt. I have asked that inquiries may be made at once to ascertain if the contiguous piece of land can be rented."

4. The details of establishment required for working the depôt can be settled at a later date, but the following proposals, submitted by the Conservator, appear to the Board to be appropriate. The Conservator states that in his opinion the depôt establishment should be entirely under the District Forest Officer, Godavari and adds:- "It seems to me that a tentative depôt

depôt of the kind proposed could be supervised by an immediate staff of

1.	depôt Superintendent on	Rs. 30.
1.	Peon - - -	Rs. 8
2.	Watchmen on Rs. 7 each . .	14
		Rs. 52

"and I think that an honorarium of Rs 10 a month might be given to the Ranger for increased work: for he would have to check the stock periodically, as well as keep a watch over the working generally. I do not think that a really efficient superintendent could be secured for a less pay than Rs 30, and of course a substantial security would be demanded."

5. The following extract from the Conservator's report may also be of interest:-

"It seems to me, however, that there is force in the proposal that the depôt Establishment should be entirely under the District Forest Officer of Godavari, and that the accounts should be kept under the Madras Forest Code forms, as the Ranger would then be solely under the orders of the District Forest Officer, and not have a divided allegiance. Adjustments of accounts could be made quarterly: when the stock sold, the stock remaining, and the average rates could be communicated, so as to enable the Conservator Central Provinces to decide on his future policy."

"Mr Thornton's proposals were made, I think, under the impression that the business would be a very large one: but this I do not anticipate. If it should assume very large dimensions, it would pay the Central Provinces Department to keep up a separate and responsible staff to superintend the depôt, and in that case I should ask for a reconsideration of the proposal to put the depôt under the supervision of the Madras Forest Ranger at Rajahmundry."

"Mr McKee explained to me demi-officially, as he has explained in his official letter in this file, that he wishes for an alternative means of effecting a sale of his teak, because at present a ring of merchants have unduly depreciated the stock. If the formation of a depôt at Rajahmundry should raise the prices to a fair market rate, he would prefer to sell in situ. The experience

experience? is I think calculated to effect the object in view, and therefore I do not anticipate that the depôt will be a large one."

"Mr McKie also asked if his sending down teak to Rajahmundry would interfere with the Madras Forest Department's trade. We have not much trade in teak, and personally I think that this provincial question should not enter to the calculations, more especially as I remember how liberally the Mysore Commission in former years admitted Wynaad teak into the Country, for our sale depôt at Mysore, although we competes directly with the produce of Mysore teak forests."

6. The Board has nothing to add to the above except that it will endeavour to arrange all details of the management of the depôt in accordance with the wishes of the Central Provinces Authorities.

7. The report submitted by the Collector

enters into too many details and contains matter not directly relevant to the question at issue. The Board has not therefore submitted the papers to Government in original.

(True Extract)

Secretary

No.

To the Secretary to Government, R.D.

with Government of India letter

dito encl. in original retd.

Re: a Timber Depot at Rajahmundry

The Hon: the Pres. C.P.

Dr 25/3/97

JG
19/3/37

To the Board of Rev: L.R.Dis. 24-3-97
(Q & O)

Read C.No. 1969 of 97

Order misc. No. 1525 dy 20th March 97

The Govt agrees with the Board of Rev: and the Govt of India will be informed accordingly

2. An advance copy of the Prop read above will also be forwarded for the information of the Chief Comm. of the Central Provinces with reference to his Pan. his letter No 866 dy 13th Feb? 1897

DS
14.3.97

No. 1526.

To

The Secy to the Govt of India
Rev: & Agri Dept

Sir,

In reply to your Sly's letter No 900 7/224-2 dy 24th Sept 1896 regarding the establishment of a depot at Rajahmundry for the sale of Govt timber from the Allapilli forests of the Central Provinces, I am directed to state that H.E. the G in C. has consulted the Board of Rev on the point and sees no difficulty in making arrangements to give effect to the views wishes of the Chief Comm. in.

C. 16/3/97.

in this behalf.

2. A site for the depot is already available. It is however considered to be a little too small and enquiries are therefore being instituted with a view to ascertaining whether the adjacent land can be rented.

3. ~~As regards~~ The question of management, the Board proposes to leave it to be decided later on, but ~~and promises to make~~ every endeavour will be made to arrange details in accordance with the wishes of the Central Provinces admn. The following proposals of the Conservator of Forests in this connexion are however considered by the Board to be appropriate

(1) That an establishment should be entertained, at the outset, consisting of one Depot Supt on Rs 30 per mensem one peon on Rs 8 and two watchmen on Rs 7 each per mensem

(2) that the working of the depot and the establishment should be placed entirely under the control of the D.F.O. of Godavari and

(3) that an honorarium of Rs 10 per mensem should be given to the Ranger for checking the stock periodically and

generally general supervision of, and ~~for keeping a watch over~~ the working of the depot generally.

3. H.E. etc. G in C. ~~agrees~~ concurs with the views of the Board of Rev. and I am to suggest that if they meet with the approval of the Govt of India, the Board may be authorised to arrange details in direct correspondence with the Central Provinces authorities. I am also to enclose for reference, if desired, a copy of the Boards Prop. setting forth its views ~~and the views of the Conservator~~ in extenso. ~~and~~ I am to add that an advance copy of the ~~Govt~~ proceedings is being forwarded to the Chief Comm. in compliance with a request made on his behalf ~~in a requisition received from~~ in Feb last.

Dis 24-3-97

No. 1527.

To

The Chief Comm. of the Central Provinces

Sir,

In continuation of my letter no 986 dy 19th Feb 1897, I am directed to forward for your information an

an advance copy of the marginally noted Procs of the Board of Rev: regarding the proposed establishment of a depôt at Rajahmundry for the sale of timber from the Allapilli forests and to state that the Govt of India has been informed that H.E. the G. in C. concurs in the views of the Board therein expressed. I am to add that it has also been suggested to the Supreme Govt that the Board may be authorised to settle the details of the working of the Depot in direct communication with the Officers of Govt

Yours obdt

D
14. 3. 97

Proc
12. III. 97

No. 204 Misc. Forest dy 26-2-97

This is the most business like plan. This Govt does not want to know the details. The C.A. Code rule forbidding inter-provincial correspondence should be considered. If it does apply to this semi-commercial transaction like Madras will be a nominal saving. The point is however quite immaterial, & the Board can be taken as aware of the assertion in the letter

D
14. 3. 97.

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 DITTO							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only