M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Agriculture DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 67 Press Mis.

Dated 26-1 18 94

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
26th January 1864.

No. 92. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 24th December 1863, No. 2381.

Passing orders on the Budget Estimates submitted by the Officiating Conservator of Forests for the official year 1864-65. (Vide Proceedings Revenue Department, dated 24th Dec. 1863, Nos. 431 and 432.)

No. 93. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1864, No. 67.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th December 1863.

No. 431. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Deputy Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Ootacamund, 9th December 1863, No. 767:—

SIR,

1. In submitting the Budget Estimates of revenue and charges of the Forest Conservancy Department for 1864-65, prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in the letter* from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, communicated in G. O. No. 1,877, dated 14th October 1863, I have the honor to inform you that the Budget in the usual form was ready for despatch from this Office on the 15th of October last, when the new form arrived and occasioned considerable delay, as it was not at first exactly understood by several of the District Officers, and references were necessary before they were prepared to supply all the information required.

* Dated 18th September 1863.

2. The figures in the column of Revised Estimates either for expenditure or receipts cannot be given with any accuracy according to the actuals of the first half year, it is only in some Districts that operations and sales go on regularly from month to month. In most of the larger forests worked by the Department there are different seasons for felling, for transporting timber, and for sales. In the Wynád, for instance, no felling or carting can be carried on during the South-West Monsoon, so that the expenditure for the whole year could not be framed from the actuals of the first six months; other forests can only be worked during certain seasons of the year on account of the fever. Sales are always uncertain, they may all take place in one month and perhaps at the close of the year, for these reasons I have calculated the amount likely to be expended or realized during the whole twelve months, without reference to the actuals of the first six.

3. I was obliged to insert a few extra headings other than those specified in the Budget Estimate of Establishment and that of expenditure, such as Sandal-wood operations and Military pay of Assistants, &c.

4. In conclusion, I beg to state that the numerous new forms and returns lately called for have entailed very much extra office work upon the District Officers, many of whom have very small Office Establishments and others none at all.

No. 432. ORDER THEREON, 24th December 1863, No. 2,381.

1. With this letter the Officiating Conservator of Forests submits the Budget Estimates of his Department for the official year 1864-65. Captain Beddome explains that the Estimates in the usual form were ready for despatch in October last, when the new forms prescribed by the Supreme Government were received and caused considerable delay, the Statements having to be re-cast and the new forms explained to the District Officers.

2. Captain Beddome estimates the receipts of 1864-65 at Rupees 5,28,560, and the charges at Rupees 3,11,504.

3. The Government consider that Captain Beddome is too sanguine in his expectations. They are aware of the large and valuable stock of timber on hand, and of the increased strength and efficiency of the Establishments now employed, but the revenue depends on purchasers being found for the timber. The actual receipts during the last three years have steadily risen, but the maximum has only been Rupees 1,82,000, and there is nothing to lead to the belief that the demand for timber in 1864-65 will increase so greatly as to admit of Rupees 5,28,000 being realized within the year. Making due allowance for the absence of sales in the Annamallays and Wynád during 1862-63, for the additional forests now worked and other circumstances, the Government cannot calculate on a higher revenue than Rupees 3,50,000 in 1864-65.

4. The Government Estimate in contrast with Captain Beddome's is given below :—

	Captain Beddome.	Government.
	Rs.	Rs.
Annamallay	1,70,200	75,000
Bolanputty	1,000	1,000
Mudumallay	82,500	75,000
Segoor	35,000	30,000
Neilgherries	5,000	5,000
Wellington	500	500
Bhowany...	14,000	12,000
Wynád	45,000	25,000
Hoonsoor	27,000	15,000
Nelamboor	40,000	20,000
Madura	10,000	7,500
South Canara	24,800	15,000
Salem	27,000	25,000
South Arcot	2,000	2,000
North Arcot	2,000	2,000
Cuddapah...	15,300	15,000
Kurnool	19,000	19,000
Goomsoor	8,260	6,000
Total.....	5,28,560	3,50,000

5. In future Captain Beddome will explain fully in each case, the calculations and expectations on which his Estimates are framed.

6. The Estimate of charges amounts to Rupees 3,11,504, or Rupees 41,675 above the Estimate of the current year, viz., Rupees 2,69,829.

7. The charge for the Central Office amounts to Rupees 31,800, and is passed. It is Rupees 1,560 less than that of the current year. In the statement of the last sanctioned scale of Establishment the Conservator's salary is entered as Rupees 1,200 per mensem. This however is a mistake. The pay of the office is only 1,000, the additional sum of Rupees 200 which Dr. Cleghorn drew was for services rendered to the Mysore Government, it has never been drawn by his successors, and is not chargeable to the revenues of the Madras Presidency.

8. Annamallay.—Captain Beddome's Estimate for this forest amounts altogether to Rupees 67,987 against Rupees 65,417, the Estimate of the current year, and Rupees 33,839 the actual charges of 1862-63. Looking at the stock of wood now in store and the cessation of the demand for the Bombay Dockyard, the Government consider a grant of Rupees 57,600 sufficient for 1864-65, and this sum is accordingly sanctioned as shown in the margin.

	Rs.
Salary of Assistant	8,400
Office Establishment	4,000
Travelling charges	200
Working do.	45,000
	57,600

3X

9. Mudumallay.—This forest, Segoor, the Neilgherry Sholas and the Bhowany and Collegal Range are all under the same Officer. Captain Beddome has debited the Officer's Military allowances to Mudumallay and his Civil salary to Segoor. If any apportionment of this item be made, the correct plan would be to distribute it in the ratio of the receipts or charges of the different forests, but there is no necessity for complicating the accounts in this manner and the simplest method is to charge the whole to Mudumallay as the most important forest. This will accordingly be done. The lease of this forest has lately been renewed for ninety-nine years. The ripe Teak has already been felled, but a large quantity of young Teak exists which will be of great value hereafter, and the ordinary jungle woods will meanwhile be turned to account. Captain Beddome's Estimate (including the full salary of the Assistant) amounts to Rupees 60,699. The Government consider that Rupees 55,000 will be ample as shown below :—

	Rs.
Assistant's salary, &c.	12,500
Office Establishment	2,800
Travelling charges	1,200
Sundries...	500
Working charges	38,000
	55,000

10. Wynad.—The Estimate for this forest is Rupees 36,103. The Government consider that the working charges may well be reduced, as there must still be a good deal of timber in private hands. The Estimate now passed is given below :—

	Rs.
Salary, &c., of Assistant	8,100
Office Establishment	2,550
Travelling charges	1,080
Sundries	400
Working charges	19,800
	31,930

11. South Canara.—The conservancy and working of the forests in this District are now being efficiently carried out, and the Government look for a considerable increase of revenue in future years. The capabilities of the District for the growth of Teak are very great, and as water carriage is available to the coast the gradual formation of Teak plantations cannot fail to be highly remunerative. The present Estimate contains provision for this purpose as well as for the planting of Black-wood, in which the Sub-Assistant Conservator has been very successful. The sum passed is Rupees 15,030.

12. The Estimate for Goomsoor is passed. The Officiating Conservator is now engaged in inspecting the forests of this tract, and the Government expect a full report on them at an early date.

13. The Government have made slight alterations in the Budgets of the other forests. But these do not need separate notice. The total sum passed is Rupees 2,90,000, which the Government consider as much as can be profitably expended.

14. As the actual receipts and charges of the first half of each year do not afford a correct criterion of those of the whole year, the Officiating Conservator has acted rightly in entering in the column headed "Revised Estimate 1863-64," the sums which on careful consideration he believes will be respectively received and expended in the course of the year.

15. The Government consider that the new Budget forms enter into unnecessary details. It is impossible to estimate with any pretension to accuracy what revenue will be received on each kind of timber or to particularize expenditure in the forests in the manner desired. If such information is necessary for Imperial purposes, which the Government can scarcely suppose to be the case, every effort will of course be used to furnish it, but it cannot be accurate, and as Captain Beddome implies, increased Office Establishments will be required, and the time of the Executive Officers will be withdrawn from more important duties without so far as the Government can see, any corresponding public advantage. Forest operations can only be effectually controlled by the local Government, and no amount of figures and returns will enable the Imperial Government to exercise more than a nominal though withal an expensive check.

16. The Conservator's Budget as modified will be forwarded to the Government of India in the Department Public Works and to the Accountant General. The Government presume that it is still to appear in its usual place in the Budget of this Presidency.

	Central Office.	Annamallay.	Bolanputty.	Mudumallay.	Segoor.	Neilgherries.	Wellington.	Bhowany and Collegal.	Wynád.	Hoonsoor.	Nellambur.	Madura.	South Canara.	Salem.	South Arcot.	North Arcot.	Cuddapah.	Kurnool.	Goomsoor.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salary of Conservator	12,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,000
Do. Assistant do.	4,800	8,400	...	4,800	...	...	...	...	3,600	...	...	...	...	6,000	...	...	...	...	...	27,600
Do. Sub-Assistant.	1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,800	...	1,800	...	...	...	1,800	1,800	...	8,700
Military allowance of Assistants, &c.	4,500	...	...	7,700	...	...	...	...	4,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,700
Overseers in separate charge ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	960	...	...	...	...	...	...	900	1,860
Establishments ...	3,200	4,000	200	2,800	600	1,900	960	620	2,550	1,450	2,500	1,400	3,900	5,580	360	530	1,440	1,980	550	36,520
Travelling allowances	4,800	200	...	1,200	...	350	180	...	1,080	...	360	360	360	360	...	...	360	360	...	9,970
Stationery and sundries ...	1,000	...	...	500	400	140	60	280	400	200	500	...	70	...	...	...	300	...	...	3,850
Working charges.	...	45,000	...	38,000	10,500	1,800	600	3,700	19,800	10,800	15,500	5,500	8,900	5,000	700	...	2,500	1,000	3,500	1,72,800
	31,800	57,600	200	55,000	11,500	4,190	1,800	4,600	31,930	12,450	20,660	8,220	15,030	16,940	1,060	530	6,400	5,140	4,950	2,90,000

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Accountant General.
" Board of Revenue.
" Conservator of Forests.
" Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

List of Deeds

Fin'l 1864 Departm't

Proceedings of Govt. in the
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Forests for the Official Year
1864/65.

26 January 1864 No 67

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