M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 7-8-39

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 67	Press / Mis.
99-100	
Dated 31-1-	18 .

5/6

99-100

Not to be folded or roughly handled

15

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
31st January 1865.

No. 99. Read the following Proceedings of Government, in the Revenue Department, dated 19th January 1865, No. 82.

Communicating the remarks passed on the Budget Estimate of the Acting Conservator of Forests for 1865-66. (Vide Proceedings, Revenue Department, dated 19th January 1865, Nos. 174 and 175.)

No. 100. ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1865, No. 67.
To be recorded.

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

No. 174. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 3rd December 1864, No. 1,149 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Circular (dated 21st September 1864, No. 13 F,) from the Government of India, communicated in G. O. No. 1,850 of 10th October 1864, I have the honor to submit the Budget Estimate of receipts and charges of the Forest Conservancy Department of this Presidency for 1865-66, together with Abstract Statements, as per margin, prepared as far as practicable in accordance with the instructions conveyed in that Circular.

I.—A Stock Account of quantities and value of timber and other forest produce on hand at the commencement and close of the year, with receipts and issues during the year.
II.—A Statement exhibiting the expenditure incurred on account of the timber on forest produce received into stock during the year.
III.—An Abstract shewing the amounts realized on account of timber and forest produce sales during the year, and on account of outstandings of previous years.
IV.—A Statement exhibiting the amount of outstanding advances to Contractors at the commencement of the year, the recoveries in cash, and in work done, and the balance outstanding at the end of the year.
Annual Abstract Account of the cash transactions during 1863-64.
List of the last sanctioned scale of the Forest Conservancy Department.

2. The Annual Progress Report of the past official year having already been submitted to Government, and a separate one to the Board of Revenue with the usual financial accounts for that period, I presume that these returns have all been reviewed, and will be transmitted with the present Forest Budget Estimate.

3. As called for by the Supreme Government, in paragraph 5 of their Proceedings, dated 31st August 1864, No. 167 F-4,154, a distinct Report* on the contemplated operations of the ensuing year is also submitted herewith, and will, I trust, be found to contain all needful information.

* Enclosures 5.

4. Of the several forests under conservancy there are a few† that are worked exclusively under the Voucher and License system. They have therefore not been included in the Statements Nos. I and IV.

† Bolumputty. North Arcot. South Arcot. Kurnool.

5. The Departmental Estimates of receipts for 1864-65 was reduced by G. O. No. 2,381 of 24th December 1863, but from the data then furnished it was subsequently raised by the Government of India from Rupees 3,50,000 to 4,50,000 in their Proceedings,‡ dated 13th August 1864, No. 132 F-3,789. The actual result, however, is not likely to exceed 4,00,000, and this sum, I have every reason to believe, will be fully realized and carried to the credit of Forest Revenue by the end of the current official year.

‡ Communicated in G. O. 7th September 1864, No. 1,631.

6. Agreeably to paragraph 6 of the Proceedings of the Government of India, quoted above in paragraph 3, I have inserted under the head of Establishment a few extra headings as properly appertaining thereto.

7. I beg in conclusion to inform you that, owing to the introduction from time to time of so many new forms, &c., the preparation and submission of the Budget Estimates within the prescribed time is almost impossible, as our Office Establishments are on a very limited scale, and very much of the time and attention of the Executive Officers during the best part of the working season is now taken up in the preparation of these numerous periodical returns, and in replying to unavoidably frequent and necessary references from the Central Office; under all these circumstances I would suggest the time allowed for submitting the Budget Estimates be extended to the 30th of November.

No. 175. ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1865, No. 82.

Forests, No. 12.

1. With this letter the Acting Conservator of Forests submits the Budget Estimate of Receipts and charges of his Department for 1865-66, with the several accompaniments required in Colonel Strachey's Circular, dated 21st September 1864,

No. 13 F, with the exception of the Progress Report for 1863-64, which is before Government separately.

RECEIPTS.

2. Captain Beddome estimates the receipts for 1865-66 at Rupees 4,43,500. The Government are not equally sanguine. The Estimate for the current year, as proposed by the Acting Conservator, amounted to Rupees 5,28,500; but this Government after a careful examination of the actual results of previous years reduced it to Rupees 3,50,000. The Government of India saw fit to raise it to Rupees 4,50,000, the only reason assigned being that it "was raised with reference to Captain Beddome's Estimate." That Officer himself now states that the actual result is not likely to exceed 4,00,000. The Government consider the realization even of this reduced amount very problematical, for the collections during the first half of the year have been less than one-fourth of it.

3. The Government consider that Rupees 4,00,000 is the utmost that can be expected with any reasonable certainty in 1865-66, and this sum, which makes full allowance for increased scope of the operations of the Department, will be entered in the Budget as shewn below:—

	Captain Beddome's Estimate.	Government Estimate.
	RS.	RS.
Annamallai	75,000	75,000
Mudumallai	1,00,000	1,00,000
Sigúr	30,000	24,000
Neilgherries	3,000	3,000
Wellington	700	500
Bhowany	15,000	10,000
Collegal	20,000	15,000
Wynad	28,000	20,000
Madura	5,000	5,000
Tinnevelly	1,500	1,000
South Canara	30,000	25,000
Nellumbur	30,000	30,000
Salem	31,000	30,000
Bolumputty	500	500
South Arcot	3,000	3,000
North Arcot	3,500	3,000
Polur and Vellore...	5,000	5,000
Cuddapah	26,500	25,000
Kurnool	25,800	20,000
Gumsur and Surada	10,000	5,000
	4,43,500	4,00,000

EXPENDITURE.

4. The Budget Estimate of charges amounts to Rupees 3,22,511.

CENTRAL OFFICE.
Rupees 37,705

5. The only items under the head Central Office which require notice are the proposed increase of the salary of the Assistant Conservator in charge of the Central Office at Madras, from Rupees 125 to Rupees 200, and the entry of Rupees 6,000 under "Sundries." The former is admitted. It is in fact merely a reversion to the original fixed establishment, which included an Office Assistant on Rupees 200 per mensem. The work of the Central Office has considerably increased of late and by a recent Order* the responsible duty of auditing the monthly contingent bills has been entrusted to the Assistant, who may now fairly claim promotion. Captain Beddome will submit a tabular Statement in the prescribed form for submission to the Government of India.

* 22nd October 1864, No. 1,945.

6. The actual expenditure under "Sundries" in 1863-64 was only Rupees 766, and the Estimate for 1864-65 amounted to Rupees 1,000. The large increase of Rupees 5,000, proposed

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th January 1865.

for 1865-66, is stated to be for probable forest operations likely to be undertaken in addition to the work ordinarily carried on by the present fixed establishments. As sufficient funds are allowed under each head of expenditure, the Government see no necessity for this reserve, which is therefore struck out.

ANNAMALLAI.

7. The sum of Rupees 46,000 provided for working this forest, is large. Captain Beddome states that there is a stock of timber worth three lacs of Rupees on hand, and considering the small sales this year in this forest, the Government deem it unnecessary to work it on the large scale proposed; they therefore reduce the Estimate to Rupees 30,000. The actual expenditure in 1863-64 amounted only to Rupees 28,600.

MUDUMALLAI.

8. The estimate of Rupees 50,000 for working this forest is large, but as a considerable quantity of timber will be required for the Lawrence Asylum buildings the Government will not reduce it.

SIGUR.

9. The salary (Rupees 20 per mensem) of a Gumastah required for the Sigúr forest entered in the Budget is admitted provisionally. The usual tabular Statement shewing the necessity for the employment of such a servant, &c., should be submitted without delay. The practice of employing servants required permanently, without the sanction of Government, and paying them from the provision made for working the forests is irregular, and must be wholly discontinued.

TINNEVELLY.

10. The Establishment proposed for the forests in this District at a cost of Rupees 648, is passed provisionally; but no portion of it can be entertained before specific sanction is granted. The report of the Board of Revenue as to the possibility of obtaining leases for the private forests in the District, is now before Government, and will be considered of

KURNOOL.

11. The salary of an Overseer on Rupees 60 per mensem for this District, is passed provisionally.

12. The sums entered for the other forests do not require separate notice. The Budget as now passed amounts to Rupees 3,00,000 against Rupees 2,90,000, the Estimate for 1864-65, and the appended statement contains full particulars.

13. With these remarks the Government resolve to transmit the Budget, with the several accompaniments, to the Accountant General, agreeably to clause 3, paragraph 3 of the Resolution of the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, dated 31st August 1864, No. 167 F-4,154.

14. The attention of the Supreme Government will again be drawn to the unnecessary details now required in the Forest Department. It is simply impossible for the Conservancy Officers to estimate the revenue under the various heads prescribed in the new form of Budget. The revenue depends on sales and prices which cannot be foreseen, months beforehand; and though a Forest Officer may be able to form a reasonably correct estimate of his aggregate receipts, any distribution of them in detail is simply guess-work. So also with the expenditure, the distribution of charge, in the manner prescribed, is practically worthless. If the forms now in use are retained, it will be absolutely necessary to increase the Office Establishments, and the Officers in charge of the forests must devote to mere office duties, valuable time which should be spent in active forest work.

15. It will also be explained to the Government of India that the time fixed for the despatch of the Budget, viz., 15th November, is highly inconvenient. This date was fixed in order that "Forest Officers should not be withdrawn from their duties in the forests during the working season;" but whatever may be the case elsewhere, in Madras October and November are just the months when these Officers should be engaged on forest work.

	Central Office.	Annamallai.	Bolumputty.	Mudumallai.	Sigúr.	Neilgherries.	Australian Plantation.	Bhowany.	Collegal.	Wynad.	Nellambur.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	South Canara.	Salem.	South Arcot.	North Arcot.	Pulur.	Cuddapah.	Kurnool.	Gumsur and Surada.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	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.	7,200	8,400	...	4,800	...	...	...	...	...	3,600	...	...	...	...	6,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,000
Do. Sub-Assistant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,800	...	...	1,800	...	...	...	...	1,800	1,800	...	7,200
Military allowance of Assistants, &c. ...	4,500	...	...	7,700	...	...	...	...	...	4,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,700
Overseers in separate charge.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	960	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	960	1,920
Establishments..	3,200	3,820	200	3,420	840	1,370	480	1,950	1,950	2,550	2,500	1,410	650	4,620	5,580	360	530	1,480	1,440	2,850	680	41,880
Travelling allowances	4,800	200	...	1,200	...	350	180	460	460	1,080	360	360	...	360	360	...	...	...	360	360	360	11,250
Stationery and sundries ...	1,000	500	...	500	250	100	50	150	200	250	250	200	...	250	250	...	...	100	250	100	100	4,500
Working charges	...	30,000	...	50,000	10,500	2,500	1,000	3,000	5,500	13,700	15,000	2,500	...	10,800	20,000	...	50	500	4,000	1,500	4,000	1,74,550
	32,700	42,920	200	67,620	11,590	4,320	1,710	5,560	8,110	25,680	19,910	5,430	650	17,830	32,190	360	580	2,080	7,850	6,610	6,100	3,00,000

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary to Government.

To the Accountant General, with Budget.
„ the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Civil Paymaster.
„ the Financial Department.
Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Dated 7 Feby

Finl 1865. Department.

No. 82.

PROCEEDINGS *of* GOVERNMENT.
in the Revenue Deptt

Dated 19 & 26 January 65

Ex. 49

Comming the remarks passed on the Budget Estimate of the Conservator of Forests for 1865/66 -

31st January 1865 No. 67
Recorded

99 & 100