Madras.
9th May 1891.

Confidential

PRIVATE SECRETARY'S
12 MAY 91

My dear Prescott

Referring to your D.O. of the 20th April/91, I beg to report as follows on the Courtallam Falls dispute.

2. I was not aware that I was to submit a report; in my D.O. of the 31st Oct/90, I promised one, but by your D.O. reply of the 1st Novr, I concluded that none was required.

No copy kept (?)

3. On reaching Tinnevelly I made quiet enquiries as

to the Indians on the
subject, and found that
there was little general feeling
it was partly local (Tanjore
town & Elengi) and partly
Foreign. The local feeling was
due to the difficulties in
the way of Temple worship
and of the purification
ceremonial ablutions of devotees
and other Temple worshippers,
by the custom prohibiting any
but Europeans from bathing
in the sacred pool itself,
until 9. A.M. or thereabouts.
It was also due to personal
Indians, especially in Elengi,
against Mr Clarke, chiefly
irrespective of the cow question,
& prior to it. My own im-
-pression is that the public
are not interested, but only
a few individuals; the "public"
only bathes on festival days,
and on these days the Europeans
do not bathe at all, but the
Folks on them entirely to Hindus
throughout the day.

4. I made no public
move in the matter, as I
thought it better to let angry
Indians die down, and as I
heard that Mr T. Clarke was
likely to leave; he has now
left and the personal Indians

as regards planters in
general its occupy Lekunda,
& its partly command the
water which feeds the Falls
& fields, and as regards W.
T. Clarke in particular,
has now no object; there is
no planter in the neighbour-
-hood, I believe. Hence the
only Europeans now to be
considered, are the ordinary
District official and Missionary
visitors, and a few outsiders.
5. Another reason for making
no public move was, that as
I might be called on as
District Mag^te to interfere
hereafter, I thought it better

not to personally
give instructions, Sir.
would put me at once in
the position of a partisan.
6. I then spoke to
Mr. Stevenson and others as
are members of the Com-
-mittee that collects subscrip-
-tions for the Baltimore fund.
I suggested that the Committee
would sound Hendricks local
opinion with regard to
arranging terms of settle-
-ment that would be
acceptable to both parties
and would be left binding
as being the outcome of mutual
agreement. I mentioned my

our opinion, viz.
that the rules should be such
as, as now, that Hindus were
not to be [illegible] till 9. AM.
but that the hours for
Europeans exclusively,
should be between (say)
7 and 9. AM., thus giving
Hindus the opportunity of
ceremonial ablutions up to
7. AM; as their ablutions
are always very early; this
would meet the chief
difficulty. In other words,
the Tanks would be exclusive-
-ly reserved for Europeans,
only between the hours of
(say) 7 and 9. AM.

7. The European Committee
has been negotiating with
the Temple Committee also
seem to be the only ones directly
interested. So far as I learn,
the Temple Committee are
likely to agree, but no
final answer has yet been
given. From an extract from
Mr. Stevenson's Weekly Report
to the Imperial Govt., it will
be seen that the Temple
Committee themselves object
to Sudras till 11. AM; I
am not sure however whether
this is not an error for

low-caste people, as the Shunji [?] Muttadar is himself a Sudra. But it is an interesting commentary on the outcry for free bathing.

8. My successor, for whom I have left a copy of this D.O., will doubtless report the final result of the negotiations. I presume that when the Committee have made a final agreement, they will embody it in writing, get it signed by representative Europeans & Hindus, and forward it to the Collector, who will send a copy, and report

the matter [illegible]

Government.

9. My endeavours have been directed to keeping the Official element, quâ official, out of the matter; I wished it to be entirely settled by the good sense of both parties, and I have little doubt that now that the immediate cause of discussion has been removed, a little give & take will settle the matter in a common-sense & binding manner.

10. In the last resort only,

I trust that D
Clinton, as CWR &
District Magte, would
intervene, i.e. if D parties
cannot agree.

Yours truly

F. A. Nicholson.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(Land Revenue.)

Read—the following letter from E. C. JOHNSON, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Chatrapur, 14th August 1892, No. 1163, Forest:—

I have the honour to forward the Conservator's inspection note on the forests of this district with my remarks.

Enclosure.

The following inspection note is the outcome of a tour during January in the Goomsur taluk of the Ganjam district made in company with Mr. Battie, the District Forest-officer. The Collector was interviewed both before and after the tour and with both those officers the Acting Conservator fully discussed the various points raised. The figures and information are brought up to the close of March, and the result of further consultation with the District Forest-officer is included. Previous inspection reports of Conservators are as follows:—

Mr. Gamble's, Board's Proceedings, dated 28th April 1884, No. 1431.
Mr. Gamble's, Board's Proceedings, dated 14th April 1890, No. 197.
Mr. Peet's, dated 12th June 1888, Proceedings, dated 11th July 1888, No. (372).

2. The earliest was the starting point of forest work after the re-organisation of 1882; it was written by Mr. Gamble when he visited Ganjam in company with Mr. A. W. Lushington, the first District Forest-officer, on the latter's appointment as such after a twelve months' Indian career in Cuddapah. Mr. Gamble, after recording his views and opinions, does not appear to have revisited the district before he went on furlough in 1887. Mr. Peet, while acting for Mr. Gamble, wrote after inspecting in January 1888, and the tone of his report is decidedly unfavorable. Mr. Gamble, in 1890, wrote on the subject at great length, being evidently struck with the want of success that had attended the works he advocated on his former visit, six years previously. Mr. Lushington left the district in December 1890, since when Mr. J. S. Battie has been in charge.

3. It seems unnecessary to recapitulate the history of forest conservancy in the Ganjam district previous to Mr. Gamble's

inspection note of 1890. The errors which called forth his animadversions have since been corrected so far as possible by the present Collector, aided by Mr. Battie, who has been mainly instrumental in bringing about a better state of things, so that at the present time, beyond errors in settlement work which have to be corrected and the adjustment and writing off of irrecoverable advances and unravelling confused accounts, there is no reason for reverting in detail to mistakes in the past, the lesson to be learnt from which is that the appointment of inexperienced young assistants as District Forest-officers is a mistake, especially to districts where Collectors, though responsible for forest work, are either not interested in forestry or have insufficient leisure to train the officers posted for their assistance and to teach them administration.

It is out of the question to expect that any Collector should be capable of "training" a junior Forest-officer. The most he can do is to inculcate business habits and industry.

4. Mr. Gamble, at the time of his inspection in 1890, also examined the District Forest-office and recorded in a separate note his disapproval of the way in which work was being conducted. The Examiner thereupon addressed a note of remonstrance and advice to the District Forest-officer, who, though he devoted much time and personal attention to office work, succeeded only in getting his accounts into extreme confusion from which I am anxious that a trained travelling auditor from the Accountant-General's office should be promptly deputed to extricate them.

This is eminently advisable.

5. There is no record in my office to show that any attention was paid to the instructions in Mr. Gamble's office inspection note of January 1890, and although in certain unimportant matters I am not entirely of his opinion as expressed in this note, it is certainly worthy of every attention.

6. In the first inspection note of 1884 stress was laid on the immediate necessity for pushing on the timber trade in sâl which had previously grown up on the presumption that the sâl was ripe for felling, but without any accurate information on the subject except that given by valuation surveys on small areas. As a result 35,000 trees have been cut from the eight chief sâl forests and now it is reported that nowhere throughout the sâl-bearing tract in any quantity is that timber found more than half grown. Owing to want of supervision and inexperience of the District Forest-officer and general absence of control, the cutting was made at a loss, and it is to be regretted that it was so lightly entered upon, seeing that it would have been better to have recovered at least the seigniorage on the trees as under the previous haphazard system. It is a pity Mr. Gamble, who started Mr. Lushington in his work, did not return to the district prior to his furlough in 1887. Had he done so or kept more in touch with the District Forest-officer, a different result would have been brought about; as it was, he appears to have had a wrong impression as to the District Forest-officer's power of administration.

7. I propose now to deal with the various matters referred to in Mr. Gamble's last note written in 1890, and would preface my remarks with a short account of my trip.

8. On the 6th January I inspected the Berhampore Range office, and, meeting Mr. Battie at Aska, I saw with him portions of the Hukuma, Pipalapunka, Raipada and Dowgang reserves on our way to Gazilabida, and, coming from the Maliahs, we together visited the marginally noted reserves from our camps at Rambpa, Tarsingi, Tilsingi, Bonta, Panchabhuti, Kurcholi and Buguda. I also inspected the District Forest-office records and timber depôt at Russellkonda, as well as the current accounts of the Goomsur and Surada ranges. I also visited the Chatrapur date-palm plantation in company with the Collector and interviewed the Forest Settlement-officers Mr. Scott and Mr. Lever, arranging with the latter for a reinvestigation into the settlement of blocks reported on but not finally notified. I also discussed with the Collector the question of the more speedy settlement of forest magisterial cases in Goomsur, and I understand that much satisfactory progress has since resulted.

Darpanghi, Rambha, Gullery, Kulada, Chandragiri, Bramanosai, Jaganath Pershad, Panchabhuti, Kurchoti, Kriamba, Bondachandano and Sandusalia.

9. *Forest settlement in Ganjam.*—On the 31st March 1892 reservation of forest in Ganjam was in the following stage.

There were nine reserved forests, all situate in the Goomsur taluks, their names and areas being as follows:—

	Acs.
1. Dimrijholi	5,486
2. Bondagocha	4,400
3. Malati	1,720
4. Jaganath Prasad ...	26,200
5. Dalenki	1,450
6. Vinjagiri	6,000
7. Panchabuthi	4,320
8. Vishnuchakram ...	4,860
9. Chondargiri ...	18,320

While under settlement there were 35 as follows :—

	ACS.
Goomsur (23)—	
1. Teleki	15,200
2. Kullada	2,760
3. Sandrisalya	2,000
4. Bodachondona ...	800
5. Kaliamba	5,200
6. Rogodo	16,000
7. Gogodo	15,240
8. Paichalia	13,760
9. Chodiapalli	960
10. Brahmanasai	8,080
11. Dhongam	2,400
12. Ambazara	32,000
13. Mundopitha	6,880
14. Pippalaponka	7,700
15. Gullery	23,860
16. Baibali	21,920
17. Darpangia	16,160
18. Rambha	9,300
19. Kurcholi	5,520
20. Kriamba	23,320
21. Hukuma	4,160
22. Royagoda	6,700
23. Gundribadi	12,200
Berhampore (3)—	
1. Ramagodo	6,620
2. Bainamari	3,750
3. South Mohiri	3,750
Chicacole (9)—	
1. Tulugu	148
2. Ampolu	225
3. Singapuram	693
4. Rana	107
5. Rahimanpuram ...	274
6. Kodura	279
7. Jammu	1,820
8. Godalam	
9. Rankahammanthpuram Nos. I, II and III ...	

In addition to these areas it is proposed to reserve two additional blocks in Goomsur and 22 in Berhampore as follows :—

	ACS.
Goomsur—	
Gundribadi, north and south extensions	9,500
Berhampore—	
1. Bollibogada	261
2. Balakristnapuram ...	164
3. Chatrapur	695
4. Dura	279
5. Golabonda	379
6. Padoora	760
7. Mushidipolem	238
8. Kusimi	625
9. Bendaliya	163
10. Mohoda	419
11. Mushiyakalli	522
12. Ankusapuram	138
13. Mohugora	1,697
14. Mohurlapalli	924
15. Virakrishna Chandrapuram	445
16. Godohill	225
17. Joronohill	1,002

	ACS.
18. West Batukam nada ...	179
19. Nimmapuram	697
20. Sikharapuram	260
21. Shapuram	142
22. Lord Napier Park ...	27

10. All of these have been selected, and to them will be added certain extensions to existing blocks in Goomsur and reserves in Pondakhol and Chokapad.

11. The following table shows the approximate area of each class of forest in each taluk of the district :—

Taluk.	Reserved forests.	Reserved lands under settlement.	Total.
	SQ. MLS.	SQ. MLS.	SQ. MLS.
Goomsur ..	114	394	508
Berhampore ..	..	22	38
		* 16	
Chicacole ..	..	5	5
Total ..	114	437	551

* Fuel and fodder reserves.

12. To this total must be added the areas still for selection, and then its sufficiency or otherwise is for consideration with reference to the order of Government that grazing for agricultural cattle shall be provided in the reserves, if possible, by taluks and that produce outside reserved forests shall be free for removal by ryots subject only to reservation of reserved trees.

I do not think that any reservation will be necessary in excess of my proposals dated 24th May 1892.

13. With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 175, dated 28th April 1891, it was reported from Ganjam direct to the Board that under this policy an addition of about 81 square miles would be made to the reserves. The Collector of Ganjam has been again referred to in this matter in order that he may have an opportunity of recording his views more in detail as regards the area for reservation to supply fodder.

Bar goats

The present arrangement as regards grazing is to exclude goats from all areas reserved or under settlement, and it is presumed that, with extension of reservation, this order will not need reconsideration; but so far as bullocks and cows are concerned, they are admitted to graze in the sâl forests of all reserves except the following under rigid protection from fire.

Range.	Name of block.	Area.	Year when protection commenced.
		acs.	
W. Goomsur.	1. Dimrijboli	5,486	1889.
	2. Gullery	23,860	
	3. Kaliamba	5,200	
E. Goomsur ..	1. Gogode	15,240	1885.
	2. Chodiapalli	960	
	3. Chondragiri	18,320	
	4. Brahmanosai	8,080	1889.
Suradâ ..	1. Dhongam	2,400	1890.
	2. Dabuki	1,450	
	3. Pippalaponka	7,700	
	4. Vinjaghiri	6,000	1889.
Buguda ..	1. Panchabhuti	4,320	
	2. Kurcholi	5,520	
	3. Molighari	500	1891.
	4. Pangudy	500	
	5. Golammundla	500	
	6. Ramanda	1,000	
Berhampore.	1. Ramaguda	6,620	1885.
	2. Baniamarai	3,750	
	3. South Mohiri	3,750	
	4. Podara	760	1890.
	5. Chatrapur	695	
	6. Ballipogoda	261	1891.
	7. Golabanda	379	
	8. Dura	279	
		123,530	

14. The area so protected will be considerably increased in the sâl forests of Goomsur, where the growth is of great value, and it is, therefore, advisable to provide as large an area of reserve as possible if cattle are to graze in the forests, and the same may be said of the agency tracts of Chokapod and Pondakhol.

15. As regards Berhampore and Chicacole, the conditions are so far dissimilar that the extension of rigid protection will probably be determined by the extent of country that can be closed to grazing in rotation, for in Berhampore at least the proposed reserves are more for the growth of fodder than for timber. Still their closure to grazing for a number of years will be a *sine qua non* of their improvement, and it is therefore expedient to increase the reservation to the utmost with a view to excluding cattle over the largest possible area at one time. It is believed the same remarks will refer to Chicacole.

I do not think that a single acre could be taken up with advantage in Berhampore taluk in excess of present proposals. Some shall margin must be left for free grazing.

16. In the Berhampore taluk, of the 22 blocks proposed for settlement and the records of which were returned for amendment, eleven proposals have been revised and eleven remain for submission. The Head Assistant Collector has been hitherto acting as Forest Settlement-officer, but chiefly because the three principal blocks are unsurveyed hills, the work has been delayed and both here and in Goomsur

I think Mr. Hooper did not quite understand me. I do not think the work will ever be satisfactorily done without a special Settlement-officer.

the other duties of the Divisional officers have been the excuse for settlement work not progressing.

17. As desired by the Board in its Forest Register No. 1344 of 1891, when travelling in Ganjam I made inquiry into the cause of mistakes in the settlement of Jaganath Pershad reserve and have separately reported on the subject. As an outcome of my inquiries, I deemed it expedient to suggest the return for verification of all final reports of blocks not notified. Seven such reports were received from the Board's office and six are being sought for, two having been found mislaid in the Collector's general office. With the further arrangements for Ganjam, I proposed after discussion with the officers and with which the Collector then agreed, the future of settlement was, I believe, assured, but in a recent communication from the Collector to the Board Mr. Johnson has declared that a special Forest Settlement-officer should perform the work. The Government has also called for an opinion as to the inclusion of the Northern Circar districts in the circles of the Special Deputy Collectors now employed as Settlement officers and that will shortly be submitted, meanwhile the work being performed is the verification of the boundaries of the blocks finally reported upon.

18. *Demarcation.*—In the proposed reserves of Chicacole and Berhampore whole field numbers having been taken, demarcation is practically complete except in the case of Mohiri Hills of Berhampore where the three main reserves of Ramaguda, Beanamari and Rampalli are as stated in the unsurveyed hill portions and they are now being departmentally surveyed prior to settlement which has been delayed purposely to secure greater accuracy in the work. As regards Goomsur, the sketch maps and draft notifications were prepared by Mr. Gamble from the topographical maps available and the final notification under section XVI for such reserves as have been gazetted leaves out much information as to the boundary, nor are they properly illustrated by the maps submitted, which were merely copies of the original sketches. In all Rs. 25,000 have been spent on demarcating forests since 1884. This represents the cost of lines cut and small posts erected around the Goomsur blocks except

along the maliah boundary, but the lines are being improved and larger posts have still to be put, and this the District Forest-officer hopes to complete for all the reserves in Goomsur during the next three years.

19. This work is most urgent along the boundary of our forests on the ridge of the main ghâts where it follows the maliah boundary, for the hill men are doing their best to devastate our slopes from above and this local authority is powerless apparently to prevent so long as the agency tracts remain without delimitation on the ground though the tracts are protected by the provisions of the Forest Act which deal with areas under settlement and it is understood that the Khonds, as a race, do not assert their rights to deal with the produce of these particular forests. In a separate report I have, in dealing with the maliah forests, made a proposal that the ridge line be demarcated after full inquiry by the Special Assistant Agent, but whatever officer is deputed, the work should be put in hand without delay, for the interests at stake are large and not to be confounded with the other matters connected with the maliahs which it may be advisable to postpone for further consideration. The effect of such demarcation will be threefold: it will keep the Khonds within their bounds, it will define accurately the Goomsur taluk, and, finally, it will give us a definite boundary for the Baibally and Derpangia reserves without which we can take no real measures for their conservation. The officer conducting the delimitation should also mark out the limit of the plateau to the south of the Korada boundary where contiguous to and following the Pondakhol agency tract now about to be brought under the Forest Act, and again to the north of the Darpangia reserve it will be expedient to separate off in like manner the Chokapod agency forest from the maliah limits.

The ascertainment and demarcation of this boundary is most desirable on more grounds than one. Being a boundary between a "scheduled district" and ordinary tract, an officer to determine it will have to be appointed under section 8 of the Scheduled District Act. The Special Assistant Agent is the officer whose appointment I would recommend.

This boundary will run through the agency tracts and not between them and ordinary tracts; so if the Forest Act is introduced into Pondakhol, this will be a matter of mere forest delimitation and require the appointment of no special officer.

It will be all within maliah limits, so the delimitation of the reserves only will be necessary.

The Bengal boundary which separates Goomsur from the Daspala and Nyaginli zemindaries has been already marked and a line is kept clear throughout and thus the chief Goomsur reserves are clearly demarcated where on the edge of the taluk in this direction.

20. *Surveys and working plans.*—The employment of a surveyor is desirable, since, apart from settlement considerations,

A good survey both in Goomsur and in the Mohiri Hills of Berhampore taluk is indispensible, and the sooner it is done the better for forest work.

a survey of each block is, as Mr. Gamble says, the first thing requisite; but, without waiting for the result of a survey, I would suggest our securing an accurate report from a young trained officer showing the condition of each reserve containing sâl, using as maps for this purpose enlargements taken from the ordinary one inch topographical sheets which are available for the northern portions of the Goomsur taluk. On the officer's report we should base our preliminary plans of treatment, leaving working plans to be prepared later. The works which, from what I saw, I consider immediately advisable in the interest of the growth of sâl, are the removal of trees of sundry species where keeping back young sâl regrowth and the removal of creepers in the moister belts. For this purpose I would advocate at present a yearly grant of Rs. 1,000 under head A-VIII (*f*) besides the ordinary charges so debited for tope watchers.

Removal of creepers was started last year and will be continued.

21. As regards the working of the mixed forests of the Goomsur taluk, they should, for the present, continue to be worked on the seigniorage systems until we are in possession of more information as to their power of supplying the current demand. This has been arranged for by adopting a system of accounting for revenue and expenditure by reserves or groups of reserves likely to form one working circle, while, by employing a sliding scale of rates, we can relieve the more denuded tracts from being indented upon for any kind of produce they are ordinarily called upon to supply, and the very low figure at which the rates now stand allow of considerable extension within those sanctioned by Government. The information which will be available on the next occasion a Conservator visits the district will admit of further steps being taken towards settling some plan of action in dealing with these forests. The case of the plain blocks in Chicacole and Berhampore is different, for, as Mr. Gamble remarked, they will, for the present, remain closed, the fact being that there is no produce on them to remove. For years to come they will be devoted to the production of fodder, and, should protection from fire and grazing prove insufficient to establish the elements of a scrub growth of woody species, recourse will be had to sowing and planting.

It is at present being done by reserves.

22. The three reserves in Mohiri hills of Berhampore will continue to be worked

for firewood and bamboos though it will be avisable to restrict and regulate the cuttings as far as possible. Our difficulties in protecting the growth arise from these reserves being the main source of supply to the town of Berhampore with its 23,000 inhabitants and at present no progress in growth there is possible from the constant demand that is being made. The only hope for restoration is to close a portion to cutting, and I would strongly advise the adoption of such a course and that the most rigid protection be applied to the portion closed. Within a period of a few years the start afforded thereby would lead to the yearly increment of growth being very largely increased and the area which now with the greatest difficulty supplies local requirements would then do so with ease. The details of such a scheme can be left to the district officers.

This is most advisable, but quite impossible until the establishment is greatly strengthened. At present there are only three Forest guards for the whole Berhampore taluk.

The Mohiri forests can never be expected to grow good *timber* and should be worked mainly for firewood and poles.

To nominally close any of these blocks without proper means of making the closure effective would be a mistake.

23. I would, in connection with the Berhampore and, indeed, the Goomsur forests as well refer to the difficulties labored under from the insufficiency of maps available. As already stated, for the northern portion of the Goomsur taluk, as well as for the whole of the maliah country, there are the topographical maps on the one inch scale of the Government of India survey. In the rest of the district there are village maps available for portions of Goomsur and all of Berhampore excepting the Mohiri hills. There is a taluk map for Berhampore, but it is out of print and it is not proposed by the Superintendent of the Revenue Survey to republish it, while the Goomsur taluk cannot be mapped until further field work has been carried out and this the department declares its inability to do. This is much to be regretted in the interest not only of the Forest department, but also of the Revenue and Engineering departments of Government. Without waiting for the completion of the revenue survey we shall have to start surveys of our blocks when definitely settled and this will necessitate the constant employment of departmental surveyors whose work will be subject to insufficient check and be only of temporary value.

Not only that, but it was originally printed on such brittle paper that what maps are in existence have all gone to pieces.

When I mooted the question of completing the survey of Goomsur, Government refused to reconsider the decision arrived at some ten years ago that it was inadvisable on account of the unhealthiness of the country. This, I think, a great pity. Much more unhealthy tracts elsewhere have been surveyed, *e.g.*, Bhadráchalam.

24. *Plantations.*—Though there are no plantations in the district such as to justify at present their record in the annual form for plantations, there are experimental plantings and sowings both at Chatrapur and Podhara in the Berhampore range.

Chatrapur plantation is situated on the road from Berhampore to Chatrapur at a distance of about 2 miles from Chatrapur and about three-quarters of a mile from the sea. The soil is a loamy sand with water close to the surface and until now has been covered with growth of coarse rank grass. In 1890 seeds were sown in prepared pits in lines 10 feet apart; the species chosen were neem, jammu, wrightia, erythrina, tamarind; the soil was heavily manured to receive them and the plants were watered for one season and the whole plantation covering an area of 200 acres was surrounded by a screw-pine fence.

Not at the same time. A year later. Moreover *seeds were sown*, not palms "planted."

At the same time date palms were planted on an adjoining area of the Chatrapur reserve over an area of 67 acres, the variety chosen being the ordinary edible date. These also were sown *in situ* in manured pits; they germinated freely, and at the present time it is estimated that about half have survived.

The Arabian edible date.

25. At the time of my inspection in February 1892, it was noticeable that the surviving miscellaneous plants were chiefly in the hollows where there was protection from the strong long-shore southerly wind, which seems to affect all tree vegetation along this coast, and an additional enemy to the young plants is found in a straggling thread-like plant which twists itself round the young stalks and effectually strangles them. It was noted that the tamarind was the chief sufferer, very few having remained alive. The fodder crop has been left standing, no cattle being allowed in the block which has been leased out to a contractor who allows cutting and removal of the grass. On the whole, the plantation has not as yet proved a success, for, in addition to the large number of failures, the growth of the survivors is very slow and the date palms, now two years old, have not put on their normally shaped leaves except in a few instances on well-drained patches.

I would advocate sowing palmyrah freely in all the sandy reserves near the coast. The tree grows well in this district, though it is not common in it.

26. I would not advocate any extension of these plantations though vacancies might be resown with palmyrah, a species which, under recent Abkári rules, is likely to increase in value and which are not found generally in the district.

27. *Podhara.*—This reserve is situated on the Gopálpur-Chatrapur road and contains a small plantation at the Gopálpur end in which trees of the following

species have been sown in the natural scrub of "carrissa" and myrtle, the plants being watered for two seasons; neem, "wrightia," sissu, mango, kigelia, dirisinam, and tamarind. Furthest from the road there are some good specimens of sissu and mango, but elsewhere most of the plants are dead, leaving only a few, chiefly dirisinam and "wrightia" which have not yet come above the surrounding scrub. There are also bamboos which are reported to be doing well. Before extending this plantation, I would advocate our awaiting the development of the present plants and simply fill up the vacancies with the species that appears to be the hardiest.

28. I am not personally in favour of plantations being established in the plains of India, for, except under very special conditions, they may, according to published experience, be said to represent a waste of time and money. As experimental studies for the introduction of valuable exotics, I advocate their establishment on a very limited scale and only at Government expense when private land-owners cannot be induced to take up the work. Artificial reproduction should scarcely be resorted to for the forest of the plains until we know more Indian sylviculture and this can be derived from observations over a smaller experimental area than has been hitherto operated upon.

Certainly the results here so far have not been by any means satisfactory.

29. *Revenue.*—The following figures show the collections and expenditure for the past eight years:—

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Difference.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1884-85	32,580	27,216	+ 5,364
1885-86	38,715	25,995	+ 12,720
1886-87	19,827	35,981	— 16,154
1887-88	20,079	40,115	— 20,036
1888-89	23,831	45,627	— 21,796
1889-90	23,292	40,131	— 16,839
1890-91	30,423	44,175	— 13,752
1891-92	36,541	36,513	+ 28

From them we learn that the result of eight years' work has been a deficit of Rs. 70,000 on the forest transactions of the district. This loss would have been larger had not the receipts of 1884 to 1886 been credited with considerable timber sales of standing growth.

30. Analysing the figures, we find that from 1st April 1886, revenue from produce departmentally collected and removed has

been recovered to the extent of Rs. 58,334 at a cost of Rs. 55,387. The cost of recovering Rs. 70,325 from purchasers removing produce was Rs. 9,761. The amount spent on improvement is as follows:—

	Rs.
On buildings and roads ...	26,300
On improvement of forest ...	35,000

In the way of buildings we have 16 bungalows valued with cost of repairs at Rs. 17,000 and a number of petty huts which cost probably Rs. 3,000, while expenditure on roads has been Rs. 6,000. The details of improvement include expenditure amounting to Rs. 21,000 on demarcation of the Goomsur sâl forests. Fire conservancy has cost Rs. 7,000, surveys and plans of operations Rs. 3,500 and plantations Rs. 3,500.

31. The year that has now closed showed a revenue of Rs. 36,541 with an expenditure of Rs. 36,517 and this is the first year that a surplus has been secured since 1885–86. During this year Rs. 6,500 were expended on bringing to market sâl timber and fuel cut in previous years and a revenue of Rs. 15,800 was recovered and we see that, notwithstanding former failure, it is possible to dispose of our timber at a profit. Unfortunately the supply of native sâl is reduced to almost nothing in our reserves and we shall have to depend largely upon miscellaneous sources for our revenue for years to come. There need, however, be no diminution in the district forest receipts, for there are many directions in which the forest resources can be developed without trenching on the timber of the reserved forests, the felling of which has, I consider, been too lightly entered upon and without full consideration.

Nothing but picked trees should be felled in our sal forests for years to come.

32. During the current year, Mr. Battie will be employed in removing to depôt at Russellkonda the felled logs that remain in the forests of East Goomsur and he will probably secure therefrom a revenue of some Rs. 5,000. For the immediate future we can count on no revenue from sâl timber from our reserves except from removal of occasional large trees which may be found here and there, for the District Forest-officer informs me that mature trees, *i.e.*, of 5 feet girth, accepting Mr. Gamble's criterion of a mature tree, are only to be found occasionlly. I would, at the same time, anticipate an income yearly from the removal of sâl from unreserved tracts

The sooner these are got rid of at a profit to Government the better; otherwise as remarked by Mr. Hooper, they will be either illicitly felled or burnt.

where, from the smallness of the area under that species or from the difficulty of protecting them, the trees will otherwise be left for thieves and cultivators to remove illicitly.

33. The amount of such revenue will depend upon the system adopted for the removal of the trees, for, should we find it possible to take advantage of the present rising market and get them removed by purchasers in or near the forest, we shall secure a larger net revenue than if we sell from depôts further from the source of production. I advocate the felling of marked trees under supervision in preference to departmental fellings which I would resort to only where necessary. It is expected that we shall from this source get revenue amounting to Rs. 5,000 yearly by sale of trees at from Rs. 3 to 5 each according to accessibility. The departmental fellings will bring in a net profit of perhaps Rs. 75 per cent., and, allowing Rs. 1,000 yearly for the work, we should recover up to Rs. 4,000 or net Rs. 3,000. Assuming a yearly removal partly on both systems, I would expect a total annual revenue of Rs. 7,000 for the ensuing five years from the sale of sál from unreserved tracts where the trees concerned are sure otherwise to be removed by stealth or destroyed under the custom in force in the taluk whereby previous to extending cultivation on darkhast, the adjoining pattadars surreptitiously clear the forest so that they may be called upon to pay but little, if anything, for standing growth.

This section of the East Coast Railway has no money available this year for the purchase of sleepers; next year they will be purchasing largely and there should be a good market for sál.

So do I.

This is a very moderate estimate and should be largely exceeded if transit rules are sanctioned.

34. Other sources of revenue will no doubt expand gradually with the increased protection which the introduction of the larger establishment will enable us to afford, especially under the head of bamboos and firewood, while minor produce will be inquired into and worked under some system which has hitherto not been done. Under grazing also some return may be anticipated as a set-off to the heavy charges we incur for the protection of purely fodder reserves, and there is every reason to expect that the district forest revenue will, under proper management, develop generally and yield a yearly income not less than Rs. 75,000 within ten years.

For instance grazing is beginning to pay in Goomsur this year for the first time. The same may be said of "minor produce."

This estimate is by no means too sanguine, given the necessary establishment and *transit rules*; without the latter we can hardly expect good profits until the zemindari forests of the district are absolutely exhausted.

35. *Expenditure.*—As already shown, the charges hitherto incurred have been chiefly on departmental fellings, the making of forest roads and bungalows.

36. At present nothing is being spent on departmental fellings, our work in this direction having been reduced to bringing out excess logs lying felled and exposed to destruction. In this way Rs. 5,000 has been spent on temporary establishment and carting charges during 1891–92. Notwithstanding his order to close the working, Mr. Peet appears to have approved subsequently of the entertainment of temporary establishment costing Rs. 150 a month, and the reason for this not being apparent, I directed the discharge of the men and they have not been since required for the extraction of the logs. It is, however, necessary to provide in this year at least Rs. 1,000 for the continuance of the work of removal.

37. The felling charges for the departmental cuttings in unreserved lands will absorb Rs. 1,000 as well, so that the Board's estimate of Rs. 2,000 will be so employed. Under the head of fuel nothing is to be done, as our dealings with Messrs. Minchin have ceased, the firm supplying itself from zemindari sources. In this connection it is being separately reported how a large balance of fuel has to be written off the accounts partly owing to continued discrepancy in measurement and to loss in floods in the Rushikulya river and partly to confusion of timber forms which were not supplied to the Examiner during a long period.

The rise in offers from contractors this year (from Rs. 150 to Rs. 1,600) was so satisfactory that departmental experiment has been abandoned for the present as unnecessary.

38. It is intended to make each year a small collection of forest produce departmentally item by item as an experiment to determine the yield available for disposal by contract.

The village agency in this district has been found very unsatisfactory.

39. Under A-II, the charges are for revenue establishment costing Rs. 220 a month, mostly permit-issuing officers and tannah peons, and I do not see how at present the introduction of the increased protective staff will allow of our reducing the number of issuing officers except the village agency can be employed for the distribution of licenses and then a payment of commission will be necessary. The tannah peons may be reduced and replaced by forest guards gradually and thereby a transfer of about Rs. 1,000 will practically be made to the head of permanent establishment.

40. Under head A-VI, there will be expenditure on account of the transfer of elephants from Godávari where they were

employed most expensively on small log-dragging and are not now required, and I think it necessary for the District Forest-officer to have this means of travel to deal effectively with the difficult country he has to go over in the sâl forests of Goomsur.

41. Under head A-VII, there will be expenditure as follows: A bungalow will be built at Baibally and, with Pondakhol and Chokopod added to the charge, a bungalow will be built in each; we shall then have all that are required. On this subject I would record that in some instances rest-houses have been uselessly constructed as pointed out by Mr. Peet, for other departments have rest-houses in their immediate vicinity and in many places sheds have been built of questionable utility. The charges for the class of rest-house now being built are estimated at Rs. 400 by Mr. Gamble, whereas the actual cost has been Rs. 500 at the least and the total cost for the two still to be built will be Rs. 1,000. Our charges in this respect will then be limited to repairs and wages of bungalow watchers, and I have suggested to the District Forest-officer that he might try and arrange the beats of the Forest guards, so that their head-quarters will be at the village where each bungalow is situate and thus do away with the necessity for a watcher. I would add that at present it is not intended to build at Schuli on the summit of the Ambazara hills or at Benethora in the open country of Russellkonda as originally proposed by Mr. Gamble. The bungalows I visited on my tour were in good order, but they all need to have compounds marked out around them and wells dug therein. In some instances the approaches require improvement, notably at Ooserabanda, where a road about quarter mile long will have to be made at once to connect it with the main highway.

This can be done in some cases, but not in all.

The compounds are now being fenced.

42. In the matter of roads I have consulted the District Forest-officer and we agree that we should make only inspection paths until a complete examination of our forest proves them to be less worked out than we both believe them to be. The road from Tarsingi to Tilsingi *via* Chandragiri has been inspected and is in fair repair. Certain streams along it require bridging, and I have suggested a rough form of bridge which would do well for the work and cost almost nothing. If it be washed away it will be replaced easily. The joining of this road with the high road at Kullada has been already ordered and Rs. 774 spent on the work which was handed over to famine and abandoned. Our forest funds spent on it were therefore wasted and the work has to be done almost all over again at forest cost at an estimate of Rs. 900. Beyond these the inspection paths requisite are from Tarsingi to Gayagonda, thence through Bonta and Panchabuti and to Kurcholi where they will join the high road. Besides executing these works, which would be mainly paths, it is necessary to carry **out** the important work of straightening the rights of way in each reserve as advocated by Mr. Gamble, and Mr. Battie has been asked to arrange for this reserve by reserve. The services of a surveyor will be requisite for this as well as for settlement, and, apart from cost of survey establishment, I would advocate an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 a year on this work and keep the accounts separate for each reserve.

This has been started in Gullery and Chandragiri reserves.

43. The present roads require to be repaired and where they have by mistake been made too broad the repairs might be reduced to the upkeep of a road of nominal width; for this a sum of Rs. 500 will be required each year.

44. Under the head of demarcation a yearly sum of Rs. 2,500 will be required for the next three years which will provide the blocks with a boundary line cleared to a width of ten feet with cairns at the angles.

45. *Establishment.*—The district is divided into six ranges as follows:—

Berhampore	Buguda
East Goomsur	Suradá
West do.	Chicacole

whereof the last is one only in name, no officer being available for the charge. It consists of over ten blocks of waste more or less fodder reserves. As soon as our revised scale is sanctioned, a forester will be deputed for the charge when his first duty will be to prepare proposals for the hilly ground in the taluk. The staff available and at work is as follows:—

	Rs.
A Ranger	60
Do.	50
Forester	40
Do.	25
Do.	20

5

Both men occupying the Ranger's post have passed through the Dehra Dun course of training, but they have not yet been called upon to apply the special knowledge they acquired at the College of Forestry. The district is not a favorite one especially to the native subordinates, so that work in it is not carried on with energy. Fully recognizing the necessity for having good men in Ganjam, I have tried to post the best available, but until our new scale of organisation has been some time at work, there is no hope of improvement. The difficulties of protection are felt in Ganjam more perhaps than in other districts of the Presidency on account of the number of private forest owners, whose properties bound the Government forest. It is on this account that I would strongly support the application of the Collector to apply the chapter of the Forest Act dealing with control of timber in transit to certain well-defined areas in the district and in this way we may be able to protect the Baibally and adjoining forests against unscrupulous permit holders who fell our sal timber on the licenses issued by the agents of the Korada Zemindar. As the Board is aware I am averse to the general introduction of the transit rules, but in cases like the Goomsur taluk, the public interest at stake completely justifies their local application, and I would ask very early sanction of Government for their extension to such areas in Ganjam as Mr. Johnson may consider advisable without waiting for an expression of opinion and orders on the general proposal I have submitted for the delegation to all Collectors within limits of the power to extend the same rules.

Our best policy would be to get a few local Uriyas into the department and have them trained at Dehra Dun.

As I have already observed, transit rules are a *sine qua non* for profitable forest working here.

Most distinctly so.

46. *Office.*—Much improvement has taken place in the office arrangements and the mode of conducting business since Mr. Battie came to the district. Work is much hampered by the outstandings and general confusion of the old accounts, and the present head clerk should give way to a more capable man, and I would remark that he is not eligible for his present appointment, for he has not passed the tests required of the head clerk of a Forest office. I would suggest that he be transferred to some other branch of the Revenue office on equal or lower pay, or that he be made to take the second clerk's post. I would mention that a most important explanation called for in January 1890 is

He has been reduced and transferred to the Account department of the Collector's office. The 2nd clerk has been promoted on probation and Mr. Battie thinks he will do well.

My practise is to send forest papers direct to Mr. Battie without sending them into my office at all, and I cannot see what would be gained by a double registry. I am averse to it as a waste of labour.

(Sd.) E. C. JOHNSON,
Collector.

14th August 1892.

said to have been despatched in the following July, but never received in my office, nor were any reminders or telegrams calling for it either before or after its supposed submission ever attended to. I quote this as an instance of the unbusinesslike work done in the Forest Branch, and it is a continuance of such a system over a period of years that brought office matters to the deadlock Mr. Gamble found them in in 1890, and which may recur unless the District Forest-officer is provided with a proper head clerk. I found it is the practice not to register reminders, and, acting on Mr. Gamble's instructions, letters addressed to the Collector are passed on to the Forest Branch without registration in the Collector's office. My experience in various districts leads me to consider such registration is in every way expedient, for otherwise open letters are passed through several hands before they reach the forest head clerk (in the constant absence of District Forest-officer from head-quarters) and they are occasionally lost in transit. Interested persons may do away with them, leaving no trace of their receipt, and the double registration need be no real cause of delay.

47. On the whole I think Mr. Battie has done exceedingly well during the 16 months he has been in the district. He has under considerable difficulties evolved some order out of chaos, and if he only get a proper office staff and the old arrear account discrepancies are cleared off, for which, as I say, it is advisable to depute a trained accountant to disentangle the items, the district will make the progress in forest matters which it should have made years ago if it had not been left to itself.

(Signed) E. D. M. HOOPER,
Ag. Conservator of Forests,
Northern Circle.

Waltair,
13th May 1892.

Resolution—dated 17th February 1893, Forest No. 112.

Paragraph 4 of the Conservator's Inspection Notes.—The proposal to depute a trained travelling auditor to unravel the confusion in the accounts of the District Forest office will be referred to the Accountant-General, who is requested to favour the Board with his suggestions.

2. *Paragraph* 5.—It is most unsatisfactory that no attention was paid to the instructions in Mr. Gamble's Inspection note of 1890.

3. *Paragraph* 6.—The premature cutting of trees from the *sâl* forest is much to be regretted.

4. *Paragraphs* 9 *and* 10.—The Collector is requested to see that notifications for the blocks already selected are sent in as soon as possible.

5. *Paragraph* 17.—The mistakes in the settlement of the Jaganath Pershad reserve have been separately brought to the notice of Government. The question of appointing a Special Forest Settlement-officer for Ganjam and Vizagapatam was referred to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 19th August 1892, No. 447, and in Government Order, dated 21st December 1892, No. 1284, it has been decided to apply to the Government of India for the appointment of a Deputy Collector for this purpose.

6. *Paragraph* 19.—The Board concurs with the Collector and Conservator in considering that the demarcation of the boundary of the Scheduled tracts to which the Forest law does not at present apply should be carried out at an early date by the Special Assistant Agent and will separately address Government on this subject.

7. *Paragraph* 20.—The Conservator proposes the deputation of a trained officer to report on the *sâl* forests as a preliminary step to the preparation of plans of treatment. The Board fears that the paucity of trained officers will not permit of this being done, unless the Conservator can spare the services of Mr. O'Leary for the purpose, but it does not see why the work should not be carried out gradually by the District Forest-officer.

8. *Paragraph* 21.—The Conservator's remark regarding the present low rates of seigniorage will be referred to the Collector for consideration.

9. *Paragraph* 22.—The question of closing a portion of the Mohiri hills forests should be borne in mind and acted upon as soon as the new scale of establishments is sanctioned.

10. *Paragraph* 23.—The Collector's remarks regarding the completion of the survey of the Goomsur taluk by the Madras Survey Department will be brought to the notice of Government. It is obviously desirable that the survey should be completed.

11. *Paragraphs* 26 *and* 27.—The Board concurs with the Conservator in the opinions expressed in these paragraphs.

12. *Paragraph* 29.—The financial results herein set forth are anything but satisfactory. It is hoped that efforts will be made to utilise the additional sources of revenue pointed out by the Conservator in paragraphs 32—34 of his note.

13. *Paragraphs* 37 *and* 45.—The question of special transit rules for Ganjam and of the deficiency in the stock of fuel in hand will be separately dealt with.

14. *Paragraph* 41.—The Board has recently taken steps * to guard against the unnecessary construction of forest buildings in places where they are not absolutely required; and such wasteful expenditure as that now referred to will, it is hoped, no longer occur.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 620, dated 10th November 1892.

15. *Paragraph* 42.—The Collector is requested to report with reference to the Conservator's remark that the forest funds spent on the road joining the Tarsingi-Tilsingi road with the high road to Kullada were wasted (1) how the work came to be abandoned, (2) why the expenditure already incurred is useless, and (3) why the facts were not brought to notice by the District Forest-officer. Application for the services of a special surveyor for this work should be made at the same time, if the Collector considers it necessary.

16. *Paragraph* 45.—The Collector's suggestion to employ a few Uriyas in the department is a good one and should be given effect to if men of the proper stamp can be obtained.

17. *Paragraph* 44.—The completion of the demarcation of boundary lines is a work of importance and must be pushed on.

18. *Paragraph* 46.—The Board agrees with the Collector in considering the double registration of forest papers in the Collector's office, once in the general branch

and again in the forest branch, unnecessary, but the business of the Forest Branch must of course be properly conducted.

19. *Paragraph* 47.—Mr. Battie deserves credit for the trouble he has taken to "evolve order out of chaos." The Collector should see that the District Forest-officer is provided with a good office staff and the Board trusts that the results of the next inspection will be more satisfactory. Mr. A. W. Lushington's work as District Forest officer evidently left very much to be desired in all directions, but the fact that the exigencies of the service required his being put in district charge before he was properly fitted for it forms some excuse for his shortcomings. A copy of these Proceedings will be forwarded to the Collector of Kistna under whom he is now serving and Mr. Atkinson is requested to keep his work under due observation.

20. The Board is indebted to Mr. Hooper for his exhaustive report which should have been more promptly forwarded by the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. S. MEYER,
Acting Secretary.

To the Accountant-General.
" Collector of Ganjam.
" Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.
" Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle.
" " " Southern "
" " Examiner of Forest Accounts.
" " Collector of Kistna.
" to Mr. E. D. M. Hooper (on leave).
"

Exd. A. Grubert.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1893.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed March 22nd.

Proceedings, dated 17th February 1893,
Forest No. 112.

Passing orders on the report of the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, on the inspection of the forests of the Ganjam district.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
(Land Revenue.)

Read—the following letter from E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Vizagapatam, 24th March 1892, No. 3372 :—

In compliance with the orders conveyed in para. 8 of Board's Proceedings, No. 354, dated 10th August 1891, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have visited the Maliah country of the Ganjam district and have examined the forest growth on portions included in the Rushikulya basin as well as in more northerly parts, the waters of which drain more or less directly into the Mahanadi river.

2. Before undertaking the tour, I entered into correspondence with the Collector and he very kindly sketched out a journey, which he intended to take with me, but, at the last moment, he had to relinquish the idea on account of the state of the season and left me at Surada on the 10th January 1892. Thence I entered the Agency at Gazilabadi in Pondakhol mutta and met the Assistant Agent. He, too, was unable to accompany me having to meet the Agent for a language examination towards the end of the month. I was thenceforward with only Mr. Battie, the District Forest Officer, though the Deputy Tahsildars were met on the tour and were of great assistance in securing information.

3. In the absence of the Agent, I deemed it best to make no direct reference to the Khonds on the subject of forest conservancy, partly because such action would be premature, but chiefly because, in the absence of the Government Agent, the matter would most probably be misunderstood, and at any rate no good effect would be created since every strange proceeding other than the tours of the Agents and police officers is regarded with suspicion, and had I attempted to explain my mission, I should probably have been given much less information than I succeeded in gleaning. Nor did I in any way deal with the political side of the question, which is, I understand, one the Agent alone has competence to concern himself with. After carefully perusing the various proceedings and orders leading up to the Board's orders I have quoted, I concluded that all required from me was an opinion whether, in the interest of climate generally and for the well-being of the basin of the Rushikulya river in the Ganjam district, there should be any restriction placed on the free action of the Khond population of the Maliahs, as regards the felling of forest, what form, if any, such restrictions should assume, and how far, if at all, should the provisions of the Forest Act be applied to the country or to any particular portions of it; bearing in mind that, since the Khonds and Souras have been allowed for generations to be quite free and unfettered and under no control, it would only be expedient to interfere with their use of the forests under circumstances of grave nature and for urgent climatic reasons.

4. In accordance with the programme laid down for me by Mr. Johnson, the Agent, I travelled by the bridle-path through the Pondakhol mutta to the Darinjibadi plateau, and, after making excursions in the neighbourhood of Darinjibadi throughout the Rushikulya area, marched north through Digi and Rekhia to Udaigiri at the head of the Kalingia ghât and thence descended to Durgaprashad and Rambha.

5. The portions I have travelled over are admittedly those, where, if at all, interference would be requisite; elsewhere it is understood that denudation has either been less extensive or less to be feared in its effect upon the low country. I did not therefore extend my tour on this occasion, confining myself to a very close examination of the Darinjibadi and Udaigiri plateau and the country supplying the Rushikulya: though in this report I propose to make suggestions for a similar examination of the whole of the Agency tracts.

6. From the records of Proceedings and Government orders it seems that, in the past, stress has been chiefly laid on the havoc caused by denudation in those parts of the Agency which form, so to speak, the eastern slopes of the Maliah country, and to which the Khonds as a race do not even pretend to claim ownership or right of occupancy. The slopes in question include the Pondakhol, Korada and Chokapad muttas, the remainder being under settlement as reserved forests. In fact, I can nowhere discover that denudation has ever been reported to be general in the Maliah country. At least such is distinctly inferred from available reports and appears exactly stated in Board's Proceedings, No. 469, dated 17th August 1887, so that remedial measures applied to the slopes in question would go far to mitigate if not removing altogether the evil complained of. Nor would it be difficult to apply such measures since these tracts are not the Khond country, are only partially inhabited by plain Khonds (as opposed to hill wild Khonds) and they are much mixed up with Uriyas and Panos of various kinds.

7. That the Forest Act has not been applied to the Pondakhol and Chokapad muttas, has, I think, arisen from some confusion as to their position relatively to the Khond muttas on the plateau and to the fear expressed by Mr. Horsfall that in the case of Chokapad some trouble might ensue, but as the area in question, though part of the Agency, does not appear to be, by any construction, part of the Khond country, the ordinary reasons for non-interference do not apply.

8. Again, as regards Korada and Ronaba, especially the former since the latter is more on the Goomsur level, the question of forest conservancy is not concerned with our relations to aboriginal tribes, for I learn that the zemindar does not allow hill men to come over the edge of the plateau and devastate his slopes in the way the adjoining slopes under settlement are being denuded by hill Khonds.

9. In a separate inspection report, dealing with the Ganjam district, I have proposed the means I think necessary for the protection of these slopes including the demarcation of the plateau edge. This is a most important and urgent step and will best be done by the Assistant Agent as an authoritative Khond boundary and will be found to follow probably the present assumed boundary of the Goomsur taluk.

10. I mention these matters only incidentally to point out that a clear distinction must be drawn between the treatment of the forest question as regards these slopes and the problems of forest management in the Khond Maliahs above them, the only connection between them being that both are Agency tracts and it may be fairly argued that so long as our own hill sides are being denuded with impunity, we are scarcely justified in pointing a moral to the hill people in their dealings with the forests which we have allowed them to regard as their own.

11. On leaving the Agent at Surada, Mr. Battie and I camped at Gazilabadi in Pondakal and on the following day ascending to the plateau we passed through continuous forest the whole way up the slope. For three miles from Gazilabadi a cart track is followed along a stream and the forest is a mixed one in which sál is common. On the ghât, it is, in parts, of almost pure sál with a tall straight growth and a diameter of 18 inches notably about half way up where podu cultivation is being carried on, and then is an unusual deposit of soil; elsewhere the slope is more rocky and uneven, other species being more represented. On the plateau for six miles to Darinjibadi the path is through a stunted forest growth periodically sacrificed to "podu," and on this level the re-growth is slower apparently than elsewhere. We passed along the head of a valley running south-west from the Penamursi hill and had a complete view of the forests which clothe

the slopes down to the stream only occasionally interrupted with patches of bamboos where a solitary "podu" has not been replaced by sál trees. On the following day, we proceeded to examine the country to the south-east of the Darinjibadi plateau and inspected the growth on the slopes of the deep valleys which descend from it in that direction. The hillocks which rise from the level on which the villages stand are regularly resorted to for "podu" and show a more or less denuded aspect according as they have been cleared lately or at a more distant period. This was especially noticeable near Kislibadi and to the north and east of that village, but the main valleys below the level of the plateau villages and even the higher slopes draining directly into them, where away from village sites, are for the most part under unbroken forest growth mainly consisting of sál trees the pyramidal form of which makes them an unmistakeable feature in the landscape and defines the distribution of the species with great accuracy. Proceeding further eastwards, we secured a complete view of the eastern sources of the main stream as far as the village of Dombarabadi, and it is satisfactory to note that nothing approaching denudation was to be found either on this side or to the south-west across towards Ponguli and the basin of the main source of the river.

12. Our next excursion took us through this central basin which is traversed by the road running towards the Southern Maliahs from Darinjibadi. Immediately after leaving the basin which encloses the Darinjibadi hamlets we enter a forest of sál which skirts the road on both sides for over four miles in length and is only cut into in two places by swamp cultivation fringed with podu. The trees are all comparatively young and small. Sál is general and in parts alone represented especially where regrowth is following on cultivation. The trees are tall and slender rising generally to 30 feet in height with a girth of 15 inches and occasionally found 40 feet high with a girth of 30 inches. Rising up above Ponguli, the road crosses a spur towards Tekebadi from which one looks down on the main valley of the river leading into Pondakhol. The hill slopes to the extreme edge of the basin are more cut over towards Sonpura and Sodaka and also more to the west around Cheteria and there has been denudation here and there but over such comparatively inconsiderable areas as to be unimportant and even in these localities there is nothing to show that the maximum area at one time without forest has not been reached or that the normal area of treeless waste is exceeded.

13. Speaking generally I would assert that in the Rushikulya basin to the south and west of Darinjibadi the villages are few and denudation is not going on. There is a certain proportion of the area cleared of forest but except upon the hill sides it is again covered with a regrowth after a rest of three years, the new forest being of pure sál in rich soils and of mixed species upon poorer ones. It is also to be remarked that over a great expanse of level area there are signs of forest encroaching upon cultivation and old clearances. It is currently asserted that plain forest land is resorted to for "podu" by old men who cultivated it originally in their youth and I understood from the Khonds that they return sooner to hill podus than to those on level country since they prefer to make clearances upon sloping ground. I have no doubt myself that the main reason for such a choice is the comparative ease with which the thin forest growth on the hill is removed and they accept the lighter crop with resignation as it is procured with much less labour than that grown on heavy forest soil.

14. After thus thoroughly examining the portion of the Maliahs drained by the Rushikulya and finding it to be under forest, undergoing little or no denudation, we proceeded nothward from Darinjibadi to Digi, Rekhia and Udaigiri at the head of the Kalingia ghât. On our first march we traversed two narrow valleys which were well wooded and watered and then descended on to the Digi plain which is much drier while the hill slopes facing it show much more systematic destruction of forest growth than the Rushikulya basin. At Digi, in fact, we get on the out-skirts of the denuded country which is so completely bare at Udaigiri, twenty miles further north, and it must also be mentioned that the road which has been constructed appears to run with considerable exactness through the most bare country. The Digi plain is mostly under wet cultivation and the hills are

covered with a much thinner growth than met with towards Darinjibadi; bamboo and mixed forest being general instead of pure sál as at higher levels. This change of distribution is not accounted for by difference of altitude so much as by difference of soil, for, on the smaller hills and on level wastes, sál is found to grow even better than where more generally met with while the Khond houses in the village of Petamba were found to be planked with slabs fully 18 inches in diameter, trees of that size being found in the low hills fringing the road at this point.

15. It was also noticed that for two miles before joining the southern road to Baliguda there were evident signs of continuous clearance for extension of cultivation and this became even more apparent after passing Rekhia, leaving only the more sheltered slopes of narrow valleys under wood. It was also noted that at the junction of the Baliguda road with that from Digi there has been of late some agricultural improvement made in the way of increasing the area under wet cultivation and this may be one of the causes leading up to the extension of cultivation and the disappearance of the plain forest along the road towards Digi but where forest on level ground gives way to permanent cultivation it cannot be interfered with except on special grounds even in such countries as the Maliahs and I attach but little importance to the loss of such area. I have, however, decided to mention this fact of clearance of forest in a special locality as an instance of forest giving way to agriculture as opposed to what is happening in the main basin of the Rushikulya where forest seems to be asserting itself over cultivation. A second reason for especially recording the fact is that, at a later date, it may be determined whether more forest has disappeared, since by simply recording in general terms, year by year, the opinions of succeeding Agents as to the result of Khond cultivation no satisfactory conclusions as to the extent of forest clearance can be arrived at.

16. The last five miles to Udaigiri traverses areas of wet cultivation enclosed by hills rising from 100 to 1,000 feet above them. These hills are completely denuded of all but shrub growth, and this being the most accessible point of the Maliahs has probably received more attention at the hands of the Agents and consequently, from being constantly reported, its denuded state has been gradually assumed to be that of the Maliahs. The denudation around Udaigiri is certainly most complete, and I understand that a similar state of things exists to the Bengal frontier some miles to the north but that westward towards Baliguda the aspect of the hill sides changes and they are clothed with forest. The appearance the Udaigiri hills present is similar to that of the Bellary grass hills, to such an extent has the clearing been carried, but it is satisfactory to know that the state of things is over a comparatively circumscribed area.

17. This completes my account of the forests of the Maliah country which I visited. As the Collector pointed out, I was able to see the Rushikulya basin and the most denuded part of the Udaigiri mutta; these being declared to be the tracts where intervention of Government might be expedient.

18. Regarding the rest of the Maliahs it is, I believe, conceded that no denudation is known to exist, but it would be hazardous to make any general proposals regarding action to be taken without having a more accurate account of the state of things that exist throughout the various areas and I would strongly advocate my being permitted to depute a supernumerary officer to traverse the whole country and record the state of the forests in each of the various river basins much in the same way as I have done in the Rushikulya and Udaigiri portions. Such a task would be a useful experience to a young trained officer, nor do I think he would find it difficult to carry out if he secured the assistance of the Assistant Agent and police officer while the Deputy Tahsildars might arrange their tours to accompany him. This deputation of an officer will be referred to in a separate communication.

19. Unless the report which such an officer would make were to show that denudation such as at Udaigiri had spread generally over any considerable section of the Maliah country I would not propose that we should interfere at all with the use of the plateau forest by the Khonds, seeing that it is ruled that except for climatic reasons interference would be impolitic. The denudation of Udaigiri is

regrettable, and were it in the Rushikulya basin it might have to be seriously considered. The topographical position of the Udaigiri hills does not, however, render the question of their being wooded one of paramount importance, but I can understand the extension of such denudation if it became general would call for interference, so that while advocating a policy of present inactivity I would suggest the keeping of a watchful eye upon the extension of hill cultivation and secure periodical reports from the Deputy Tahsildars on the subject for each village or mutta where any denudation is suspected.

20. The District Forest Officer of Ganjam might also arrange to visit any particular tracts each season, and would, in a very few years, be able to state definitely not only where denudation has progressed but could point with accuracy to the causes of it and propose remedies which it would be at present mere presumption and guess work for us with our limited knowledge to suggest.

21. It has also been declared that intervention for the protection of timber for export is also impolitic. On this point, I would mention that the timber met with on the plateau is, on the whole, small; that from all accounts the export of timber is "nil," and though it is known that large trees are to be found on the Goomsur slopes and contractors are hopeful of getting the logs out yet it is certain that if means of export do exist, it would not pay to take down the small Maliah produce in such quantities as to hasten denudation while the collection of seigniorage on produce coming below ghâts together with transit rules would prevent sudden and extraordinary removal.

22. It follows therefore that the proposals I would make are not intended to deal with the Maliahs generally but merely as an experiment to bring back under forest portions at least of the Udaigiri hills now bare of all growth and this through the intervention of the Khonds and other inhabitants themselves or at any rate without raising directly the question of ownership of forest land. From inquiry made through Mr. Sanjeeva Row Naidu, the Deputy Tahsildar at Udaigiri, I understand that this clearance of the country is due to a combination of civilising influences introduced from below following the construction of the high road. The population in the immediate neighbourhood of the roads is more mixed, Ooriyas and Panos having immigrated from the plains. Cultivation has necessarily increased and the hill sides have been subjected to a shorter rotation being resorted to for fresh cropping after a few years instead of being left fallow for a generation.

23. The ownership of the lands has also passed away from Khonds in many instances and now rests with Panos and Ooriyas who are gradually increasing, the Khonds themselves becoming fewer in this particular neighbourhood. This is an important point for consideration for, though it may be politically expedient to leave the Khond lands untaxed so long as they are held by Khonds, it does not necessarily follow that the same forbearance need be shown to settlers from below, and it may be a convenient form of asserting the right of Government to proclaim that lands transferred from Khonds shall be subject to assessment of revenue and that such transfer must be registered. It will not be necessary to at once fix rates of assessment, for the mere proclamation of such a notice as I describe will be a bar to the immigration of designing contractors and capitalists anxious to secure for themselves the rights and privileges now held by Khonds.

24. To effect any good in the way of protection it is evidently necessary to restrict hill clearing within fixed limits and this might be tried in various ways either by preventing it altogether on selected hills or above a certain level on the hills generally but I would not advocate any action which would force the hand of Government in the matter of claim to land ownership so that the purchase of the various selected reservations should not be thought of. For some years, the present Deputy Tahsildar, Mr. Sanjeeva Row, has exerted considerable influence for good in this direction; for, acting with the consent of Mr. Horsfall, he succeeded in inducing village headmen to keep certain areas of hill slopes free from "podu" and it is satisfactory to note that the result has been the re-establishment of a young sál forest which forms a prominent feature in the view from Udaigiri and

allows us to hope that the adjoining bare hills may be similarly clothed. The inhabitants of the mutta, if only they can secure sufficient food grain from cultivation elsewhere, are not bent on continuing this system of exaggerated "podu," for they are alive to the fact that construction wood is becoming a costly luxury and is dear if not dearer than in the plain country of Goomsur. With the immigration of Ooriyas and diminution of Khonds the strange inherent fascination for shifting cultivation is considerably reduced so that while we trace denudation to the advance of civilisation we also discern that it brings with it its own remedy for it induces a concentration of agricultural labour around the village site and a relegation of hill slopes to the supply of fodder and forest produce.

25. I propose therefore that the Deputy Tahsildar be encouraged to indefinitely increase the area protected from clearing on the hill sides of the Udaigiri basin by all means in his power short of purchasing the land or acquiring any title to it. He should continue to secure the intelligent support of the most trusted men of each village and supplement the efforts they make towards protection by rewards in the shape of presents of cloth or wages to village servants who may be employed specially for the purpose.

26. The feasibility of such a scheme I discussed with the Deputy Tahsildar and he is sanguine that much might be done at little cost in the ways indicated provided it were done by an officer who has the confidence of the villagers and is constantly near at hand.

27. From what I saw of Mr. Sanjeeva Row personally and of his success in securing the protection of forest in the past, I am convinced that he is the fittest agent at our disposal for this purpose. It would be worse than useless to attach any forest establishment of the ordinary kind to him for the work and I would leave him a free hand under the Agent's control to take such measures as he thinks fit to further our views and to disburse such forest funds as the Agent, on the advice of the District Forest Officer, may sanction within a fixed budget allotment which while our operations are in an experimental stage need not exceed Rs. 500 per annum.

28. Hand in hand with this direct action it is necessary to push forward the various measures for increasing permanently cultivated areas now being commenced. Wherever possible, tank building should be encouraged so that the grain food necessary for each village may be grown on its permanent fields and a yearly account of the protection afforded might properly find place in the forest administration report submitted by the Collector of Ganjam.

29. I would add that a map is enclosed showing the waterways of the Rushikulya basin and the Udaigiri mutta, also the zemindaries and Agency tracts which form the Goomsur slopes of the Maliahs and are referred to in paras. 6 to 10 of this report as being the areas which we require to take immediate steps to preserve.

Enclosure No. 1.—Map.

Reference on the above, dated 18th May 1892.

Forwarded to the Collector of Ganjam for remarks.

2. The Conservator's further communication referred to at the end of para. 18 is awaited.

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Ag. Secretary.

To the Collector of Ganjam with a map and the Conservator's letter, to be returned.

" Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

Read—the following letter from E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Vizagapatam, 25th May 1892, No. 471:—

Replying to reference on Forest Register No. 787 of 1892, dated 18th May 1892, I have the honour to say that the deputation of an officer for the examination of the Maliah forests will be referred to in a report to be submitted towards the month of August, when, if his services are not otherwise required, I propose to depute Mr. O'Leary on certain special duty in the sál forest of Ganjam and to tour in the Maliahs in the following dry season.

2. It will, however, be gathered from the report I submitted that, however interesting the report on the condition of the Eastern and Southern Maliahs would be, its usefulness is restricted to an assurance that, as generally reported, denudation only exists in the neighbourhood of Udaigiri on the Bengal frontier.

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, through the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated Chatrapur, 12th June 1892, No. 617.

In reply to Board's Reference on Forest Register No. 787 of 1892, dated 18th May 1892, I have the honour to return the map and the Conservator's letter with my remarks.

Enclosure No. 1.

Mr. Hooper, apparently, advises—

1. To take up the slopes, *i.e.*, Pondakhol and Chokapad.

2. To place Rs. 500 per annum at the disposal of the present Udayagiri Deputy Tahsildar for the purpose of expenditure in furthering forest conservation, &c.

3. Deprecates any interference with the Maliahs Proper, where he denies the existence of any denudation such as to cause anxiety.

4. Proposes deputing a junior Forest Officer to examine the forests in detail and report on them.

5. He is of opinion that denudation to a mischievous extent need not be feared from "kondapodu" cultivation, and that the export of timber from the Maliahs will not pay for many years to come at least.

6. I am very glad to learn that his professional eye finds less cause for anxiety than Mr. Horsfall and myself. The worst denudation seen by me in the Rushikuliya basin was on the slopes, seen from Chodakia (called Sodaka by Mr. Hooper, in para. 12). This is in Pondakhol, and his proposals will provide for the reservation of a sufficient area in that tract. I cannot, however, agree with him that some forest reservation in the Maliahs Proper is not advisable. I very much regret that circumstances did not admit of my accompanying Mr. Hooper on this trip, as I might then have been able to bring him to a different opinion on this point.

7. We are in fact hardly advanced at all by this report.

8. As far as the formation of reserves on the slopes of Pondakhol and Chokapad is concerned, I am quite in accord with Mr. Hooper, and I agree with him also that as long as Sanjivi Naidu remains Deputy Tahsildar of Udayagiri, he, with a small pecuniary grant, will be able to do a great deal in the way of conservancy. But Sanjivi Naidu is in this particular way a very exceptional Deputy Tahsildar, and what his personal interest and influence can effect is not to be expected of an average successor.

9. I do not think much is to be expected from the deputation of a junior officer for a sort of forest survey unless it is to be followed by reservation of selected areas. It seems to me rather a way of postponing a decision, than a practical suggestion. I very much doubt also whether any officer could be spared for the work.

10. I adhere to my opinion as to the advisability of introducing the Forest Act into the Agency in general with a set of simple rules, so as to admit of action being taken when considered advisable, and gradually feeling our way.

Read—the following G.O., dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, Revenue :—

Read—Board's Proceedings, dated 10th August 1891, Forest No. 354 :—

Abstract.—Recommending to Government that the forests in the Ganjam Agency Tracts should be declared to be State property, and that steps should be taken to introduce Forest Act into them, and requesting the Collector and Conservator to submit a detailed report as to the extent of areas to be taken up, &c.

Order—dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, Revenue.

Forest No. 27.

The correspondence read above relates to the question of forest reservation in the Maliahs or hill tracts of the Ganjam district, a subject which has, for some years past, engaged the attention of Government. In arriving at a decision in the matter, three points have to be considered—

(*a*) to whom do the forests in the Maliahs belong ;
(*b*) what degree of protection is required ;
(*c*) in what way can this protection be most easily afforded.

2. So far as the zemindari forests are concerned, it may be stated at once that the Government neither possesses nor claims any ownership in such of the forests as are included within the limits of estates by the terms of the sanads granted. The Pedda Kimedi and Bodogoda Maliahs, some portions of which Mr. Johnson proposes to place under reservation, come under this category, and Government cannot in their case interfere in the interests of forest conservancy, except by acquiring the rights of the zemindars in such areas as it may be found expedient to bring under control.

3. The question of the ownership of the forests in the non-zemindari tracts is, however, a more difficult one, and has, as the Board points out, given rise to much discussion and conflict of opinion between the different officers who have at various times dealt with it. His Excellency the Governor in Council, after a careful consideration of all the papers on the subject, is of opinion that the forests in question are the property of the State, and that the Khonds have no *legal right* of possession or ownership in them. Whatever *privileges* they may have hitherto exercised in the forests, the Government is fully justified in curtailing them in the interests of the people generally, and the only reason why it has not done so before is that there was no necessity to interfere, because the question of the protection of forests from denudation had not assumed the importance which it has now done. The Government has, in former times, interfered with the practices of the Khonds in the interests of humanity by putting down human sacrifice, and as the wholesale destruction of the Maliah forests is fraught with danger to the rest of the country, it is plainly warranted in interfering and preventing the same ; it has, in fact, already so interfered by prohibiting in G.O., dated 25th January 1886, No. 56, the felling of timber for sale in certain portions of the Goomsur, Suradá and Chinna Kimedi Maliahs.

4. While, however, declaring that the forests in the non-zemindari tracts of the Ganjam district are the property of the State, and that it is open to Government, acting in the interests of the whole community, to place what restrictions it may consider necessary on the privileges hitherto exercised in them by the Khonds, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that it would be both equitable and politic to treat the Khonds with the utmost consideration—equitable, because they have been in unrestricted enjoyment of the forests from time immemorial and it would, therefore, be an extremely harsh measure to deprive them suddenly of the privileges which they have so long enjoyed—and politic, because the excitable character of the Khonds themselves and the strong natural position which they occupy renders it necessary for Government, in the interests of the public tranquillity, to proceed with caution and to conciliate them by every means in its power. If any equivalent for the withdrawal or curtailment of the privileges which these tribes have hitherto enjoyed on sufferance can be devised, the Governor in Council will gladly grant it. The question will be further adverted to below.

5. As to the degree of protection required by the Maliah forests and the way in which this protection should be afforded, the Government is of opinion that all that is needed in the way of protection, at any rate for the present, is the prohibition of felling for sale and the restriction of kondapodu. As the Board points out in paragraph 10 of its Proceedings, dated 10th August 1891, No. 354, read above, it is by no means necessary that the whole of the Maliahs should be taken in hand at once and protective measures should, in the opinion of Government, be confined for the present to the eastern slopes of the hills and to tracts in the vicinity of the head waters of the Rushikulya and other rivers of importance. In the more inaccessible tracts in the western parts no restrictions of kondapodu are called for. The Government does not desire to prevent the Khonds anywhere from hunting (including the burning of grass annually for the purpose of capturing game), grazing cattle, collecting forest produce and supplying their domestic needs from the forests as they have hitherto done. The felling of timber *for sale* should be prohibited throughout, but the complete stoppage of kondapodu would be an extreme measure calculated to arouse violent opposition, and it is only in the vicinity of the head waters of important rivers and streams that the practice should be absolutely prohibited.

6. In regard to the way in which protection is to be afforded, the Government is strongly opposed to the introduction of the Forest Act or of any of its provisions into the Maliahs ; the simple protective measures which are required can easily be carried out by the Agency officers by means of executive orders and the Government desires the Agent to submit detailed proposals for prohibiting felling for sale and restricting kondapodu in the manner and to the extent above indicated.

7. It should be possible to acquire similar control over the zemindari forests by means of negotiations with the zemindars ; failing negotiations, the zemindari forests, in which protection is necessary, will have to be taken up under the Land Acquisition Act. This question should be dealt with separately by the Agent in the report above called for.

8. The equity and policy of giving some equivalent to the Khonds for the loss of their customary privileges in the forests has been dwelt upon in a previous portion of this Proceedings. It is difficult to decide what concessions will be best calculated to reconcile the Khonds to the altered state of affairs which it is proposed to introduce; the Agent in pargrapah 12 of his letter, dated 17th February 1891, C. No. 114, read in this Proceedings, suggests the construction of irrigation tanks for the benefit of the Khonds in the Daringabadi and Grenobadi muttahs, and in paragraph 23 of the same letter he advocates the payment of fixed sums yearly to the headmen of villages and muttahs in return for their protecting the forests. The Government believes that this method is likely to prove the most efficacious and desires the Agent to submit definite proposals on the point after communicating with the Khonds in those cases only where restrictive action has to be taken. The Government looks to Mr. Johnson to use all possible tact and caution in dealing with this delicate matter ; in explaining to the Khonds in the above cases the decision of Government regarding the ownership of the forests, he should make them distinctly understand that the forests are the property of Government and that Government intends to protect them, and he should at the same time point out to them that if they loyally accept the decision of Government, His Excellency the Governor in Council will endeavour to make to them suitable concessions in lieu of any privileges of which they may be deprived and trusts that they will meet Government halfway and assist the Agency officers in preserving the forests. His Excellency the Governor in Council hopes that the Agent will succeed in arriving at a mutual understanding with the Khonds and in effecting a peaceful solution of a difficult question.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.

Read—the following extract from Conservator's Inspection Note, on the Ganjam district, dated 13th May 1892.

* * * * *

19. This work (demarcation) is most urgent along the boundary of our forests on the ridge of the main ghâts where it follows the Maliah boundary, for the hill men are doing their best to devastate our slopes from above and this local authority is powerless apparently to prevent so long as the Agency tracts remain without delimitation on the ground though the tracts are protected by the provisions of the Forest Act which deal with areas under settlement and it is understood that the Khonds, as a race, do not assert their rights to deal with the produce of these particular forests. In a separate report I have, in dealing with the Maliah forests, made a proposal that the ridge line be demarcated after full inquiry by the Special Assistant Agent, but whatever officer is deputed, the work should be put in hand without delay, for the interests at stake are large and not to be confounded with the other matters connected with the Maliahs which it may be advisable to postpone for further consideration. The effect of such demarcation will be threefold: it will keep the Khonds within their bounds, it will define accurately the Goomsur taluk, and, finally, it will give us a definite boundary for the Baibally and Derpangia reserves without which we can take no real measures for their conservation. The officer conducting the delimitation should also mark out the limit of the plateau to the south of the Korada boundary, where contiguous to and following the Pondakhol Agency tract now about to be brought under the Forest Act, and again to the north of the Darpangia reserve it will be expedient to separate off in like manner the Chokapad Agency forest from the Maliah limits.

The Bengal boundary which separates Goomsur from the Daspala and Nyaginli zemindaries has been already marked and a line is kept clear throughout and thus the chief Goomsur reserves are clearly demarcated where on the edge of the taluk in this direction.

* * * * *

Resolution—dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 213.

With the first paper read above Mr. Hooper, late Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, submits the report on the reservation of the forests in the Ganjam Agency tracts, called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 10th August 1891, Forest No. 354, in which the Board, while recommending to Government the declaration of these forests as State property, except where Government has transferred its right to a zamindar, and the introduction of the Forest Act into the Agency tracts, requested Mr. Hooper to inspect the locality and to submit, in consultation with the Collector, a detailed report as to the extent of the areas to be taken up for protection, the rules to be framed under the Act, and the concessions or compensations to be paid to the local tribes.

2. The Government (G.O., No. 57, dated 21st January 1893) has passed orders on Board's proposals in the last paper read above, which will now be communicated to the Collector and Agent to the Governor in Ganjam, for information and guidance.

3. The Government having negatived the proposal to introduce the Forest Act into the Maliahs, it becomes unnecessary to discuss the portion of Mr. Hooper's report which deals with that question and the Collector's remarks thereon. Nor is it necessary now to consider the question of deputing a special officer for the further inspection of the Agency tracts, as proposed by the Conservator.

4. Mr. Hooper has not inspected the whole of the Agency tracts. He confined himself to a very close examination of the Darinjibadi and Udayagiri plateau and the country supplying the Rushikulya river, where alone denudation to any appreciable extent was said to be going on. The conclusions arrived at by Mr. Hooper are briefly:—

(*a*) That the denudation of forests is not general in the Maliahs, nor does it appear to any appreciable extent in the Rushikulya basin.

(*b*) That the destruction of forests is confined to the hills in the Udayagiri plateau and to the eastern slopes of the Maliah country.

(*c*) That, unless the inspection of the remaining parts of the Agency by the special officer proposed by him to be deputed for the purpose discloses reasons to the contrary, no interference with the use of the plateau forest by the Khonds is called for.

(*d*) That the clearance of the Udayagiri hills is not a matter of climatic importance, but that it is nevertheless desirable to restrict hill cultivation in those parts, which can be best done through the personal influence of the present Deputy Tahsildar, who should be instructed to exert himself in this direction, using all means in his power short of purchasing the land or acquiring any title to it.

(*e*) That the conservation of the eastern slopes of the Maliahs. including the Pondakhol and Chokapad muttas and the Korada zamindari, should be taken up and that the demarcation of the plateau edge should be carried out with the least possible delay.

(*f*) That Government intervention for the protection of timber is not called for, inasmuch as the removal of Maliah produce on any extensive scale is not profitable, and sufficient check can be provided by transit rules and the collection of seigniorage on produce coming below the ghâts.

5. Mr. Hooper's report thus shows that, except around Udayagiri and on the eastern slopes of the Maliahs, there is ample time for a *festina lente* policy in the Agency tracts of the district.

6. In the G.O. read above, the Government directs that protective measures should be confined, for the present, to the eastern slopes of the hills and to tracts in the vicinity of the head waters of the Rushikulya and other rivers of importance; that all that is needed in the way of protection, at any rate for the present, is the prohibition of felling for *sale* throughout the tracts, and the restriction of *konda-podu* in the vicinity of the head waters of important rivers and streams; and that the Agent should submit detailed proposals in order to secure these ends. He is further to discuss the best means of obtaining similar control over the zamindari forests, and to submit proposals for the payment of subsidies to the headmen of villages and muttas to ensure their protection of those forests in which restrictive measures, as above set forth, are to be taken. The present Agent, having himself been for some years a Forest officer, will, it is hoped, be able to submit a clear and satisfactory report upon these points.

7. In submitting the proposals called for by Government, the Agent will give due weight to the facts and arguments advanced by Mr. Hooper in his report read above. His attention is also drawn to Mr. Hooper's remarks in para. 23 of the report in regard to the alleged alienation of lands by Khonds in favour of Pano and Uriya settlers from the low country.

8. Both the Conservator and the Collector urge* the importance of the immediate demarcation of the boundary line between the scheduled and the ordinary tracts in the Ganjam district. The Board concurs in their views and resolves to request Government to appoint the Special Assistant Agent in Ganjam, under section 8, Act XIV. of 1874, to carry out this work.

* Para. 19 of the inspection report reviewed in Board's Proceedings dated 17th February 1893, No. 112.

9. The special attention of the Agent is drawn to the remarks and instructions in para. 8 of G.O., dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, as to the tact and care to be observed in communicating its orders to the Khonds and showing them that these will not be detrimental to their interests.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. S. MEYER,
Ag. Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with a map (to be returned).
" Collector and Agent to the Governor, Ganjam.
" Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1893.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Printed April, 11th.

Proceedings, 22nd March 1893, *Forest No.* 213.

Communicating to the Agent to the Governor in Ganjam G.O. passing orders on the question of the alleged rights of Khonds over the Maliah forests; requesting him to submit the detailed proposals called for by Government, after duly considering the suggestions in Mr. Hooper's report on the reservation of the Maliahs, and requesting the Government to appoint the Special Assistant Agent, under Act XIV. of 1874, to demarcate the boundary between the Agency and the ordinary tracts in Ganjam.

1893
Jud. Dept.
Enclos. No. 1
to
G.O. No. 1924

Confidential

F 17 1,000—8-3-93.

05

ENCLOSURE NO 1924

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read Proceedings of the (Copy attached) Board of Revenue, Land Revenue, dated 22nd March 1893 Forest No: 213.

Order thereon: 1st May 1893 No: 1697.

The Government agrees with the Board in the view expressed in para. 8 of its Proceedings read above regarding the advisability of the immediate demarcation of the boundary line between the Scheduled and the ordinary tracts of the Ganjam district. Orders on the proposal to appoint the Special Assistant agent to carry out the work in question will be passed in the Judicial Department.

True Extract

Secretary to Government

To.

The Commissioner of Land Revenue.

with map returned

Judicial Department.

Confidential

Govt. of {1893} Madras.

REVENUE.

1924

To

The Judicial Department

CONFIDENTIAL. No. 73

CHIEF SECRETARY 2 MAY 93 GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Dated }

Encl. one

Recd. 2 }
Regd 3 } May

Mis. G.O., 1st May 1893, No. 1597

SUBJECT.

Concurring in the Board's view as to the advisability of the immediate demarcation of the boundary line between the Scheduled and the ordinary tracts of the Ganjam Dt. and stating that orders on the proposal to appoint the special assistant agent to carry out the work in question will be passed in the Judicial Department.

[5]

Papers to be read in Proceedings :— Judl. DEPARTMENT,

Again G.O., dated 18 , No.

Again G.O., dated 18 , No.

Current No. 1924 of 1893, dated 1st May from Rev. Deptt

Current No. of 18 , dated from

Order 12th May 1893 No. 986

Under the provisions of section 8, Act XIV of 1874 (The Scheduled Districts Act, 1874) H.E. the Govr in Council is pleased to appoint the Special Asstt. to the Agent to the Governor, Ganjam, to carry out the demarcation of the boundary line between the Scheduled and ordinary tracts in the Ganjam Dt.

Ms 11 May

2. In accordance with clause 2 of the same section, the order made by the Spl. Asstt. ~~to the~~ Agent should be submitted to Govt. for confirmation

H. 9 May.

J.H. 10/5/93

Revenue Deptt.
Agent to the Govr., Ganjam
Acctt. Genl.

D

Demarcation of Hill Tracts, Ganjam

6/5

Read again Order of Government, dated
189 , No.

Enclosures.

Current No.

Statement with ditto.

Order, &c., of Government—A.

Papers kept out of File for despatch in original
(not paged.)

Number of copies required. { Order complete.
Letter only.
Order complete with Letter.

N.B.—
A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.
R = Print, but not for monthly volume.

Back Paper, No. Con. 28 of 1898.

Further Paper, No. R 1330
20-12-93
G.O. 97 894

Spare copies.

Struck .. .. ..
Issued .. .. ..

Total ..

In Stock ..

[7]

Confidential No. 70
1893.

Judicial Department.
G.O., dated 12-5-93.
No. 936
Series. Mis.

Confidential.

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Appointing the Spl. Asstt: Agent, Ganjam to carry out the demarcation of the boundary line between the Scheduled and ordinary tracts in the Ganjam dt