CONFIDENTIAL.

[7]

Confidential No. 52 A
1895.

Jud.l Department.

G.O., dated 22 April 1895

No. 820

Series. Mis

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forest Conservancy. Requesting sanction of the Govt of India to extend the Madras Forest Act, 1882 to the Pondakkal-Mutha situated in the Tusada Mahals, one of the Scheduled Districts in Ganjam.

Confidential.

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
189 , No.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER, &c., OF GOVERNMENT—A.

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Draft letter to India

To issue in Judicial

Issued 20-11-95

1895
Jud Dept.
Encls. No. 1
To
C. No. 1948

Madras Act V of 1882 into the Pondakhol Mutta. I am to add that if the Act is introduced, its provisions will be worked with the utmost care and caution.

LP 6/3/95 LL 25/2.

Draft Notif^n

In exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sec. 5 of the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874, the Govr of Fort St. George in Council, with the previous sanction of the Govr-General in Council, hereby extends ~~to the provisions~~ the Madras Forest Act, 1882, to the Pondakhol Mutta situated in the Surada Maliahs being one of the Scheduled Districts in Ganjam.

LP 6/3/95 LL 9/3.

Krishna Rao

This letter is not to issue until the Agent replies to the inference of the Sup. of Ld. Ld. about Pondakhol.

Noted. 6/3/95

20/3

U/S

Rushikulya river and that all the Officers concerned are agreed in ~~con~~ considering that the only course of effectually protecting the forests is to introduce the Forest Act into the Muttah, to reserve selected blocks and to place these under the control of the Forest Dept. Mr C.J. Weir, the Agent to the Governor, thinks that the proposed action may possibly lead to ~~a~~ disturbance, but I am to say ~~that~~ H.E. the Governor in Council agrees with ~~that Officer in his view~~ ~~that~~ the protection of the sources of the Rushikulya water supply being of vital importance Mr Weir in ~~considering~~ the opinion that the risk, if any, should be faced in consideration of the objects in view.

3. I am in these circumstances to request that the Govt of India will be pleased to accord their sanction under the provisions of sec 5, Act XIV of 1874 (the Scheduled Districts Act) to the issue of the draft notif^n hereto appended. ~~to the introduction of the Madras~~

Judicial Dept

Letter dt 22 April 95, No. 820 to: Secy to the Govt. of India Revd & Agri Dept.

Dept 24/4

Sir,

I am directed to forward for the information of the Govt of India a copy of the marginally noted Props of this Govt passing orders on certain proposals regarding the management of the Maliah forests situated in the Agency tracts of the Ganjam district.

2. I am to (specially) invite your attention to paras 5 and 6 of the ~~above~~ Props where the question of the Pondakhol ~~Muttah~~ conservancy of the Pondakhol Muttah is discussed. It will be seen therefrom that the Muttah, tho' situated in the Agency tracts, does not ~~form~~ part of the "Maliahs" proper, that the water received from the Muttah forests "constitutes by far the largest part of the total supply" received into the

Rushikulya

Go 171 Rev 21.3.95

JG 15/3

No 1573/95

No. CURRENT No. 1948
CONFIDENTIAL. No. 131

Govt. of {1895} Madras.

REVENUE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Issued

Recd. 19 / Reg. 20 } April 1895. Encl

G.O., 21st March 1895. No. 171.

MARCH.

Forest Conservancy.

Passing orders on papers relating to the — of the Ganjám Maliahs.

says, "fifteen years or at the outside twenty will see the complete destruction of these forests," and he adds that "from a forest point of view intervention on behalf of Government is more urgently called for above ghâts than in the muttas below." On the other hand there is the evidence of Mr. Hooper, a Forest-officer senior to Mr. Battie. In January 1892, Mr. Hooper, who was then acting as Conservator, Northern Circle, made a tour through the Maliahs for the special purpose of ascertaining the conditions of the forest growth, more especially round the head-waters of the Rushikulya, and his report, recorded in G.O., No. 1597, dated 1st May 1893, gives a very different account of the state of affairs. "Speaking generally," Mr. Hooper says "the villages in the Rushikulya basin to the south and west of Daringabadi are few, and denudation is not going on. In the main basin of the Rushikulya, forest seems to be asserting itself over cultivation." Going northwards to Udayagiri, Mr. Hooper found that denudation was proceeding very rapidly in places, but he noted that the Deputy Tahsildar of that place had contrived to arrest the progress of the destruction to some extent. "Regarding the rest of the Maliahs," he added, "it is, I believe, conceded that no denudation exists." Mr. Hooper's tour took him through the very heart of the country in which Mr. Battie asserts that all the forest is being completely destroyed, and the latter officer directly challenges the accuracy of Mr. Hooper's descriptions. It is observed that Mr. Weir in the main supports Mr. Hooper's views in so far as they relate to the neighbourhood of Daringabadi, for he reports that, although a good deal of shifting cultivation (*podu*) has been carried on during recent years, the Rushikulya basin is in the main well wooded. In the Goomsur Maliahs about Udayagiri, it appears to be true that the forests have been almost completely cut down, but this tract lies outside the catchment basins of the big rivers, and its conservation is not therefore of much importance. Reviewing the whole position, the Government is inclined to accept Mr. Hooper's views, but the matter should continue to engage the careful attention of the Agent and his Assistants and should be noticed in their annual reports.

10. *Proposals Nos. (5) and (6).*—It only remains to consider the question of the zamindari Maliah forests. Mr. Weir's suggestions on this subject are clearly detailed in paragraphs 5 to 8 of his report and practically amount to a recommendation that nothing should be done at present. The acquisition of any forests for Government is not suggested, and beyond lending the services of some Forest-officers to the estates under the Court of Wards no action is proposed. The Government does not consider that there is any necessity for acquiring these zamindari forests for climatic reasons, and the Agent's proposals are approved. In this connection it is observed that the road from Berhampur to Digupudi, which was undertaken as a famine work in 1889, runs on towards Mohana in the Bodogodo Maliahs which it reaches by the Taptapani ghât. There has been a great deal of correspondence about this road of recent years and it was remarked in G.O., No. 2089, Judicial, dated 29th August 1894, that the Agent would have done well to give some particulars of its present condition. It appears that the road is not as yet passable for carts, but, when it is opened, a new line for the export of timber will have been provided, and some measures of conservancy may be required in the Bodogodo and Chinnakimedi Maliahs.

11. As regards the Parlákimedi Maliahs no action can be taken pending the decision of the civil suit, of which the zamindar has given notice.

(True Extract.)

F. Forbes

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" Judicial Department, with draft letter.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

40 Copies.

3. *Proposal No.* (2) relates to the Chokapad mutta. A tax of 6 annas is here being levied on every acre of "kondapodu" or shifting cultivation and has apparently had the desired effect, for all officers agree in reporting that the forests in this mutta are not being destroyed. In some parts indeed the growth is said to be good, and the District Forest-officer, Mr. Battie, declares that "even if matters continue as at present, there can be no injurious effect on the water-supply of the Mahánadi." The Collector is not, however, in favour of maintaining the present arrangements, on the ground that the forest is valuable and should not be left at the mercy of any Khond who chooses to pay the tax of 6 annas *per acre*. Mr. Weir would accordingly raise the rate to Rs. 2 *per acre* in selected areas, leaving at the same time an extensive margin for free cultivation. The Conservator, Mr. Peet, on the other hand is inclined to maintain the present system, while the Board of Revenue is apparently prepared to support the Collector.

The above remarks apply to the south-eastern portion of the mutta, which contains the head-waters of the Mahánadi. In the northern portion no change in the existing practice is proposed, as the country is well wooded and moreover lies beyond the water-shed of the Mahánadi. It is clear that the Collector has not over-estimated the importance of the Chokapad forests for, as pointed out by the Board of Revenue, they are now being extensively utilized for the supply of sleepers to the East Coast Railway. From the Agent's report read in G.O., No 2089, Judicial, dated 29th August 1894, it appears that a sum of Rs. 63,750 has been realized under this head and credited to forest revenue; but the Government does not consider that there is any immediate necessity for taking action in the direction indicated by Mr. Weir. The rate of 6 annas now levied on cultivation is undoubtedly low, but, as it appears to be sufficient to protect the forests from wanton destruction, no higher rate is required. The Conservator argues that the natural increase of population will soon tend to break down this artificial safeguard, and adds that the Khonds are a prolific race. This last assertion is not supported by the census returns which show that the total increase in the Khond population in the Ganjám district during the decade prior to 1891 was less than 7 per cent., and taking into consideration the improved methods of registration, it cannot be said that these figures give any cause for alarm. The Collector and Agent should, however, watch the course of events in this mutta very carefully and should again submit, for the orders of Government, the question of imposing further restrictions on the hill cultivation if he considers that such action is called for. There is no necessity to extend the provisions of the Forest Act to Chokapad, at any rate at present.

4. *Proposal No.* (3).—As regards the conservation of the Pondakhol mutta the questions involved are of considerable difficulty. This area lies within the Agency limits but is below the ghâts, and although it contains a number of Khond villages it cannot be said to be included in the real Maliah country. This fact was noticed by Mr. Hooper in his report read in G.O., No. 1597, dated 1st May 1893, and he urged that the reasons for non-interference in tracts populated with hill tribes did not apply to Pondakhol. In G.O., No. 57, dated 21st January 1893, the Government expressed itself as "strongly opposed to the introduction of the Forest Act or any of its provisions into the Maliahs," and His Excellency the Governor in Council sees no reason to depart from this general conclusion now; but circumstances require that the forests of the Pondakhol mutta should be preserved from the inroads of neighbouring landowners and of the Khonds living above the ghâts, as well as from the destructive practice of shifting cultivation (*podu*) carried on by the Khonds within the mutta. The Rushikulya rises in the country above the ghâts, but in passing through Pondakhol it receives numerous tributary streams and, in the opinion of Mr. Weir, "the water from these sources constitutes by far the largest part of the total supply." The protection of the mutta forests is therefore of vital importance from a climatic point of view. The tract is, moreover, accessible to people from the low country, and timber can be exported either through the surrounding zamindaris or by the district road to Suradá and Aska. The drain upon the Pondakhol forests seems to be greatest on the side of the Korada and Ronaba estates, where nearly all the timber is stated to have been sold or destroyed, while the little growth, still remaining, was said by Mr. Johnson in 1891 to serve only as "a cloak for fraud on Government forest." The cutting of timber for export was prohibited in G.O., No. 56, dated 25th

January 1886, but in 1888 Mr. Peet, the Conservator, reported in an inspection memorandum that, in company with the District Forest-officer, he had confiscated 925 logs of timber which had been cut and stored in three depôts, and there was ample evidence that a systematic export trade was being conducted (G.O., No. 4778, dated 13th August 1888).

5. Mr. Weir now proposes to introduce the Forest Act into Pondakhol, and "as a necessary consequence to demarcate and separate this mutta off from the rest of the Maliahs." A long succession of District officers have recommended the same step, and Mr. Weir's proposal has the support of the Conservator and the Board. Mr. Weir admits that his proposed action may lead to a disturbance, but considers that the risk of this should be faced in consideration of the objects in view. After careful deliberation, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to accept Mr. Weir's proposal and the Government of India will accordingly be requested in the Judicial Department to sanction the extension of the Forest Act to the Pondakhol mutta.

6. It has already been impressed upon the District officers that the treatment of these areas demands the utmost caution, but the Government now desires to reiterate this warning. Hill tribes are, in every country, jealous of privileges which the use of many years has rendered almost essential to their welfare and are prone to resent any infringement of what they not unnaturally deem to be their rights. The initial steps towards the conservancy of hill forests are difficult, as being the most likely to lead to agitation and resistance. In regard to Pondakhol action must only be taken after very careful consideration and all measures should be worked out in consultation with the Agency officers, due care being taken to set apart a suitable amount of land for free cultivation, immediately adjoining the villages now existing in the mutta. The demarcation of the boundary between Pondakhol and the Maliah country above ghâts should be undertaken at once as ordered in paragraph 2 *supra*. When the Government of India shall have sanctioned the introduction of the Forest Act, the mutta can then be treated in the same manner as the neighbouring taluk of Goomsur, subject to the remarks recorded above.

7. *Proposal No.* (4)—*Daringabadi plateau.*—The Collector's report then turns to the country above the line of ghâts and deals first with the Daringabadi plateau. The forests in this area cover the head-waters of the Rushikulya, but, as already stated, the most important portion of the catchment basin is below the ghâts in the Pondakhol mutta. The protection of the latter tract is therefore of far greater consequence, and, in view of the facts that the higher plateau is well wooded, that the forests are not being rapidly destroyed and that export is impracticable owing to the difficult nature of the country, Mr. Weir does not recommend any protective measures for the present. Moreover, it would be exceedingly hazardous to enforce any restrictions in these parts, where the Khonds are reported to be "the most turbulent in the Maliahs." It is suggested in the report that protection might be obtained by a system of rewards to be granted to the headmen of the villages in consideration of the Khonds refraining from their usual practice of shifting cultivation (*podu*), but both the Board of Revenue and the Conservator acquiesce in the Collector's recommendation that no active steps at all should be taken, and in this conclusion the Government concurs. The Agency officers should, however, watch the forests on the plateau most carefully during the next few years and should notice the matter in their annual reports.

8. *Proposal No.* (7).—The above remarks apply with some modifications to the forests on the rest of the Government Maliahs, and His Excellency the Governor in Council agrees with Mr. Weir in considering that no immediate action is called for. Endeavours may indeed be made to induce the Khonds to preserve the tree growth in certain areas, but all overtures of this nature must be made with the greatest caution and must be left entirely in the hands of the Agency officers.

9. Before leaving this portion of the report, it is necessary to notice the condition of the forests in the tract under discussion. The evidence at present before the Government is conflicting. The District Forest-officer, Mr. Battie, declares (and Mr. Peet, the Conservator, apparently endorses the statement) that in the country which lies between the Baliguda-Daringabadi road and the Goomsur boundary it is merely a question of time for denudation to be complete. "In my opinion," Mr. Battie

says, "fifteen years or at the outside twenty will see the complete destruction of these forests," and he adds that "from a forest point of view intervention on behalf of Government is more urgently called for above ghâts than in the muttas below." On the other hand there is the evidence of Mr. Hooper, a Forest-officer senior to Mr. Battie. In January 1892, Mr. Hooper, who was then acting as Conservator, Northern Circle, made a tour through the Maliahs for the special purpose of ascertaining the conditions of the forest growth, more especially round the head-waters of the Rushikulya, and his report, recorded in G.O., No. 1597, dated 1st May 1893, gives a very different account of the state of affairs. "Speaking generally," Mr. Hooper says "the villages in the Rushikulya basin to the south and west of Daringabadi are few, and denudation is not going on. In the main basin of the Rushikulya, forest seems to be asserting itself over cultivation." Going northwards to Udayagiri, Mr. Hooper found that denudation was proceeding very rapidly in places, but he noted that the Deputy Tahsildar of that place had contrived to arrest the progress of the destruction to some extent. "Regarding the rest of the Maliahs," he added, "it is, I believe, conceded that no denudation exists." Mr. Hooper's tour took him through the very heart of the country in which Mr. Battie asserts that all the forest is being completely destroyed, and the latter officer directly challenges the accuracy of Mr. Hooper's descriptions. It is observed that Mr. Weir in the main supports Mr. Hooper's views in so far as they relate to the neighbourhood of Daringabadi, for he reports that, although a good deal of shifting cultivation (*podu*) has been carried on during recent years, the Rushikulya basin is in the main well wooded. In the Goomsur Maliahs about Udayagiri, it appears to be true that the forests have been almost completely cut down, but this tract lies outside the catchment basins of the big rivers, and its conservation is not therefore of much importance. Reviewing the whole position, the Government is inclined to accept Mr. Hooper's views, but the matter should continue to engage the careful attention of the Agent and his Assistants and should be noticed in their annual reports.

10. *Proposals Nos.* (5) *and* (6).—It only remains to consider the question of the zamindari Maliah forests. Mr. Weir's suggestions on this subject are clearly detailed in paragraphs 5 to 8 of his report and practically amount to a recommendation that nothing should be done at present. The acquisition of any forests for Government is not suggested, and beyond lending the services of some Forest-officers to the estates under the Court of Wards no action is proposed. The Government does not consider that there is any necessity for acquiring these zamindari forests for climatic reasons, and the Agent's proposals are approved. In this connection it is observed that the road from Berhampur to Digupudi, which was undertaken as a famine work in 1889, runs on towards Mohana in the Bodogodo Maliahs which it reaches by the Taptapani ghât. There has been a great deal of correspondence about this road of recent years and it was remarked in G.O., No. 2089, Judicial, dated 29th August 1894, that the Agent would have done well to give some particulars of its present condition. It appears that the road is not as yet passable for carts, but, when it is opened, a new line for the export of timber will have been provided, and some measures of conservancy may be required in the Bodogodo and Chinnakimedi Maliahs.

11. As regards the Parlákimedi Maliahs no action can be taken pending the decision of the civil suit, of which the zamindar has given notice.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" Judicial Department, with draft letter.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

40 Copies.

6. The country about the (3) Daringabadi plateau and the water-shed of the Rushikulya river, estimated at about 60 square miles in extent, is inhabited by Khonds of the most turbulent character on the Maliahs and is reached from the low country by one of the most difficult ghâts entirely impassable for carts. It is well wooded with sâl forests at various stages of growth. It is explained that, although the protection of this tract is of some importance to the Rushikulya irrigation scheme, the main sources have been or will be brought under protection, and, as denudation has not advanced to any such extent as to affect the water-supply in the river, no measures of protection need be adopted for some time; the more so, as any attempt at absolute stoppage of "kondapodu" in this area would be followed by the rising of the Khonds, and arrangements for reconciling them by means of money compensation would be of doubtful success. It is also observed that the Khonds are not in need of the irrigation works proposed by Mr. Johnson, as in the little narrow valleys, in which alone they grow paddy, there is always an abundant supply of water. In these circumstances the Agent is strongly of opinion that matters about Daringabadi may be left as they are, at all events for the next few years, care being taken to watch the progress of denudation. He proposes as an alternative, in the event of Government insisting that steps should be taken for reservation, that an attempt may be made to make the Khonds abstain from "podu" in the forests along the river promising in return an annual grant to be paid by the Agent or Special Assistant Agent either to the headman or to the village collectively. The former course seems to the Board to be preferable. It is also noted that there is no fear of timber being exported for sâle from this portion of the Maliahs for years to come.

7. It now remains to consider the question of preserving the zamindari forests. The zamindaris of Ronaba, Korada, Bodogoda and the territory of the hill chief of Kuttingia are all drained by the affluents of the Rushikulya and the protection of the forests in these tracts is reported to be more or less important.

8. As regards Korada and Ronaba the area is not large, and, though the forests therein have, as already stated in paragraph 5 *supra*, been to a large extent destroyed by the owners so far as timber is concerned, it is observed from paragraph 8 of Mr. Hooper's letter disposed of in Government Order, dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, that devastation by podu is not permitted by the zamindars, and the Agent considers it unlikely that denudation will proceed much further. The Agent adds that the state of the forests would not materially affect the water-supply in the rivers and that the advantages to be derived will not justify the large amount of compensation which the acquisition of these forests would involve.

9. The Bodogoda estate forms the water-shed of the Patama river whose drainage area, with its affluents, appears to be mainly in the Maliahs of that estate. It is explained that the conservation of these Bodogoda forests is not of great importance as the water brought down at any time is stored in a reservoir which has been provided with a weir of sufficient size to provide against damage from the heaviest floods. The acquisition of the forests would cost an enormous sum, and, even after purchasing the zamindar's rights, Government would be in the same position as in the Agency tracts, having to compensate the Khonds for abstaining from "podu" cultivation. These remarks apply also to the Kuttingia territory which is drained by the Kuttingia river and about which a report was called for in Government Order, dated 30th January 1893, No. 80, Revenue.

10. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Agent's letter read above, the Board awaits his proposals in regard to the reservation of the portion of the Chinnakimedi (Government) Maliahs coming right down to the plains immediately south of Bodogoda. The question of the forest administration of the Pedda Kimedi and Bodogoda estates, referred to in the remaining portion of that paragraph, will be dealt with in the Court of Wards Branch.

11. The Board approves of the Agent's proposals in paragraph 8 of his letter and the report promised therein is awaited.

12. As regards paragraph 9 of the Agent's letter, it is observed that Government has already passed orders (Government Order, dated 27th April 1894, No. 289) on the subject of the conservancy of the Parlákimedi Maliah forests and it

says, "fifteen years or at the outside twenty will see the complete destruction of these forests," and he adds that "from a forest point of view intervention on behalf of Government is more urgently called for above ghâts than in the muttas below." On the other hand there is the evidence of Mr. Hooper, a Forest-officer senior to Mr. Battie. In January 1892, Mr. Hooper, who was then acting as Conservator, Northern Circle, made a tour through the Maliahs for the special purpose of ascertaining the conditions of the forest growth, more especially round the head-waters of the Rushikulya, and his report, recorded in G.O., No. 1597, dated 1st May 1893, gives a very different account of the state of affairs. "Speaking generally," Mr. Hooper says "the villages in the Rushikulya basin to the south and west of Daringabadi are few, and denudation is not going on. In the main basin of the Rushikulya, forest seems to be asserting itself over cultivation." Going northwards to Udayagiri, Mr. Hooper found that denudation was proceeding very rapidly in places, but he noted that the Deputy Tahsildar of that place had contrived to arrest the progress of the destruction to some extent. "Regarding the rest of the Maliahs," he added, "it is, I believe, conceded that no denudation exists." Mr. Hooper's tour took him through the very heart of the country in which Mr. Battie asserts that all the forest is being completely destroyed, and the latter officer directly challenges the accuracy of Mr. Hooper's descriptions. It is observed that Mr. Weir in the main supports Mr. Hooper's views in so far as they relate to the neighbourhood of Daringabadi, for he reports that, although a good deal of shifting cultivation (*podu*) has been carried on during recent years, the Rushikulya basin is in the main well wooded. In the Goomsur Maliahs about Udayagiri, it appears to be true that the forests have been almost completely cut down, but this tract lies outside the catchment basins of the big rivers, and its conservation is not therefore of much importance. Reviewing the whole position, the Government is inclined to accept Mr. Hooper's views, but the matter should continue to engage the careful attention of the Agent and his Assistants and should be noticed in their annual reports.

10. *Proposals Nos. (5) and (6).*—It only remains to consider the question of the zamindari Maliah forests. Mr. Weir's suggestions on this subject are clearly detailed in paragraphs 5 to 8 of his report and practically amount to a recommendation that nothing should be done at present. The acquisition of any forests for Government is not suggested, and beyond lending the services of some Forest-officers to the estates under the Court of Wards no action is proposed. The Government does not consider that there is any necessity for acquiring these zamindari forests for climatic reasons, and the Agent's proposals are approved. In this connection it is observed that the road from Berhampur to Digupudi, which was undertaken as a famine work in 1889, runs on towards Mohana in the Bodogodo Maliahs which it reaches by the Taptapani ghât. There has been a great deal of correspondence about this road of recent years and it was remarked in G.O., No. 2089, Judicial, dated 29th August 1894, that the Agent would have done well to give some particulars of its present condition. It appears that the road is not as yet passable for carts, but, when it is opened, a new line for the export of timber will have been provided, and some measures of conservancy may be required in the Bodogodo and Chinnakimedi Maliahs.

11. As regards the Parlákimedi Maliahs no action can be taken pending the decision of the civil suit, of which the zamindar has given notice.

(True Extract.)

E. Gibson

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" Judicial Department, with draft letter.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

40 Copies.

About Chokapad I am afraid that restriction in Pondakhol and the natural increase of the population will soon tend to break down the artificial safeguard which the 6-anna assessment has erected against clearing. So soon as no land remains for clearing at a rate cheaper than 6 annas, I believe that this land will be commenced with.

It is, however, such an important matter in this country to get a "mamul" established that it seems to me almost a pity to do away with 6-anna assessment in any part of Chokapad. The part which is to be preserved might be easily preserved by raising the assessment if it be held inadvisable to demarcate reserves.

About Pondakhol I agree in the advisability of introducing the Forest Act.

It seems to me that we should probably have as great difficulties with the inhabitants of zamindari tracts as with those of our own, and that the acquisition of zamindari forests at present is not advisable until our own tracts are settled.

Read—also letter from the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated 28th June 1894, No. 714.

Abstract.—Forwarding Ganjám District Maliah forest map.

Read—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 4th June 1894, Forest No. 732 Mis.:—

Read—the following Government Order, dated 27th April 1894, No. 289, Revenue:—

Read—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 6th February 1894, Forest No. 89.

Abstract.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, report from the Agent to the Governor, Ganjám, containing certain suggestions for the conservancy of the Parlákimedi Maliah forests, and reporting on the petition of Suryanarayana Bissoyi of Gumma, &c., addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy claiming certain right to the forests in his mutta.

Order—dated 27th April 1894, No. 289, Revenue.

Forest No. 106.

The proposals of the Agent to the Governor, as set forth in paragraph 1 of the Proceedings read above, subject to the modifications contained in paragraphs 3 and 5, are sanctioned as a temporary measure pending the introduction of the general scheme for the management of all Maliah forests. The Government, while approving of the principle of the Board's proposal in paragraph 4 that the concession to the Savaras to take what timber they require for local use, free of charge, should be subject to the condition that certain specified kinds of trees should not be felled, a condition that the Government would be glad to extend to free felling for kondapodu also, desires information as to the manner in which it is proposed to enforce this restriction.

2. The petition of Suryanarayana Bissoyi of Gumma and Gayiba forts in the Parlákimedi Agency will be forwarded to the Government of India with the following letter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
" the Judicial Department.
Endorsement to petitioner.

Resolution—dated 4th June 1894, Forest No. 732 Mis.

Communicated to the Agent to the Governor in Ganjám for information and guidance.

2. In submitting his report with reference to paragraph 4 of Board's Proceedings, dated 6th February 1894, Forest No. 89, the Agent is requested to report, with reference to paragraph 1 of the Government Order, what measures he would recommend to enforce the proposed restriction against the felling of certain specified trees.

3. The proposition statement promised in the concluding paragraph of the Agent's letter, dated 10th November 1893, C. No. 275, is awaited.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Agent to the Governor, Ganjám.
" Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.
" Accountant-General.

Resolution—dated 8th August 1894, Forest No. 526/Confdl. No. 7.

In its Order, dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, Government declared that the forests in the non-zamindari tracts of the Ganjám district are the property of the State, and decided on the necessity for protecting the forests in the Maliahs and for acquiring control over the zamindari forests, wherever protection is necessary, through negotiations with the zamindars or by applying the Land Acquisition Act. It desired that protective measures should for the present be confined to the eastern slopes of the hills, to be carried out by the Agency officers by means of executive orders, and to tracts in the vicinity of the head-waters of the Rushikulya and other rivers of importance, and accordingly called for proposals for (*a*) the prohibition of felling for sale throughout the tracts and the restriction of kondapodu in the vicinity of the head-waters of important rivers and streams; (*b*) making suitable concessions to Khonds by way of payment of subsidies to the headmen of villages and muttas to ensure protection of those forests in which restrictive measures are to be adopted in lieu of any privileges they may have been deprived of by reason of the non-zamindari forests being declared State property; and (*c*) securing control over the zamindari forests wherever necessary.

In communicating the order, the Board, in the first Proceedings read again above, called on the Agent to submit detailed proposals which are contained in his letter read above.

2. Before proceeding to formulate his proposals the Agent rightly observes that it is necessary to determine as precisely as possible the areas in which the protective measures ordered by Government are to be introduced. It is stated that, although the eastern slopes of the ghâts in the Goomsur taluk are generally believed to lie for the most part within the reserved forests, still they are continually encroached upon and cleared by the Khonds from above ghâts owing to the absence of any definite boundary line between these slopes and the Agency. The boundary line between the scheduled and ordinary tracts, proposals for the demarcation of which have been approved by the Board in its Proceedings, dated 4th May 1894, F. No. 601, Mis., will, it is said, have the effect of bringing a large portion of these eastern slopes within the areas of reserved forests and thus *ipso facto* bringing them also under protection. The Board, therefore, requests Government to accord sanction to the demarcation of the boundary line as proposed in the Proceedings last quoted.

3. This will still leave out of account the (1) Chokapad and (2) Pondakhol muttas, which lie on the eastern slopes and are under the control of Government, and the (3) Daringabadi plateau and the Rushikulya basin above ghâts, which, under the orders of Government, require to be protected.

4. With regard to (1) Chokapad it is noted that the forest on the northern part of this mutta is poor, and that there has been of late no increase of "podu" cultivation. A tax of six annas an acre is now levied on such cultivation and it is considered that it will operate as a sufficient check. As stated by the Agent no further restrictive measures seem called for, but, in the event of "podu" cultivation increasing to an undesirable extent, a higher rate of tax might be levied.

The south-eastern portion of this mutta is important both from climatic reasons and on account of forest growth. It forms part of the water-shed of the Mahánadi, an affluent of the Rushikulya, in which, under paragraph 5 of Government Order, dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, it would seem that "kondapodu" should be absolutely prohibited. The forests here contain valuable sâl trees and are not more than 20 to 25 miles distant from the principal town, Russellkonda. They are traversed by a passable cart-road and exploitation of timber would appear to be neither difficult nor unremunerative. Indeed a revenue of Rs. 30,000 was recently realized by the supply of railway sleepers from these forests (*vide* Government Order, dated 8th May 1894, No. 1820). Though holding that the conservancy of these forests calls for immediate attention, the Agent is of opinion that absolute prohibition of "kondapodu," which is likely to arouse a general spirit of opposition and discontent, is both undesirable and unnecessary. The villages in this tract being few and small, ample margin for extension of cultivation around each village —even so much as eight times the existing cultivated area—is proposed to be allowed as in the case of the villagers in the Yellavaram division of the Gódávari district (*vide* paragraph 7 of Government Order, dated 10th February 1894, No. 108), the Khonds being permitted to "podu" the forests free in the area thus allowed. The Agent proposes to reserve the remaining area absolutely prohibiting only felling of timber therein and to deal with any encroachments for purposes of cultivation by the imposition of a prohibitory assessment of Rs. 2 an acre. These measures commend themselves to the Board except that for the reason pointed out by Mr. Peet it is not desirable to revive free felling for "podu" anywhere within the mutta. If, however, the Agent, on full consideration, is of opinion that the concession is absolutely necessary as a set-off against reservation elsewhere, the Board would be prepared to allow it. The proposals in regard to the manner of selecting areas for reservation and the levying of penal assessment are also approved. The Board further agrees with the Agent that no accurate line of demarcation is required for areas in which "kondapodu" is to be prohibited, the natural features of the country making it easy to indicate the reserved areas with sufficient accuracy for practical purposes. The export of timber for sale has already been prohibited in Chokapad, and, as there is only one route by which it could be brought, the prohibition is easily enforced.

5. The forests in the (2) Pondakhol mutta are said to be important from all points of view. The country is within easy reach of Suradá and a Local Fund road runs to within a few miles of its boundary. It has been pointed out that the neighbouring chiefs of the Korada and Ronaba zamindaris have sold and destroyed their forests and that there have been complaints against the former of illicit felling and removal of timber from Pondakhol forests. This necessitates the reservation of areas in these tracts and the Agent proposes to do it by introducing the Forest Act after allowing the Khonds and other villagers a liberal area for extension of cultivation. The Board is aware that Government is not generally disposed to extend the application of the Forest Act to the Maliah forests, but, where there are reserved forests in Baiballi and other places similarly situated to Pondakhol, there seems no reason why they should not be formed in Pondakhol also, and, as the Khonds in the neighbouring zamindaris have not demurred to the wholesale clearance by sale of the forests therein by the zamindars concerned, it does not seem likely that any serious resistance will be offered to reservation or measures of protection by means of the Forest Act as recommended by the Agent. Any restriction on the felling of timber, as in Chokapad, by way of levying penal assessment on "podu" cultivation, would here be an innovation which would be likely to meet with at least as much resistance as would be offered to the introduction of the Forest Act. The Agent's proposal to demarcate off the Pondakhol mutta from the rest of the Maliahs above the ghâts also commends itself to the Board.

6. The country about the (3) Daringabadi plateau and the water-shed of the Rushikulya river, estimated at about 60 square miles in extent, is inhabited by Khonds of the most turbulent character on the Maliahs and is reached from the low country by one of the most difficult ghâts entirely impassable for carts. It is well wooded with sâl forests at various stages of growth. It is explained that, although the protection of this tract is of some importance to the Rushikulya irrigation scheme, the main sources have been or will be brought under protection, and, as denudation has not advanced to any such extent as to affect the water-supply in the river, no measures of protection need be adopted for some time; the more so, as any attempt at absolute stoppage of "kondapodu" in this area would be followed by the rising of the Khonds, and arrangements for reconciling them by means of money compensation would be of doubtful success. It is also observed that the Khonds are not in need of the irrigation works proposed by Mr. Johnson, as in the little narrow valleys, in which alone they grow paddy, there is always an abundant supply of water. In these circumstances the Agent is strongly of opinion that matters about Daringabadi may be left as they are, at all events for the next few years, care being taken to watch the progress of denudation. He proposes as an alternative, in the event of Government insisting that steps should be taken for reservation, that an attempt may be made to make the Khonds abstain from "podu" in the forests along the river promising in return an annual grant to be paid by the Agent or Special Assistant Agent either to the headman or to the village collectively. The former course seems to the Board to be preferable. It is also noted that there is no fear of timber being exported for sale from this portion of the Maliahs for years to come.

7. It now remains to consider the question of preserving the zamindari forests. The zamindaris of Ronaba, Korada, Bodogoda and the territory of the hill chief of Kuttingia are all drained by the affluents of the Rushikulya and the protection of the forests in these tracts is reported to be more or less important.

8. As regards Korada and Ronaba the area is not large, and, though the forests therein have, as already stated in paragraph 5 *supra*, been to a large extent destroyed by the owners so far as timber is concerned, it is observed from paragraph 8 of Mr. Hooper's letter disposed of in Government Order, dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, that devastation by podu is not permitted by the zamindars, and the Agent considers it unlikely that denudation will proceed much further. The Agent adds that the state of the forests would not materially affect the water-supply in the rivers and that the advantages to be derived will not justify the large amount of compensation which the acquisition of these forests would involve.

9. The Bodogoda estate forms the water-shed of the Patama river whose drainage area, with its affluents, appears to be mainly in the Maliahs of that estate. It is explained that the conservation of these Bodogoda forests is not of great importance as the water brought down at any time is stored in a reservoir which has been provided with a weir of sufficient size to provide against damage from the heaviest floods. The acquisition of the forests would cost an enormous sum, and, even after purchasing the zamindar's rights, Government would be in the same position as in the Agency tracts, having to compensate the Khonds for abstaining from "podu" cultivation. These remarks apply also to the Kuttingia territory which is drained by the Kuttingia river and about which a report was called for in Government Order, dated 30th January 1893, No. 80, Revenue.

10. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Agent's letter read above, the Board awaits his proposals in regard to the reservation of the portion of the Chinnakimedi (Government) Maliahs coming right down to the plains immediately south of Bodogoda. The question of the forest administration of the Pedda Kimedi and Bodogoda estates, referred to in the remaining portion of that paragraph, will be dealt with in the Court of Wards Branch.

11. The Board approves of the Agent's proposals in paragraph 8 of his letter and the report promised therein is awaited.

12. As regards paragraph 9 of the Agent's letter, it is observed that Government has already passed orders (Government Order, dated 27th April 1894, No. 289) on the subject of the conservancy of the Parlákimedi Maliah forests and it

Endorsement by A. W. PEET, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated 27th April 1894, No. 325.

When in Ganjám lately, I had the opportunity of talking over the questions treated in these papers to some extent with the Agent and the District Forest-officer.

I would draw particular attention to the fact that much misapprehension has existed about the forest conditions of the Agency generally. It has been usually held that there are large masses of forests in the upper Maliahs.

Mr. Battie informed me, however, that he was astonished to find that cultivation was almost more widespread and flourishing in the upper Maliahs than in the low country, while most of the forest which is still seen on the hills consists of a regrowth after podu. His general conclusion is "speaking of the country which lies between the Balliguda-Daringabadi road and the Goomsur boundary, I have no hesitation in saying that it is merely a question of time for denudation to be complete. In my opinion fifteen years, or at the outside twenty years, will see the complete destruction of these forests."

2. However, it is important to note that most of the plateau above ghâts, with the exception of the Rushikulya basin at Daringabadi, is drained by Bengal and Central Provinces rivers. If therefore it is held to be out of the question to risk a rebellion by imposing restrictions on the Khonds above ghâts, there is the satisfaction of the belief that the water-supply of the Rushikulya and the Mahánadi are not materially affected. Believing, as I do, that the Khond's question must end in a disturbance of some sort sooner or later, I believe that a precipitation of the dispute might be the best thing for the country; but this cannot of course be seriously entertained. The reason why I believe that a disturbance must arise is that the Khond race is prolific and tends to increase not only beyond the limit of its own resources, but beyond the limit of credit of the Soukars and Uriyas. So long as there is any forest to be cleared for podu the Khond will clear it and his race will increase up to the limit of supply; when there is no more he will petition for slices of the reserves and probably try to enforce his petitions. We had some samples of the temper of the Khond lately.

Government has declared a right to the timber in the Agency forests, yet, when the Agent gave orders for the felling of some trees in Pondakhol, the Khonds threatened the labourers to such an extent that they fled, and work was resumed only after the personal efforts of the native revenue officer. Again there was a large gathering of the Khonds stimulated (it was believed) by the success of the late rising in Nyagarh, and I believe that the dispersal of the crowd was due mainly to the judicious treatment of the same revenue official and that the least mistake might have precipitated a conflict.

3. The present policy, is, I presume, admittedly one of expediency, and, as such, precludes the advice to reserve most of the higher hills on the upper Maliahs, and the only other alternative which seems to me advisable is to do nothing in this tract. There can be no harm in giving advice, but even about Udayagiri I believe that it would be throwing away money to offer rewards. The Khond has enough of the savage in him to look upon rewards as a recognition of his importance, and we have no guarantee whatever that the object of the payment may not be nullified in any year at the will of the Khond.

I agree with Mr. Battie that, from a revenue point of view, we should gain little by reservation above the ghâts, as major produce at any rate could not be extracted at a profit. The question then mainly resolves itself into the consideration whether reservations for climatic purposes are worth the risk of a disturbance.

4. As regards the question of the slopes and the tract below ghât I agree with the proposals of the Collector in the main.

If the line of the ridge of the ghâts is adopted, I believe that it is urgently necessary to demarcate the boundary. Nothing short of clear demarcation will ensure a continuity of policy when officers are constantly changing.

In forming these reserves, most of the Pondakhol villages will be excluded in one block. There will, however, be a few Khond villages included in the reserve, but a large area in compact blocks for each village can be excluded for podu. What will be a fair area can be settled afterwards. I do not think the introduction of the Forest Act into this mutta will be a matter of much difficulty. Most of the villages have a large Uriya population; the pure Khond villages are very small and we can, without any difficulty, allow them a large area for podu.

The Maliahs above ghâts.—My remarks on the forests above ghâts refer only to the portions seen by me, *i.e.*, the country between Daringabadi, Balliguda and Tettaguda.

From a forest point of view, intervention on the part of Government is more urgently called for above ghâts than in the muttas below, but the question here is surrounded by far greater difficulties.

In the interest of climate generally and for the protection of the basin of the Rushikulya river, there is no doubt restrictions should be placed on the action of the Khonds, and, as it has been decided that these forests are the property of the State, we may as well consider the question from a revenue point of view also. It has been the fashion to write of "the magnificent forests of the Ganjám Agency tracts," but, as a matter of fact, there is no big timber, and, as will be seen later on, the forests are in a very bad condition. Indeed any one who has seen the Maliahs will, I think, agree with me when I state that it will never pay to export timber to the low country —at least not under present condition. There is no water carriage and carting is out of the question.

I presume the Khonds will always get timber for home use free. No revenue therefore can be expected from local consumption. I am of opinion, therefore, that it can be safely stated that, from a forest revenue point of view, Government can expect nothing from the Maliahs.

The present state of the forests.—The plateau above ghâts, with the exception of the Rushikulya basin at Daringabadi, a small area comparatively speaking, is drained by Bengal and Central Provinces rivers. Round Udayagiri denudation is complete and a similar state of things exists northwards to the Bengal frontier; westwards towards Balliguda for the first 10 miles denudation is more or less complete; for the next 15 miles, though the whole country has been subjected to podu, there are patches of forest growth on hill sides generally under ten years' growth. Between Saringada and Kuntholi there still remains a fine bit of sâl forest, but podu is encroaching on all sides and its disappearance is only a matter of the next few years. Between Balliguda and Rotangia, there is another bit of fine sâl forest still remaining; the rest of the forest right up to Daringabadi and including the basin of the Rushikulya may be said to be in different stages of podu cultivation. Speaking therefore of the country which lies between the Balliguda-Daringabadi road and the Goomsur boundary, I have no hesitation in saying that it is merely a question of time for denudation to be complete. In my opinion fifteen years or at the outside twenty will see the complete destruction of these forests. The question now is what form the restrictions to be placed on the Khonds should assume. Mr. Hooper in his report advised that a sum of money should be placed yearly at the disposal of the Udayagiri Deputy Tahsildar, Patros and other influential men should be induced to protect certain hills and the money should be distributed in the shape of rewards. Personally I do not believe we shall ever induce the Khonds to protect anything like a sufficient area, and there is also in my opinion a fatal objection to the proposal. Granted that the Khonds do protect some hills, what is there to stop them from clearing these hills for podu cultivation whenever they feel inclined to do so? They would, without doubt, do so at the first unfavourable season. Mr. Hooper's proposal, in my opinion, in no way settles the question. To do any good a much larger area than the Khonds could be induced to protect must be closed to podu. The protection of a few small hills here and there will do no good. What should be protected are the big hills, and from what I heard in the Maliahs this is just what the Khond is unwilling to do.

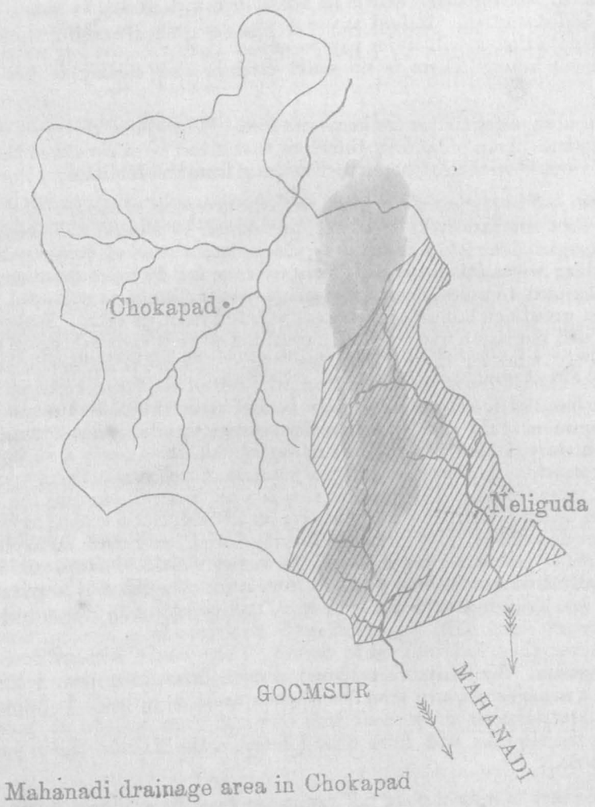
To effect any good it is necessary to restrict podu cultivation on the hills, and this, I think, should be done not only on certain selected hills but above a certain level on all the hills included in the area, in which the stoppage of podu is considered necessary. This is, in my opinion, what *should* be done. The question is—Is it worth while doing it? The Khonds have been allowed for generations to be quite free with their use of the forests, and it is generally believed that any interference with their podu cultivation will arouse opposition. I think the same amount of opposition may be expected whether we interfere, say only at Daringabadi and Udayagiri or all over the Maliahs. Government and the Board, after reading Mr. Hooper's report, have not got a correct idea of the Maliah forests. The Board has come to the conclusion that the destruction of forests is confined to the hills in the Udayagiri plateau and to the eastern slopes of the Maliah country. As a matter of fact the destruction of forests is going on all over the Maliahs; it is complete around Udayagiri.

(Signed) J. S. BATTIE,
District Forest-officer.

found in the valleys. North of Chokapad there is no good sâl forest remaining; the level country here is more under cultivation; the only forest remaining in the plains is of poor growth on kunker soil. The hills are covered with bamboo and deciduous trees.

During last year the Deputy Tahsildar informed me that only 160 odd acres of podu was done; by far the larger part of this, I should say, was done in this northern portion of the mutta. From the foregoing remarks it will be seen that there is no such thing as denudation going on, and, so long as podu is taxed, I do not think there is any fear of the hill sides being denuded. In fact, I believe that on the hill sides forest is encroaching upon old clearings. The protection of these forests is a matter of importance chiefly on account of the water-supply of the Mahánadi, and the question now to be settled is whether, bearing in mind that no denudation is going on, matters might be allowed to go on as they are or are further protective measures called for. Further protective measures could be carried out in two ways:—

(i) By increasing the tax on podu.
(ii) By forming protected blocks, in which podu cultivation would be altogether prohibited.



Mahanadi drainage area in Chokapad

If reserves can be formed without difficulty, there is no doubt this is the best thing to do. Only about one-third of Chokapad (the portion adjoining Goomsur) is drained by the Goomsur-Mahánadi—*vide* sketch on margin—the northern portion being drained by the Burtayanadi which flows into the Mahánadi river (Orissa). If it is found necessary therefore to form reserves, the southern portion of the mutta must receive particular attention. Whether increasing the tax on podu or the formation of reserves will be the easier measure to carry out are matters which can best be decided by the Agency officer. My opinion on the present state of affairs is that denudation is not going on and that there is little fear of anything of the sort taking place. So long as podu is taxed and that, if matters even continue as at present, there can be no injurious effect on the water-supply of the Mahánadi river.

Pondakhol.—This mutta adjoins Goomsur on the south-west corner and is situated below ghâts. There is still fine forests both on the hill slopes and in the valleys. As far as I have seen there is not much podu done by Pondakhol villagers; the worst bits of podu I saw, I was told had been cut by Khonds from above ghâts. About half way down the Gazlabadi ghât, podu has been started in a magnificent piece of forest. This, I was told, was the work of Komarabadi Khonds—a village above ghâts. The whole of this mutta is drained by the Rushikulya river and its feeders, and the question of reserving these forests, especially the main slopes of the ghâts, is, in my opinion, of great importance; for Pondakhol, therefore, I would propose the following:—

(1) Introduction of the Forest Act.
(2) The demarcation of the boundary between Pondakhol and the Maliahs above ghâts. This boundary should, as far as possible, follow the plateau edge, for the protection of the main slopes is a most important and urgent step.
(3) The formation of reserved forests.

will take very good care that no one interferes with the trees they really value, viz., the solopo (sago palm), the mohwa (*Bassia latifolia*), the jack and the mango. To protect the ubiquitous sâl would mean to render the concessions it is proposed to grant the Savaras valueless.

10. As regards paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings I am not prepared at present to submit any proposals for the systematic conservancy of the Parlákimedi Maliahs. I have in the first place not been able as yet to visit these hills, but I have recently talked the matter over with Mr. Partridge, the Principal Assistant Agent, to whom I have given special instructions to consider during his hill tour how far any measures for conservancy of the forests above ghâts would be feasible. I am persuaded from what he tells me that we should have to face here very much the same difficulties as at Daringabadi, and that there would be the same risk of a disturbance following any attempt at the prohibition or restriction of "kondapodu." Possibly more might be achieved here by a system of payment to the Bissoyis who have very considerable influence, but, on the other hand, it is likely that the Bissoyis may not be willing to co-operate with us as they themselves have laid claims to the forests. I should mention, moreover, that I have just received from Mr. Taylor, the manager of the Parlákimedi estate, a letter saying he is sending me a notice of a suit to be brought by the zamindar to assert his rights to these forests, and I understand that it is intended to apply for an injunction to restrain Government from dealing with the forests "*pendente lite*."

11. I have not considered that I am at present called upon to submit any proposals regarding the forests in the Government Maliahs above ghâts except in Daringabadi and Parlákimedi. I think it is utterly hopeless to attempt anything in the way of reservation there. Briefly put my objections are these: Restriction or prohibition over this area would mean rebellion, while the system of payment of the Khonds for reserving forests would cost an enormous amount and be of very doubtful efficacy. Just about Udayagiri, however, where the Khonds are feeling the pinch from the want of timber, they may be induced readily enough to reserve small areas, and I have instructed the Deputy Tahsildar to use his influence with the headmen to persuade them to do so.

12. My proposals may then be thus summarised:—

(1) To adopt, as already proposed in my letter No. 141-Ag., dated 10th March 1894, the ridge of the eastern ghâts as the eastern boundary of the Agency tracts and to thus bring within our reserved forests the greater part of the slopes of the Goomsur taluk. This will necessitate the accurate and permanent demarcation of the Agency boundary.

(2) As regards Chokapad mutta, to leave unaltered in the northern part the present system under which "kondapodu" cultivation is being taxed at 6 annas an acre.

In the south-eastern portion to select certain areas within which "podu" is to be absolutely prohibited, compensating the Khonds therefor by allowing them to carry on this kind of cultivation free in the areas not protected. The protection against kondapodu in this case to be enforced by the levy of heavy penal assessment on whoever cultivates, the amount being left to the discretion of the Agency officials. Accurate demarcation of the protected areas is not proposed.

As all timber removed for sale would have to pass the forest tanna near Gullery, illegal removals could be punished by prosecutions under section 379, Indian Penal Code.

If these proposals are objected to, I would propose, as an alternative measure, to introduce the Forest Act into the south-eastern portion of Chokapad and select reserves.

(3) In Pondakhol mutta I propose to introduce the Forest Act, to select and demarcate reserves, allowing a liberal area for the extension of cultivation, and, as a necessary consequence, to demarcate and separate this mutta off from the rest of the Maliahs.

(4) As regards the upper waters of the Rushikulya about Daringabadi, I do not recommend that any immediate action be taken. I suggest that we should carefully observe whether denudation progresses within this area during the next few years and how the river is affected.

If any protective measures are to be taken in this area they should take the form of rewards.

(5) As regards forests in zamindaris, I do not recommend their acquisition either by negotiation or under the Act.

The most important of these forests, viz., those of Bodogoda and Pedda Kimedi, are now under the management of the Court of Wards, and I propose that Government should lend the services of trained Forest officers in order to ensure their proper working.

(6) I am not prepared at present to propose systematic conservancy of the Parlákimedi forests. The orders of Government on the proposals contained in Board's Proceedings, No. 89, dated 6th February 1894, are awaited.

(7) As regards the rest of the Government Maliahs, I recommend that we should confine ourselves for the present to endeavouring to induce the Khonds in the more denuded tracts to preserve the tree growth on certain areas.

13. In conclusion, I must express my regret at the delay in submitting this report.

This has, however, been inevitable as it was absolutely necessary that I should see as much of the country as possible myself before I could deal with the subject and had to consult officers who knew those tracts which I was unable to visit myself.

I have endeavoured to submit only such proposals as I believe are really workable rather than cut and dried schemes of systematic conservancy which would be certain to raise a disturbance or involve an expenditure entirely impossible.

Lest in the face of what a former Agent, Mr. Johnson, has written in his letter No. 114-Ag., dated the 17th February 1891, read in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 354, dated the 10th August 1891, I should be considered an alarmist in the representations I have made of the danger of endeavouring to restrict "kondapodu" cultivation in the tracts above ghâts, I think it right to state that all officials, both European and Native, whom I have consulted in the matter, share my opinions. I am indeed by no means certain that the adoption of the proposals I have made regarding the Agency boundary and the Pondakhol and Chokapad muttas may not be followed by a disturbance, but I consider the risk of this should be faced in consideration of the objects in view, and, as such a disturbance would in all probability be confined to a limited and accessible area, it could be easily dealt with.

14. As regards paragraph 7 of Board's Proceedings, No. 213, dated 22nd March 1893, the Special Assistant Agent is collecting information and a separate report on the subject will be submitted.

Enclosure.

Note on the Agency Forests.

This note deals with the Government forests in the Agency tracts of Chinna Kimedi Maliahs and Chokapad and Pondakhol muttas. A distinction must be drawn between the treatment of the forest question as regards these muttas and the Maliahs proper—above ghâts. I will therefore take them separately.

Chokapad—Present condition of the forests.—This mutta lies below ghâts and adjoins Goomsur on the north. Podu cultivation has been allowed throughout the mutta, but some years ago a tax of 6 annas per acre was imposed and this has had the effect of practically putting a stop to this form of cultivation. The hill slopes show distinctly the portions "podued" in former years, which are now chiefly covered with a thick growth of bamboos. The sâl tree chiefly occurs on level lands and in the valleys and lower slopes of the hills, the upper slopes being covered with forest of bamboos and deciduous trees. The country lying between Chokapad and the Goomsur boundary is well covered with forest and there is still good sâl forest to be

(4) As regards the upper waters of the Rushikulya about Daringabadi, I do not recommend that any immediate action be taken. I suggest that we should carefully observe whether denudation progresses within this area during the next few years and how the river is affected.

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I have endeavoured to submit only such proposals as I believe are really workable rather than cut and dried schemes of systematic conservancy which would be certain to raise a disturbance or involve an expenditure entirely impossible.

Lest in the face of what a former Agent, Mr. Johnson, has written in his letter No. 114-Ag., dated the 17th February 1891, read in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 354, dated the 10th August 1891, I should be considered an alarmist in the representations I have made of the danger of endeavouring to restrict "kondapodu" cultivation in the tracts above ghâts, I think it right to state that all officials, both European and Native, whom I have consulted in the matter, share my opinions. I am indeed by no means certain that the adoption of the proposals I have made regarding the Agency boundary and the Pondakhol and Chokapad muttas may not be followed by a disturbance, but I consider the risk of this should be faced in consideration of the objects in view, and, as such a disturbance would in all probability be confined to a limited and accessible area, it could be easily dealt with.

14. As regards paragraph 7 of Board's Proceedings, No. 213, dated 22nd March 1893, the Special Assistant Agent is collecting information and a separate report on the subject will be submitted.

Enclosure.

Note on the Agency Forests.

This note deals with the Government forests in the Agency tracts of Chinna Kimedi Maliahs and Chokapad and Pondakhol muttas. A distinction must be drawn between the treatment of the forest question as regards these muttas and the Maliahs proper—above ghâts. I will therefore take them separately.

Chokapad—Present condition of the forests.—This mutta lies below ghâts and adjoins Goomsur on the north. Podu cultivation has been allowed throughout the mutta, but some years ago a tax of 6 annas per acre was imposed and this has had the effect of practically putting a stop to this form of cultivation. The hill slopes show distinctly the portions "podued" in former years, which are now chiefly covered with a thick growth of bamboos. The sâl tree chiefly occurs on level lands and in the valleys and lower slopes of the hills, the upper slopes being covered with forest of bamboos and deciduous trees. The country lying between Chokapad and the Goomsur boundary is well covered with forest and there is still good sâl forest to be

will take very good care that no one interferes with the trees they really value, viz., the solopo (sago palm), the mohwa (*Bassia latifolia*), the jack and the mango. To protect the ubiquitous sâl would mean to render the concessions it is proposed to grant the Savaras valueless.

10. As regards paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings I am not prepared at present to submit any proposals for the systematic conservancy of the Parlákimedi Maliahs. I have in the first place not been able as yet to visit these hills, but I have recently talked the matter over with Mr. Partridge, the Principal Assistant Agent, to whom I have given special instructions to consider during his hill tour how far any measures for conservancy of the forests above ghâts would be feasible. I am persuaded from what he tells me that we should have to face here very much the same difficulties as at Daringabadi, and that there would be the same risk of a disturbance following any attempt at the prohibition or restriction of "kondapodu." Possibly more might be achieved here by a system of payment to the Bissoyis who have very considerable influence, but, on the other hand, it is likely that the Bissoyis may not be willing to co-operate with us as they themselves have laid claims to the forests. I should mention, moreover, that I have just received from Mr. Taylor, the manager of the Parlákimedi estate, a letter saying he is sending me a notice of a suit to be brought by the zamindar to assert his rights to these forests, and I understand that it is intended to apply for an injunction to restrain Government from dealing with the forests "*pendente lite.*"

11. I have not considered that I am at present called upon to submit any proposals regarding the forests in the Government Maliahs above ghâts except in Daringabadi and Parlákimedi. I think it is utterly hopeless to attempt anything in the way of reservation there. Briefly put my objections are these: Restriction or prohibition over this area would mean rebellion, while the system of payment of the Khonds for reserving forests would cost an enormous amount and be of very doubtful efficacy. Just about Udayagiri, however, where the Khonds are feeling the pinch from the want of timber, they may be induced readily enough to reserve small areas, and I have instructed the Deputy Tahsildar to use his influence with the headmen to persuade them to do so.

12. My proposals may then be thus summarised:—

(1) To adopt, as already proposed in my letter No. 141-Ag., dated 10th March 1894, the ridge of the eastern ghâts as the eastern boundary of the Agency tracts and to thus bring within our reserved forests the greater part of the slopes of the Goomsur taluk. This will necessitate the accurate and permanent demarcation of the Agency boundary.

(2) As regards Chokapad mutta, to leave unaltered in the northern part the present system under which "kondapodu" cultivation is being taxed at 6 annas an acre.

In the south-eastern portion to select certain areas within which "podu" is to be absolutely prohibited, compensating the Khonds therefor by allowing them to carry on this kind of cultivation free in the areas not protected. The protection against kondapodu in this case to be enforced by the levy of heavy penal assessment on whoever cultivates, the amount being left to the discretion of the Agency officials. Accurate demarcation of the protected areas is not proposed.

As all timber removed for sale would have to pass the forest tanna near Gullery, illegal removals could be punished by prosecutions under section 379, Indian Penal Code.

If these proposals are objected to, I would propose, as an alternative measure, to introduce the Forest Act into the south-eastern portion of Chokapad and select reserves.

(3) In Pondakhol mutta I propose to introduce the Forest Act, to select and demarcate reserves, allowing a liberal area for the extension of cultivation, and, as a necessary consequence, to demarcate and separate this mutta off from the rest of the Maliahs.

(4) As regards the upper waters of the Rushikulya about Daringabadi, I do not recommend that any immediate action be taken. I suggest that we should carefully observe whether denudation progresses within this area during the next few years and how the river is affected.

If any protective measures are to be taken in this area they should take the form of rewards.

(5) As regards forests in zamindaris, I do not recommend their acquisition either by negotiation or under the Act.

The most important of these forests, viz., those of Bodogoda and Pedda Kimedi, are now under the management of the Court of Wards, and I propose that Government should lend the services of trained Forest officers in order to ensure their proper working.

(6) I am not prepared at present to propose systematic conservancy of the Parlákimedi forests. The orders of Government on the proposals contained in Board's Proceedings, No. 89, dated 6th February 1894, are awaited.

(7) As regards the rest of the Government Maliahs, I recommend that we should confine ourselves for the present to endeavouring to induce the Khonds in the more denuded tracts to preserve the tree growth on certain areas.

13. In conclusion, I must express my regret at the delay in submitting this report.

This has, however, been inevitable as it was absolutely necessary that I should see as much of the country as possible myself before I could deal with the subject and had to consult officers who knew those tracts which I was unable to visit myself.

I have endeavoured to submit only such proposals as I believe are really workable rather than cut and dried schemes of systematic conservancy which would be certain to raise a disturbance or involve an expenditure entirely impossible.

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adopted, the Pondakhol mutta will have to be demarcated off from the Maliahs above ghâts; the boundary line will probably be found to follow the ridge of the hills.

(3) *Daringabadi and the Rushikulya basin above ghâts.*—This area is the water-shed of the Rushikulya river above ghâts. I have no information as to its precise extent, but, judging from the maps and from what I saw of the country during my recent visits, I do not imagine the area exceeds 60 square miles. It is important to the Rushikulya irrigation scheme that there should be an evenly distributed supply of water in that river during a large portion of the year, and that the denudation of this upper valley would more or less interfere with this even distribution admits, I suppose, of no doubt. The extent, however, to which it would affect the supply in the river when it reaches the anicut at Jannamili half way between Aska and Suradá is not, however, so clear.

A glance at the map will show that before the river reaches this point it is fed by many nullas and small rivers running down from the eastern slopes and draining a large extent of country. If the proposals for the reservation of Pondakhol and those for the new Agency boundary are accepted, the water-sheds of these nullas and small rivers will be protected and the water-supply therefrom will be received regularly. I believe I am right in saying that the water from these sources constitutes by far the largest part of the supply and that the amount received from the upper valley of the Rushikulya must be, though not unimportant, a small portion of the total.

Mr. Hooper, in his letter printed with Board's Proceedings, No. 213, dated 22nd March 1893, expressed an opinion that denudation was not progressing in this area. I saw myself a good deal of "podu" cultivation going on this year in the basin, but it is no doubt true that, speaking generally, the basin is well wooded with sâl forest at various stages of growth, and it is, I think, unlikely that for some years denudation will so far progress as to seriously affect the water-supply in the river.

I have discussed the importance or otherwise of reservation in this area thus at length, because I am fully convinced of the enormous difficulty of enforcing any orders here which either prohibit or restrict "kondapodu" cultivation. To begin with, the country, though not in a very remote part of the Maliahs, is reached from the low country by one of the most difficult ghâts which is entirely impassable for carts. It is thus isolated.

The Khonds of this part are the most turbulent in the Maliahs and they are very little under the control of their own headmen. It is thus excessively difficult to bring any influence to bear on them.

At a "Bhet" held by me at Daringabadi this year I endeavoured to explain, with all the tact and caution I am capable of, the wishes of Government that they should restrict their kondapodu cultivation in certain areas, and I stated that Government might be induced to confer certain benefits on them in exchange. Their answer, as translated to me, was a flat refusal to do anything. They afterwards qualified this by saying that, if it was the intention of Government that they and their children should die of starvation, they would run away to another country. I tried further explanations, but I fear they proved useless, and I felt convinced that nothing short of the immediate fear of punishment would put a stop to "kondapodu" in these parts. I do not consider that any equivalent we might offer would reconcile the Khonds to the proposals. The irrigation works proposed by Mr. Johnson are certainly not wanted as there is always an abundant, often a superabundant, supply of water in the little narrow valleys where they will alone grow paddy. Annual payments to the headmen are more likely to be effective, and in some part of the Maliahs it no doubt would be fairly effective, but there are no Patros about Daringabadi, and, as I have said before, the Khonds do not readily obey their headmen and even though the latter endeavoured in return for money received to stop "kondapodu" their efforts would very probably be ineffectual.

This was the opinion of Mr. Elphinstone and Mr. Bartley, the Deputy Tahsildar. The headmen could, of course, give us the names of persons who had cultivated reserved areas, and these might be prosecuted for theft or mischief, but this would undoubtedly raise a disturbance which very likely every Khond in the Maliahs above ghâts would feel called upon to take part in.

The conclusions I have arrived at regarding this upper basin of the Rushikulya may then be thus summarised:—

(1) That the protection of this area against "kondapodu" cultivation, though of importance to the Rushikulya irrigation scheme, is not of vital importance, and it is improbable that, for some years at all events, denudation will increase to an extent sufficient to seriously affect the water-supply, more especially if the protective measures for the other area now suggested are adopted.

(2) That absolute stoppage of "kondapodu" in this area is practically impossible; that any attempt to do so would be followed by a rising of the Khonds which it would be exceedingly difficult to deal with.

(3) That an attempt to make the Khonds restrict their podu cultivation to certain areas, compensating them at the same time by annual grants of money to their headmen, would be one of doubtful success, as there is reason to believe that even if we could secure the loyal co-operation of the headmen thereby—a matter of some doubt—the other Khonds would not obey them, and, if the restriction was enforced, it could only be by punishments which would lead to the same result as prohibition.

Another objection to this scheme is that to preserve an extent of forest sufficient to have an effect on the water-supply a considerable annual expenditure would be required. On the whole I am strongly of opinion that it is advisable to leave matters as they are about Daringabadi for the next few years at all events, observing at the same time whether denudation of the forests progresses or not.

If we undertake to protect the forests in Chokapad and Pondakhol and to take within our reserves nearly the whole of the eastern slopes in Goomsur, we shall have enough on our hands for the present.

If Government, however, insists that steps should be taken at once for the reservation of the forests about Daringabadi, I would recommend an attempt to make the Khonds abstain from podu in the forests along the river, promising in return an annual grant to be paid by the Agent or Special Assistant Agent either to the headmen or to the village collectively.

I may mention that there is no probability that timber will be exported for sale from this portion of the Maliahs for years to come, and it is therefore unnecessary to take any measures against the removal of timber. This is true of all the Government Maliahs above ghâts, excepting, perhaps, the Parlákimedi forests.

5. It now remains to consider what forests in the zamindari tracts it is important to preserve and what steps should be taken to this end. The zamindaris of Ronaba, Korada, Bodogoda, and the territory of the hill chief of Kuttingia are all drained by the affluents of the Rushikulya and the protection of the forest in these tracts is more or less important.

As regards Korada and Ronaba, the area is not large, and I do not think that the state of the forests therein would materially affect the water-supply in the river. Mr. Battie informs me that these forests have been already to a large extent destroyed by the owners who have sold all the valuable timber. In both these zamindaris the destruction has been caused by the felling of timber for sale. In paragraph 8 of his letter No. 3372, dated 24th March 1892, printed with Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 213, Mr. Hooper says that the zamindar does not allow the devastation of this forest by podu. It seems therefore unlikely that denudation will proceed much further. As timber has been systematically sold from these areas for many years past, it is certain that a very large amount would be demanded and probably obtained for compensation if we decide to acquire them, and I do not think the advantages to be derived would justify the expenditure.

6. The river Patama rises in the Bodogoda Maliahs and runs through that estate until quite close to Suradá.

At Suradá the river runs into the large reservoir constructed there for the Rushikulya project, and, excepting local drainage, it is the sole source of supply to

this reservoir. The drainage area of this river and its affluents is, I am informed, roughly speaking about 200 square miles, and the most of this must be forest lands in the Bodogoda estate and mainly in the Maliahs of that estate. The river is joined by the Kuttingia nulla which drains the territory of the Kuttingia chief.

It is probable that the denudation of this area would not largely affect the *total* amount of water brought down by the river during the year, but it would no doubt make sudden and heavy floods more frequent.

Mr. Somers-Eve, the Executive Engineer, Rushikulya project, informs me that, so long as the same total supply is received, it does not matter whether the amount is brought down by high floods or not; that the escape weir has been constructed of sufficient size to provide against damages from the heaviest flood. The conservation of these Bodogoda forests would seem therefore not to be of great importance as far as the Rushikulya irrigation is concerned. The acquisition of any appreciable portion of the larger area occupied by water-shed of these rivers would even, though a very low rate of compensation were paid, amount to a large sum, and the question at once arises how far could we, even if we had acquired the zamindar's rights in these tracts, enforce the protection of the forests; we would be in the same position in fact as we are in the Government Agency tracts at Daringabadi and elsewhere, and, having bought out the zamindar's rights, we would then have to compensate the Khonds for abstaining from podu cultivation. These remarks apply equally to the forests of Kuttingia.

7. South of Bodogoda the eastern slopes of the ghâts are, I believe, nearly all in the Maliahs; but none of the rivers rising therefrom can be regarded as important from an irrigation point of view. Immediately south of Bodogoda a small portion of the Chinna Kimedi (Government) Maliahs come right down to the plains. There is a small staff of watchers at present employed here to prevent timber being brought down to the plains. I have asked the District Forest-officer to inspect and report upon the portion of these Maliahs lying to the eastwards of the ridge. It might be desirable and feasible to undertake the reservation of these forests as they lie close to civilized and accessible country, and the forests should be valuable for the timber; next immediately to the south come the Pedda Kimedi forests. These are being worked at present in what I fancy is rather a destructive method. I hope to submit shortly, for the consideration of the Court of Wards, proposals for the better administration of the forests both in Pedda Kimedi and Bodogoda. Before doing so it will be necessary that they should be inspected by a Forest officer, and I have asked the District Forest-officer if he can undertake to do this. At present these estate forests are being worked by very low-paid officials, and I am of opinion that it will be necessary to lend the services of a forest ranger to each estate. Under an officer of this standing they might be worked in such a manner as to prevent further injury being done to them.

8. Between Pedda Kimedi and Parlákimedi the slopes lie in the zamindaris of Surangi, Jarada, Jalantra, and Mandasa. The Tumba mutta of the Jalantra zamindar is now under attachment by Government; the forests therein are very limited in extent. It has just been inspected by the District Forest-officer and a separate report regarding it will be submitted. I do not recommend that Government should attempt to acquire any rights in the forests of the other zamindaris mentioned in this paragraph.

9. This brings me to the forests of the Parlákimedi Maliahs. In their Proceedings No. 89, Forest, dated 6th February 1894, the Board have recommended for the sanction of Government certain proposals for the conservancy of these forests. These proposals are apparently still under the consideration of Government as I have received no intimation of their having been sanctioned. As regards paragraph 4 of these Proceedings, I take this opportunity of stating that it is unnecessary to select for reservation particular trees. This was done in Rampa, I understand, in order to protect trees valuable to the hillmen being felled by timber traders from the low country, but there is no necessity on this score in the Parlákimedi Maliahs. In the first place there will be no export of timber except by the ryots under proposal (4), paragraph 1, of the Board's Proceedings, and the Savaras

will take very good care that no one interferes with the trees they really value, viz., the solopo (sago palm), the mohwa (*Bassia latifolia*), the jack and the mango. To protect the ubiquitous sâl would mean to render the concessions it is proposed to grant the Savaras valueless.

10. As regards paragraph 6 of Board's Proceedings I am not prepared at present to submit any proposals for the systematic conservancy of the Parlákimedi Maliahs. I have in the first place not been able as yet to visit these hills, but I have recently talked the matter over with Mr. Partridge, the Principal Assistant Agent, to whom I have given special instructions to consider during his hill tour how far any measures for conservancy of the forests above ghâts would be feasible. I am persuaded from what he tells me that we should have to face here very much the same difficulties as at Daringabadi, and that there would be the same risk of a disturbance following any attempt at the prohibition or restriction of "kondapodu." Possibly more might be achieved here by a system of payment to the Bissoyis who have very considerable influence, but, on the other hand, it is likely that the Bissoyis may not be willing to co-operate with us as they themselves have laid claims to the forests. I should mention, moreover, that I have just received from Mr. Taylor, the manager of the Parlákimedi estate, a letter saying he is sending me a notice of a suit to be brought by the zamindar to assert his rights to these forests, and I understand that it is intended to apply for an injunction to restrain Government from dealing with the forests "*pendente lite.*"

11. I have not considered that I am at present called upon to submit any proposals regarding the forests in the Government Maliahs above ghâts except in Daringabadi and Parlákimedi. I think it is utterly hopeless to attempt anything in the way of reservation there. Briefly put my objections are these: Restriction or prohibition over this area would mean rebellion, while the system of payment of the Khonds for reserving forests would cost an enormous amount and be of very doubtful efficacy. Just about Udayagiri, however, where the Khonds are feeling the pinch from the want of timber, they may be induced readily enough to reserve small areas, and I have instructed the Deputy Tahsildar to use his influence with the headmen to persuade them to do so.

12. My proposals may then be thus summarised:—

(1) To adopt, as already proposed in my letter No. 141-Ag., dated 10th March 1894, the ridge of the eastern ghâts as the eastern boundary of the Agency tracts and to thus bring within our reserved forests the greater part of the slopes of the Goomsur taluk. This will necessitate the accurate and permanent demarcation of the Agency boundary.

(2) As regards Chokapad mutta, to leave unaltered in the northern part the present system under which "kondapodu" cultivation is being taxed at 6 annas an acre.

In the south-eastern portion to select certain areas within which "podu" is to be absolutely prohibited, compensating the Khonds therefor by allowing them to carry on this kind of cultivation free in the areas not protected. The protection against kondapodu in this case to be enforced by the levy of heavy penal assessment on whoever cultivates, the amount being left to the discretion of the Agency officials. Accurate demarcation of the protected areas is not proposed.

As all timber removed for sale would have to pass the forest tanna near Gullery, illegal removals could be punished by prosecutions under section 379, Indian Penal Code.

If these proposals are objected to, I would propose, as an alternative measure, to introduce the Forest Act into the south-eastern portion of Chokapad and select reserves.

(3) In Pondakhol mutta I propose to introduce the Forest Act, to select and demarcate reserves, allowing a liberal area for the extension of cultivation, and, as a necessary consequence, to demarcate and separate this mutta off from the rest of the Maliahs.

of cultivation, say eight times area of present cultivated extent of village, and in the area remaining would absolutely prohibit felling. Such prohibition might, I think, be sufficiently enforced by imposing a prohibitory assessment on all cultivation within the reserved area. Probably a rate of Rs. 2 an acre would be effective. The question arises whether it would be necessary to demarcate off the areas in which "kondapodu" was prohibited. The Conservator, Mr. Peet, considers that it would be necessary. I am inclined, however, to think that if, as I propose, only the felling of timber is to be prohibited and the punishment therefor is to be a heavy penal assessment, an accurate demarcation line, such as is required for reserved forests, is not essential. The reserved areas might, I think, be sufficiently indicated by natural features, such as rivers, sides of hills, peaks and the like. An encroachment on the reserved area of a few acres might be overlooked, and only when it was apparent that material in roads were being made would it be necessary to have the cultivation measured up and the assessment imposed.

I would leave it to the Agency officer, in consultation with the District Forest-officer, to select the areas for reservation and require them to tom-tom and explain fully in each village what they had done to the Khonds concerned. These officers would also decide on the amounts to be charged when the reserved areas had been encroached upon, and the officers of the Forest Department would have no concern with Chokapad.

The export of timber for sale is already prohibited in Chokapad and the physical features of the country make it easy to enforce this prohibition. All timber exported must practically come by one route and pass a forest tanna. Illegal removals would be thus easily detected and would be effectually suppressed by prosecutions for theft. Chokapad is in this respect situated very differently from Pondakhol which is surrounded on nearly all sides by zamindaris.

(2) *Pondakhol.*—I agree with Mr. Battie as to the great importance of preserving the forests on the Pondakhol slopes, and, on the whole, I am inclined to agree with him also that the best way to effect this would be to introduce the Forest Act into the mutta, and, after leaving the Khonds and other villagers a liberal area for the extension of cultivation, to take up the remainder as reserved forests.

There is, of course, the alternative of introducing some such plan as I have suggested for Chokapad, but in Pondakhol there has never been any charge made on "podu" cultivation and to introduce it now would probably create quite as much trouble as the introduction of the Forest Act. There is no particular reason why we should not have reserved forests at Pondakhol when we have them at Baiballi and other places situated precisely similarly a few miles off. The country is within easy reach of Suradá, and a Local Fund road runs to within few miles of its boundary.

In the Korada and Ronaba zamindaris, which adjoin this country on either side, the forests have been sold and destroyed by their chiefs, and I have not heard that the Khond inhabitants have objected. I do not, therefore, see why they should object to the preservation of the forests in Pondakhol. No doubt they will not like the presence of the forest subordinates among them, but I see no reason to believe that they would object to this more strenuously than the Khonds in the other parts of the low country of the Goomsur taluk, or that their objections would be more entitled to weight. I am informed, moreover, by Mr. Battie that, in order to prevent thefts from the adjoining reserves which closely adjoin, the forest officials have frequently occasion to go to Pondakhol. The fact that in the two adjoining estates of Korada and Ronaba felling for sale is going on largely makes it necessary to propose stricter rules than those I have suggested for Chokapad. At present I have before me a complaint that the Korada chief has been felling and appropriating timber for sale from the Pondakhol forests. This is by no means the first complaint of the sort that has been made, and there is no doubt that, if the Pondakhol forests are to be properly protected, there must be a staff of watchers as the theft and removal of timber has to be guarded against here even more than "kondapodu" cultivation. If we must keep a forest establishment here, I think we should also have the Forest Act; we will then be able to protect thoroughly these jungles which are important from all points of view. Of course, if these proposals are

will take very good care that no one interferes with the trees they really value, viz., the solopo (sago palm), the mohwa (*Bassia latifolia*), the jack and the mango. To protect the ubiquitous sâl would mean to render the concessions it is proposed to grant the Savaras valueless.

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(3) In Pondakhol mutta I propose to introduce the Forest Act, to select and demarcate reserves, allowing a liberal area for the extension of cultivation, and, as a necessary consequence, to demarcate and separate this mutta off from the rest of the Maliahs.

CURRENT No. 1948

CONFIDENTIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 8th August 1894, Forest No. 526/Confdl. No. 7:—

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 213.

Abstract.—Communicating to the Agent to the Governor in Ganjám Government Order 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 Ganjám.

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 215:—

Read—the following Government Order, dated 30th January 1893, No. 80, Revenue:—

Read—again Government Order, dated 11th October 1892, No. 4428, Revenue.

Abstract.—Communicating to the Commissioners of Land Revenue and the Commissioner of Separate Revenue, with remarks, Proceedings, Judicial Department, reviewing the administration report of the Ganjám Agency for 1891–92.

Order—dated 30th January 1893, No. 80, Revenue.

Forest No. 32.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has carefully considered the question raised in paragraphs 18—21 of the Agent's report in the light of the policy recently enunciated in Government Order No. 57, dated 21st January 1893, and has come to the conclusion that the case of the Kuttingia chief falls within the exceptions referred to in paragraph 2 of that order, and that, under the terms of the sanad granted to him, the chief is entitled to be regarded by the Government as the owner of the forests in his estate. The Agent is accordingly directed to submit proposals for the acquisition by purchase of such of the forests in the Kuttingia mutta as he considers it desirable to preserve for climatic reasons.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Judicial Department.
" Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Resolution—dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 215.

Communicated to the Agent to the Governor in Ganjám in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 213.

2. He is requested to deal specially with the case of the Kuttingia forests in submitting the report referred to in paragraph 6 of that Proceedings.

(True Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Agent to the Governor, Ganjám.

Read—also the following letter from C. J. WEIR, Esq., Acting Agent and Collector of Ganjám, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue (through the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle), dated Camp Berhampur, 27th April 1894, R.C. No. 140:—

As directed in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 213, dated 22nd March 1893, I have the honour to submit the proposals called for by Government for the protection of the forests in the Agency tracts of this district. Government has directed that, for the present, protective measures should be confined 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. I understand that in all the rest of the Maliah country nothing need be done at present except to prohibit the felling of timber for sale and to endeavour to persuade the Khonds in those parts of the country where denudation has advanced to preserve some tree growth. It is necessary therefore to determine as precisely as possible the areas in which the protective measures thus ordered are to be introduced, and, this being settled, the nature of those measures has to be decided upon as well as the agency by which they are to be worked.

2. The proposals of the late Special Assistant Agent Mr. Elphinstone for the demarcation of the boundary line between the scheduled and ordinary tracts in this district which I have submitted to the Board with my letter No. 141 Ag., dated 10th March 1894, will, if approved, bring a large portion of the eastern slopes of the ghâts in the Goomsur taluk within the area of our reserved forests and thus *ipso facto* bring them also under protection. These slopes are, it is true, at present regarded as being for the most part within our reserves; but, as there is no boundary line between them and the Agency, the Khonds from above ghâts are continually trespassing therein and increasing their clearings yearly. Except in the extreme north-east corner, where the Agency line crosses the valley of the Mahánadi and is the boundary of the Chokapad mutta, the demarcation line proposed as far south as the muttas belonging to the Korada and Ronaba chiefs is, roughly speaking, the ridge of the ghâts. Beyond this, the Agency line runs in the low country. It includes in the Agency the Pondakhol mutta, which belongs to Government and through which the main channel of the Rushikulya passes. The boundary then enters the zamindari of Bodogoda. From thence southward right down to Parlákimedi the eastern slopes of the ghâts are, with two exceptions, viz., a small portion of the Chinna Kimedi Maliahs and the Tumba mutta now under attachment, situated in zamindaris, and Government has decided that it will claim no rights of ownership in these forests, and that, if it is considered necessary to acquire control over them, this must be done by negotiation with the zamindars or by acquiring the land under the Act.

Whether it is necessary or possible to secure control over these zamindari forests, and, if so, what are the best means of doing so, I propose to discuss further on. As regards the Parlákimedi Maliahs, Government have, in their order No. 1480, dated 21st July 1893, asserted full rights over these forests and certain proposals for their protection have already been submitted in Board's Proceedings, No. 89, Forest, dated 6th February 1894. The orders of Government thereon are awaited.

3. It will be seen from the above that, so far as eastern slopes are concerned, all these portions, which are at present directly under our control, will, with the exception of Chokapad and Pondakhol, be brought under protection and within our reserved forests by the adoption of the proposed demarcation between the Agency and ordinary tracts. The remaining tracts of country then within which under the orders of Government protection must be enforced are those which lie inside the Agency, but are yet situated on the eastern slopes or are in the vicinity of the head-waters of important rivers. Omitting, for the present, zamindari tracts, a certain part of the Chokapad mutta and the whole of Pondakhol comes within this category. Both these areas are situated on the eastern slopes and lie along the Mahánadi and Rushikulya rivers, respectively. The Daringabadi plateau above ghât contains the head-waters of the Rushikulya and should, therefore, under the orders of Government, be protected. I propose to discuss separately each of these tracts, and in this connection I enclose, for the perusal of the Board, a note drawn up by the District Forest-officer. Mr. Battie accompanied me on a portion of my Maliah trip this year, and his remarks on Chokapad and Pondakhol are based on the results of his inspection.

4. (1) *Chokapad.*—As pointed out by Mr. Battie, only about one-third of the total area of this mutta lies within the drainage area of the rivers of this presidency. The drainage of all the northern portion is towards Bengal. The forest in this northern part is poor, but from what I learned from both the Deputy Tahsildar and Special Assistant Agent there has been of late no increase of the area brought under "podu" cultivation. The tax of 6 annas an acre levied on such cultivation in this mutta seems to be a sufficient check, and I think that in this portion of the mutta matters may be left as they are. If it is found that "podu" cultivation increases to an extent which is desirable to check, a higher rate of taxation thereon might be imposed.

The south-eastern portion of the mutta contains part of the water-shed of the Mahánadi, an affluent of the Rushikulya and one of the rivers most important to the project. Paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 57, Revenue, dated 21st January 1893, would seem to require that in this area "kondapodu" should be absolutely prohibited, but the Board, in paragraph 6 of its Proceedings, dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 213, only speak of the restriction of "kondapodu" cultivation in such localities. I am of opinion that absolute prohibition would be an extreme measure and would arouse, even in Chokapad, violent opposition, and, though any rising of the Khonds in that mutta could be comparatively easily suppressed, any such movement is liable to spread. The neighbouring Khonds in the Goomsur taluk are, as the Board is aware, at present in an excited condition, and, if we prohibit kondapodu absolutely in Chokapad, it will no doubt increase greatly the general spirit of discontent. I do not think, moreover, it is necessary to prohibit the practice absolutely. The villages in this area are few and small and an ample area might be left in which the Khonds might extend their cultivation either by "kondapodu" or other methods without anything like denudation being approached. Mr. Battie thinks that sufficient protection might be afforded by simply increasing the present tax on "kondapodu," but this leaves the Khond free to devastate any part of the forest he pleases. Now these Chokapad forests are, independent of their importance for climatic reasons, valuable as forests; they contain fine sâl wood and are traversed by a passable cart road and are comparatively close to Russellkonda (20 to 25 miles). There seems to me no reason why revenue should not be derived from them, and, indeed, it is now being derived, as I have permitted, as already reported in my letter No. 39-Ag., dated 27th February 1894, to the Board, felling of sâl trees here for sleepers on the East Coast Railway. It is, I think, absurd to leave valuable forests like these, the growth on each acre of which is worth several hundred rupees which lie within workable distance, to be "podued" by any Khond for a few annas an acre. For these reasons I think it desirable to put limits once for all to the encroachments of the Khonds. I would propose that, as a concession in return for the restrictions to be imposed, the Khonds might be allowed in the area left to them to podu the forests free instead of paying as now 6 annas per acre. I would allow a liberal area for the extension

of cultivation, say eight times area of present cultivated extent of village, and in the area remaining would absolutely prohibit felling. Such prohibition might, I think, be sufficiently enforced by imposing a prohibitory assessment on all cultivation within the reserved area. Probably a rate of Rs. 2 an acre would be effective. The question arises whether it would be necessary to demarcate off the areas in which "kondapodu" was prohibited. The Conservator, Mr. Peet, considers that it would be necessary. I am inclined, however, to think that if, as I propose, only the felling of timber is to be prohibited and the punishment therefor is to be a heavy penal assessment, an accurate demarcation line, such as is required for reserved forests, is not essential. The reserved areas might, I think, be sufficiently indicated by natural features, such as rivers, sides of hills, peaks and the like. An encroachment on the reserved area of a few acres might be overlooked, and only when it was apparent that material in roads were being made would it be necessary to have the cultivation measured up and the assessment imposed.

I would leave it to the Agency officer, in consultation with the District Forest-officer, to select the areas for reservation and require them to tom-tom and explain fully in each village what they had done to the Khonds concerned. These officers would also decide on the amounts to be charged when the reserved areas had been encroached upon, and the officers of the Forest Department would have no concern with Chokapad.

The export of timber for sale is already prohibited in Chokapad and the physical features of the country make it easy to enforce this prohibition. All timber exported must practically come by one route and pass a forest tanna. Illegal removals would be thus easily detected and would be effectually suppressed by prosecutions for theft. Chokapad is in this respect situated very differently from Pondakhol which is surrounded on nearly all sides by zamindaris.

(2) *Pondakhol.*—I agree with Mr. Battie as to the great importance of preserving the forests on the Pondakhol slopes, and, on the whole, I am inclined to agree with him also that the best way to effect this would be to introduce the Forest Act into the mutta, and, after leaving the Khonds and other villagers a liberal area for the extension of cultivation, to take up the remainder as reserved forests.

There is, of course, the alternative of introducing some such plan as I have suggested for Chokapad, but in Pondakhol there has never been any charge made on "podu" cultivation and to introduce it now would probably create quite as much trouble as the introduction of the Forest Act. There is no particular reason why we should not have reserved forests at Pondakhol when we have them at Baiballi and other places situated precisely similarly a few miles off. The country is within easy reach of Suradá, and a Local Fund road runs to within few miles of its boundary.

In the Korada and Ronaba zamindaris, which adjoin this country on either side, the forests have been sold and destroyed by their chiefs, and I have not heard that the Khond inhabitants have objected. I do not, therefore, see why they should object to the preservation of the forests in Pondakhol. No doubt they will not like the presence of the forest subordinates among them, but I see no reason to believe that they would object to this more strenuously than the Khonds in the other parts of the low country of the Goomsur taluk, or that their objections would be more entitled to weight. I am informed, moreover, by Mr. Battie that, in order to prevent thefts from the adjoining reserves which closely adjoin, the forest officials have frequently occasion to go to Pondakhol. The fact that in the two adjoining estates of Korada and Ronaba felling for sale is going on largely makes it necessary to propose stricter rules than those I have suggested for Chokapad. At present I have before me a complaint that the Korada chief has been felling and appropriating timber for sale from the Pondakhol forests. This is by no means the first complaint of the sort that has been made, and there is no doubt that, if the Pondakhol forests are to be properly protected, there must be a staff of watchers as the theft and removal of timber has to be guarded against here even more than "kondapodu" cultivation. If we must keep a forest establishment here, I think we should also have the Forest Act; we will then be able to protect thoroughly these jungles which are important from all points of view. Of course, if these proposals are

URRENT No. 1390
for

From

The Agent to the Governor in Ganjam

To.

The Chief Secretary to Government Judicial Department Madras.

Dated 15 March 1895

Rec'd 23 Disposal No. 63 of 95

20 MAR 1895
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Subject

Reporting that Pondakhol mutta lies in the Surada Malialu.

Dpl no. 63/ag 1895 Ganjam Agent's Court
Dated Chatrapur 5th March

From

C. J. Weir Esquire
Ag. Agent to the
Governor.

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Judicial Department
Ft. Saint George.

Sir,

In reply to your memorandum No. 462 dated the 5th Instant I have the honour to report that Tondakhol Muttah lies in the Surada Maliahs.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your Most Obdt Servt.

A Thompson
for Ag. Agent.