M.R.O. 1—77,606—8-6-31.

(1) Number of page 1

(2) Date of repair 23.5.32

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue Board DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 557 Press Mus.

Dated 2 — 12 — 18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12*th April* 1859.

No. 79. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Revenue Department, dated 30th March 1859, No. 425.

Passing orders on the subject of the Accounts Current of the Canara Forests for Fusly 1265-66, and for the nine months from 1st July 1857 to 30th April 1858, accompanied with a Memo of Cash transactions and of Wood remaining to be accounted for. } (Vide Revenue Consultation, 1st April 1859, Nos. 69-70.)

No. 80. ORDER THEREON, No. 854; dated 12th April 1859.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer with reference to paras. 5 and 6 of the order. Lieutenant-Colonel Bell will attend to the requisition contained in para. 5.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 425.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 30th March 1859.

Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests.

Forwarding certain letters from the Collector of Canara, transmitting the Accounts Current of the Canara Forests for Fusly 1265-1265, *and for the nine months from 1st July* 1857 *to 30th April* 1858, *accompanied with the Memoranda of Cash transactions and of Wood remaining to be accounted for.* (Here enter 7th December 1858, No. 492.)

1. In para. 9 of Extract Minutes Consultation 12th November 1857, No. 1153, the Government directed the Return of the accounts of the Canara Forests to the Conservator to be revised and re-submitted according to the prescribed forms. The counter-signature of the Collector, after due examination by that officer, was also insisted upon; and lastly, it was ordered that in future the accounts should be made up to the official year and not as previously to the Fusly. In this last respect a relaxation of their order was allowed by Government in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 10th February 1858, No. 181; and the Account Current of the Canara Forests was permitted to be made up for the Fusly year 1266, in consideration of a communication from the Collector of Canara to Dr. Cleghorn to the effect that his accounts for that Fusly had been closed, and the alteration then to the official year, was impracticable. But the Government requested that the next Account Current should be rendered from 1st July 1857 to 30th April 1858.

2. In accordance with the foregoing orders, Dr. Cleghorn now lays before Government the Canara Forest accounts for Fusly 1265, Fusly 1266, and for the nine months which intervene between the close of the latter Fusly and the close of the official year 1857-58. A Memorandum of Cash transactions, and one of Wood to be accounted for is also submitted. The result is a profit of Rupees 2,81,897-14-4 to Government, the cost of collection being a small fraction under 6 per cent. In accordance with the resolution of Government of the 3rd February 1859, No. 143, these accounts will now be forwarded to the Board of Revenue for report after examination in the Account Department of their office. The Governor in Council must express the hope that hereafter the report and accounts will be laid before him at a much earlier date.

3. The Government concur with the Collector of Canara and Dr. Cleghorn in thinking that the officers of the Bombay Government in Dhárwár and Belgaum should purchase the timber they require in the same manner as other people. This principle of shewing no favour to any particular Department in its transactions with the Conservancy Department, was affirmed in para. 10 of the order of Government above quoted. It is quite necessary in order to shew correctly the effect and the value of the conservancy operations, as well as to make it practicable to keep the accounts in a clear and simple manner. It is necessary, to give confidence to private purchasers. On the other hand it occasions no loss to Government, because the higher price paid in one Department is received in another.

4. The Government approve of the measures taken, as described by Dr. Cleghorn in para. 8, with the view of ensuring an adequate supply of timber and firewood for the large towns, by periodical local auctions. The Governor in Council is not quite satisfied that these measures will be fully sufficient; but they are in the right direction. It will be the duty both of the Collector and of the Conservator to watch their effect, and to devise such extension or improvement of the arrangements as may from time to time appear expedient. The forests should certainly be protected from injury; but all possible care should be taken to prevent inconvenience to the Public on the introduction of the new system. The Collector

1858. mentions that the last of the old firewood farms expires this year, which will bring the whole of the upper Forests under the direct management of the Forest Department.

5. In the two succeeding paras. of his letter, the Conservator notices

Paras. 9-10. the great importance of the "Hallial" Depôt in which timber is sometimes stored to the value of Rupees 14,000; and he proposes to surround it with a mud wall and thorn fence, and to construct suitable quarters for an Overseer close to the Depôt, at an expense of Rupees 800, the wood being supplied free. These pro-

posals are approved; and the Chief Engineer will be desired to submit Plan and Estimate for the work, which should be approved and countersigned by the Conservator. He will state at the same time whether the Overseer will be able to superintend the execution of the work, and if so, what aid he will require from the Public Works Department.

6. The Forest Map is likely to be extremely useful, and Dr. Cleghorn should have a number of copies lithographed at the Central office of Public Works as soon as his Assistants have filled in sufficient details. It should be clearly shewn for each tract of Forest, what means exist for conveying the felled timber to any of the depôts or to the Coast, or should none be available,

Para. 12. as in the case of the Forests on the *Gund* Plateau, the *proposed* routes should be delineated. It is observed that Dr. Cleghorn expects to be shortly able to work these Forests.

7. In paras. 16 to 18 the Conservator responds to the call made upon him in Extract Minutes Consultation 28th February 1857, to report fully on the "Kumari" system of cultivation. Dr. Cleghorn has consulted various persons whose opinions on the subject may be considered to bear weight, and has come to the conclusion that it is neither possible nor desirable to suppress Kumari cultivation altogether; but that it should be carried on under stringent regulations; the chief of them being that a previous application for a specified extent should be made in every case, and that any unauthorized operations should be punished by severe fine; and that it should be wholly prohibited and stopped in the neighbourhood of Trunk roads, navigable rivers, or the sea shore, as well as in all localities where there is valuable timber.

These views appear to the Governor in Council to be judicious and practical; but before issuing final orders on the subject, he resolves to refer the question for the consideration of the Board of Revenue who have had the question of Kumari under their consideration at various times within the last few years. Whatever rules may be established the active co-opertaion of the Revenue Department will be necessary in order to enforce them.

8. The Government approve of the proposition that the Revenue

Para. 19. Authorities should aid in the conservation of the Sissoo avenues in the vicinity of Sircy, and the Sub-Collector's attention will be called to the subject, through the Board of Revenue, though it would appear that the necessary suggestions have already been made direct by Dr. Cleghorn and readily responded to by the Sub-Collector.

9. The appointment of Mr. Thomson to the charge of South Canara

Para. 22. is sanctioned. The Government are gratified to observe the high terms in which the Conservator speaks of his Assistant *Mr. S. Muller*; and they willingly authorize his advancement to the vacant post in the Department on the higher salary of Rupees 300 per mensem.

(A true Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue
with letter and enclosures.
" Conservator of Forests.
" Department Public Works.
" Accountant General.
" Civil Auditor.

Exd. H. M. Elliot.

From H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests; to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George; dated Calicut, 7th December 1858, No. 492.

Ex. Mins of Cons. No. 1153, *Rev. Dept.* *12th Nov.* 1857.

1. I have the honor with reference to the order of Government noted in the margin to forward for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council two letters dated 26th June from the Collector of Canara, transmitting the Accounts Current of the Canara Forest for Fusly 1265 (A. D. 1855-56), Fusly 1266 (1856-57), and for the nine months from 1st July 1857 to 30th April 1858, each being accompanied with a Memo. of Cash transactions, and a Memo. of Wood remaining to be accounted for. These accounts prepared in the Collector's office for these periods in terms of the order of Government contained in Extract Minutes of Consultation Nos. 181 and 183, Revenue Department, 10th and 11th February 1858, exhibit a profit to Government as follows:

	Rs.	A.	P.
Fusly 1265	1,17,961	15	8
Do. 1266	1,16,148	7	3
Period to 30th April 1858, (9 months)	47,787	7	5
Total Rs....	2,81,897	14	4

2. It will be observed that in the accounts for Fusly 1265 and 1266 the whole proceeds of sales, whether then actually recovered or not, are included, and the Collector explains in paras. 3 and 4 of his letter No. 1 the principle observed in keeping the accounts. "All expenditure incurred was charged in the accounts to "Advances," and all money collected by the sale of timber to "Deposits;" and at the end of the year the account was squared by ascertaining the amount of expenditure upon each description or supply of wood, and carrying the net amount of its value after deducting all charges, to the account of Government as the demand for the year. The amounts actually recovered, and the portion remaining due against the purchasers or Government officers who received timber were shewn, the former as collections, the latter as outstanding for future recovery. From this you will observe that the uncollected amount was included in the actual collections, as appears to have been inferred by Government."

Ex. Mins. of Cons. 12*th Nov.* 1857, *para.* 2.

Para. 4. "The Government remark that needless details are given in the accounts originally sent, observing that 'particulars are properly furnished to the Audit Department but are not needed by Government.' In the Account Current now sent, these details have been omitted, but I must observe, that the particulars of charges hitherto shown, were specially introduced in the Account Current because they did not come under the cognizance of the Audit office. The Accountant General has now proposed certain rules with regard to the Forest revenue and charges, being shown in the new form of Treasury Accounts to be brought into operation from the beginning of the present official year, which will be observed hereafter."

3. In his letter, No. 2, para. 5, the Collector explains the apparent falling off in the profit to Government. The accounts as now ordered to be submitted are simple accounts of the actual cash transactions of each year. They contain on the credit side only such sums as are actually received in the year, and the full proceeds are not shown; while on the debit side they show payments made for the benefit of the succeeding year; and they will therefore be valueless as showing the real income and expenditure belonging to each year, and the fluctuations in the actual receipts and disbursements of each year will render it impossible with anything like accuracy to institute a comparison between the incomes of successive years.

4. It will be observed that in the accounts the fractional parts of a pie are not minutely stated in the average prices of woods, and that in the Memo. of timber unaccounted for which can never be more than an approximation, the fractional parts of Rupees are not given.

5. The annexed abstract indicates the receipts and expenses; the cost and establishment and the per centage of fixed establishment to the profit for the last two years and nine months.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenses excluding Establishment.	Net profit.	Establishment Rupees 510 a month.	Per centage of Establishment on Net profit.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Rs.
1855-56	1,50,609 8 0	32,647 8 4	1,17,961 15 8	6,120	5·188
1856-57	1,60,639 6 4	44,490 15 1	1,16,148 7 3	6,120	5·269
1857-58 ..... (9 Months)	70,656 10 7	22,869 3 2	47,787 7 5	4,590	9·605
	3,81,905 8 11	1,00,007 10 7	2,81,897 14 4	16,830	5,970

6. I think it right to mention that the auction sales during the last two years included much old timber that had been left in the forest by contractors; a like return can scarcely be expected, as the jungles have been carefully searched; on the other hand profits will accrue from Depôts. The proceeds of sales in future years will probably not therefore be so large as they have been during those now under report. I have roughly calculated that there should be a profit annually of from 40 to 50,000 Rupees in North Canara.

7. I entirely concur with Mr. Fisher in para. 10 of his second letter, that the Government Officers in Dharwar and Belgaum should purchase the timber they require in exactly the same manner as other people.

8. The Collector alludes to the difficult question of supplying the large towns with *fire-wood and* and *house-building* material; this has been brought before me in every district which I have visited. With a view to meeting the demands of the surrounding population I have arranged with Mr. Müller that he shall extend his supervision Southwards to the Garsoopah river, and that additional auctions shall be held at the following places during the ensuing years: Sircy, Tuddry, Honore, and I hope at Condapoor, with the assistance of the Revenue authorities; these sources of supply will, I hope, be of service in meeting the requirements of the people whilst our *Ammani* system is being extended throughout the District.

Hullial Depôt.—9. This is the largest inland Depôt in North Canara and is of great importance to the South Mahratta country. Timber valued at 10 to 14,000 Rupees is often collected there and deposited without proper classification in an open space outside the town. I am most anxious that the Depôt should be enclosed with a mud wall and thorn fence, having gates for ingress and egress. Merchants from Bellary, Dharwar, Belgaum and Bombay attend the great auction, and it seemed to me that the large stock of wood is scarcely safe. The operations of squaring the logs, lotting and measuring the timber require the special superintendence of an intelligent and trustworthy Overseer, subject to the supervision of the Assistant Conservator in charge of the Canara range.

10. At Hullial, the Overseer being without European intercourse and in a wild part of the country, I propose to improve his position by giving him suitable quarters close to the Depôt and not far from the travellers bungalow. I believe that the cost of a comfortable house would not exceed 500 Rupees and the enclosure say 300 Rupees. Total 800 Rupees. The wood would be supplied free.

* *To be sent from the office in Madras as soon as it has been copied.*

Forest Chart.—11. The annexed Forest* Chart on North Canara, prepared by my Assistant Mr. Müller on the same scale as the Trigonometrical Survey will clearly explain the position of the Teak Forests and the nature of the country. The green spotted tracts indicate Forests in which little or no Teak is found. The parts colored uniformly green, indicate those Forests which contain Teak trees in such numbers that they may with propriety be called Teak Forests. Those forests only are marked which have been personally inspected by Mr. Müller or myself, nothing is put down from mere report, and the position of stunted (very inferior Teak is not indicated. The site of the Teak Plantations and the points where the river becomes available for water carriage and the situations of the Depôts are shewn. The tract set aside for the refractory Gowlees (herdsmen) along the Goa frontier is also indicated. The filling in such maps by my Assistants, as they traverse the Forests is an important part of their duty and likely to lead to valuable results.

Goond Forest.—12. As intimated in my annual Statement the only unworked Forest of any extent is that occupying the Tableau of Goond; on it there are several thousand well grown teak trees ready for the axe; 1,600 teak and 400 Blackwood trees are to be girdled after the monsoon at the entrance of the Kaneree Nullah and with the assistance of a skilled officer. I hope that the Engineering difficulties of working this Forest may be overcome. All the other Forests below the ghauts have been very much worked; above the ghauts there is still a good quantity of Teak, which is in great demand from the requirements of the Bombay Public Departments. The vast extent of bare country to the Eastward (Dharwar, Sholapore, Raichore and Bellary) receive its chief timber supplies from the talooks of Yellapoor, Soondah and Soopah.

13. *Coming Demands.*—The North Canara Forests will also be called upon in part to supply timber for the Madras Railway North West branch when it reaches the Ceded Districts, and an application has already been received respecting the supply of Sleepers for the Great Indian Peninsular Railway. The failure of Cast Iron Sleepers will revive the heavy demands on all the Forests near the different lines of Railway.

14. The extension of the Telegraph line along the Western Coast from Dharwar to Mangalore and Cannanore will require the immediate preparation of 4,500 Poles. I am happy to find that Sir W. B. O'Shaugnessy does not consider it essential that these should be of teakwood, and I believe that Mutti or Kara Murda, *Terminalia to Mentosa* will answer nearly as well.

15. *Gowlees.*—In the hot season, the Gowlees bring large herds of breeding cows into the Forest; they avoid villages and the cattle are exceedingly fierce. Strangers approach them with difficulty, but to the herdsmen they are tractable enough. These Forest cattle are always kept in herds of 150 and upwards, each herd at an average required 5 men with their families. The total number has been variously estimated at 20 to 50,000 herd of cattle. They do great mischief to seedlings, and the herdsmen often break branches of trees to feed their cattle. In other places the pasturage of the cattle does great good in removing the long grass and fallen leaves as in old forest. Each head of cattle pays 4 annas per annum for the privilege of grazing in the Forest.

Dated 28th Feb. 1857, No. 217, R. D.

16. *Coomree Cultivation.*—In Extract Minutes of Consultation noted in the margin, I was directed to write a full report upon this wasteful system. I have paid much attention to the subject, and after consultation with Revenue Officers, Coffee Planters, &c., I annex in the Appendix the opinion of

T. L. Blane, Esq., late Collector of Canara.
G. S. Forbes, Esq., late Sub-Collector of Canara.
Thomas Cannan, Esq., Coffee Planter, and
T. Beaumont, Esq., of Beypoor.

which serve to illustrate the general views of the Collectors of Revenue, Coffee Planters and the energetic Agent of the Beypoor Iron Works.

17. It is not possible, nor is it *desirable*, to suppress the Coomree cultivation altogether, as the growth of the various millets is necessary to the aliment of certain classes of people, but I think it most important that it should be *greatly limited* as suggested by Mr. Blane, and *not permitted* on the banks of navigable rivers, on the Sea shore, close to trunk roads, or in any locality where superior timber exists. The revenue arising from the tax of 1 Rupee per acre is trivial compared with the value of the wood lost to the State, and it is well known that in the unfrequented valleys of the Ghâuts much Coomree takes place without the knowledge of the Revenue officers, European or Native.

18. In every case, I think an application for a specified amount of Coomree land should be made, and when Coomree takes place without sanction, the cultivator should be severely fined. In this way the destruction of virgin Forests has been brought under both in Mysore and in the Southern Mahratta country. I do not here allude to the private lands of Malabar with which I have nothing to do.

Sissoo.—19. Lines of Sissoo trees form avenues in the neighbourhood of Sircee. This is a valuable tree, and I have urged upon the Revenue authorities and Public Works Department the importance of supervision, that the young plants may receive that watchful care essential to their mature growth. In the prospective management the main points are; 1st, to keep up fences till the young trees are beyond the injury of cattle; 2nd, the trimming off bottom shoots and lower branches with a common pruning (garden) knife or hand saw. The proper time for carrying out this operation is the dry weather, and the best rule is to take off the little side brauches (up to $\frac{2}{3}$ths of the height of the tree) with a clean cut close to the stem. I requested the Sub-Collector to arrange for this being done after the rains, if carried out the height of tress will be increased and probably the breath of plank obtained afterwards.

20. I would gladly arrange for this being carried out through the Agency of the Conservancy Department, but Mr. Müller and his Subordinates have their hands so full of work, that I have thought it best to address the Sub-Collector on the subject who has always been ready to co-operate with me in furtheranee of such useful undertakings.

South Canara.—21. It is impossible that Mr. Müller can supervise the whole length of Canara, and I agree with Mr. Fisher that a good European Overseer is absolutely required for the Conservancy of the Southern Talooks, especially the Pootoor and Sooliah jungles alluded to in para. 19 of the Collector's letter. These Forests were formerly valuable, their condition in 1804 is described by Lord Valentia in his Travels Vol. I. p. p. 450-455. They then contained fine timber; with care and rest they will recover, at present so far as I could learn by inspection and inquiry, there is little mature timber, but vast numbers of young teak and blackwood trees.

22. Mr. E. Thompson was appointed to the charge of South Canara on the 1st October last, in anticipation of sanction.

Mr. Müller's promotion.—23. Mr. Sebastian Müller is a painstaking and laborious Assistant, his system is a good one, he makes his subordinates responsible for their respective charges, and speaks Canarese with great fluency. He is slow at accounts, but is much in his saddle, and undergoes more bodily fatigue than almost any public servant of my acquaintance. He has laboured for three years to bring the Forest into order, and considering his important services, and the recent extension of his charge, and remembering that Mr. Müller was withdrawn from the Department Public Works with the promise of promotion, and that he has been a great loser by the transfer, I beg to recommend that he receive the higher rate of 300 Rupees per mensem from 1st proximo. There is a vacancy in the Department which admits of this being granted without exceeding the sanctioned amount.

24. Mr. Müller's local knowledge and experience have been of great use to me in both my annual tours through this District, and I know that he was respected and valued by Messrs. F. N. Maltby, Fisher, and Robinson.

Appendix. A.

Extract of a letter from T. L. BLANE, Esq., Collector of Canara, to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August 1847.

Para. 14. "The practice of Coomree cultivation is one of so wasteful and improvident a nature that it appears to me it ought not to be tolerated except in a very wild and unpeopled country, and the time seems to have arrived when it would be most advisable to place it under considerable check and regulation, if not entirely to prohibit it. This latter course I must observe the authorities in Mysore have only within this last year thought it necessary to adopt. It was never permitted under the Rajah's Government, and can only be said therefore to have been in operation for 12 or 15 years at most, yet so rapidly has it increased that the Superintendent of the Nuggur Division with whom I have had much conversation on the subject, has determined on putting a stop to it with a view to the preservation of the woods which still remain."

15. "I am not disposed at present to recommend its entire prohibition, but I think it would be well to do so in all places accessible to the sea ports whence timber and firewood could be brought down, and to place it under regulation in every other part of the district. The revenue paid upon this destructive kind of cultivation is very trifling, and if the wood were preserved in accessible spots the duty upon the export of timber and firewood would under proper regulation exceed it ten fold. I have particularly noticed the destruction which has taken place of forest on the hills immediately above the fine port of the Tuddri where it would have been very valuable from its vicinity to the coast. The forests which have been here felled and burned, and the magnificent trees which have been left to rot on the ground would have supplied the market at Bombay with firewood for years. The same fact has been noticed by Mr. Forbes, my Head Assistant, in a letter copy of which was enclosed in my letter to the Board of the 20th June 1846.

23d March 1846.

16. I have referred above to the manner in which the practice of Coomree cultivation has increased of late years. It was formerly confined entirely to the race of wild and uncivilized people who dwelt habitually in the jungles, but others have since taken it up and many of the ryots from the plains, and others who have come from the Mysore and Marahatta country have adopted it as a means of livelihood. There is little doubt also that the prohibition of this practice in the Mysore country will drive a great many of those who have carried on their operations in the forests of that country into Canara, and the destruction will thus be carried on more rapidly than ever until the woods are finally exhausted. Independent of these considerations, it is not a pursuit which it is at all desirable to encourage the people newly to engage in. It has no doubt some attraction for those who are impatient of control, and are fond of a wild roving life, but it leads to unsettled habits and takes many away from the regular cultivation of a fixed spot."

Appendix B.

Mr. G. S. FORBES' opinion.

"The third source of consumption I have to mention arises from the cultivation of Coomree which as you are aware is carried on upon tracts where the trees have been previously felled and burnt, the value of timber thus destroyed by one man, calculating it by the number of logs, it might have yielded is at least 20 times as great as the value of the crop of raggy obtained in the two years that cultivation is continued, and the amount of duty which the trees would have yielded if exported as firewood bears the same proportion to the paltry sum paid to Government for the clearing. To abolish this species of cultivation would deprive a great number of persons of their accustomed means of support, and I have only therefore to suggest that the cultivation of Coomree be forbidden in all localities where trees for timber or firewood are likely to be felled, such localities may be determined by the means of carriage which exist. On hills and on tracts distant from the lines of water carriage the timber consumed could not be turned to any other account (it being always understood that no teak or sissoo, &c., should be touched.) The above remarks apply chiefly to the Forests situated below Ghauts and which extend several miles from the hills towards the Sea and from the Goa boundary to the river Tudery which bounds the Ankola talook."

Appendix C.

Opinion of THOMAS CANNAN, Esq.

"With regard to the Coomree cultivation, the Government in my opinion is the greater loser, there being very seldom more than one crop of raggy taken from any one patch, which if cultivated with coffee for instance would have yielded something every year for half a century on an average in the way of rent or tax. In an old Coomree the jungle trees grow up again, but they are of kinds totally unfit for building purposes, and in this respect, settlers in the country are put to expense and inconvenience as well as the Government in their building operations, and coffee planters generally find their planting operations brought to a very unsatisfactory and abrupt termination by a Coomree, on which I have never been able to get coffee to grow yet. In Nugger, where the Coomree cultivation was prohibited, stringent regulations with regard to the cutting down of timber were issued at the same time, every person requiring wood was obliged to apply for it before cutting it down, the cultivator had not to pay for it, but the non-cultivator had, and I am of opinion that these measures have operated pretty well."

"The more I think of this Coomree the more surprised I feel at its being tolerated for such a length of time. It is carried on by a set of savages, in every sense of the word, who would be much more profitably employed on the Public Works or on Coffee plantations."

Appendix D.

Extract of letter of the late Mr. A. POULTON, Government Timber Agent; dated 16th October 1852, para. 11.

"I have also observed that the restrictions on the Coomree are producing a good effect on the cultivation of rice as considerable portions of new cultivation have taken place, more particularly about the village, of Hansu and Woolvee which were only a short time since entirely dependent on the Coomree, but have now a considerable extent of rice lands under cultivation."

Appendix E.

Letter from Mr. J. BEAUMONT, Manager of the Beypoor Iron Works; to Dr. CLEGHORN, Conservator of Forests, dated 11th November 1858.

Sir,

In soliciting the favor of your permission to cut the useless common jungle wood in the Government jungle near Ariacode, I venture to invite your attention to the wanton sacrifice of tracts of forest, by a practice prevailing to a large extent in Malabar. I allude to the cutting of maiden forest by the Mullacaren and native land owners for the purposes of cultivation. The grains usually planted are paddy, shamay and tomara. For the two last Government receive no tax. For the first (paddy) which is principally sown, it is true that the Circar

receives the usual Nigady; but for the following reason this affords to the country an inadequate return for the destruction of forests, which in later years would prove of immense value. The tract of land denuded of forest, for the want of irrigation, *can only be cultivated profitably every five or sometimes in twenty years*. Thus does the country receive but one year's tax out of, say, nine upon ground so cleared. It will upon the other hand readily be perceived, that these wholesale depredators, being unable to cultivate the same land except during one year, will remove to another locality where maiden jungle stands; and there resume their work of devastation. It is unnecessary for me to enumerate, to one so well acquainted with the district, the numberless tracts of magnificent forest which during my short residence in Malabar, I have seen swept from existence by the process now undermentioned; but I cannot refrain, whilst an opportunity offers, of recording my decided opinion that unless Government take some step (and the remedy is easy) to check this system of wanton destruction; in a very few years the chief portion of these magnificent forests will present little but a barren waste studded with the stumps of the finest trees which can adorn or fertilize the district in which they stand.

From W. FISHER, Esq., Collector of Canara; to H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests; dated Mangalore, 26th June 1858.

SIR,

1. With reference to your letter of the 19th December last, No. 237, and its accompaniments, I have the honor to forward revised accounts* of the Forest Department for Fuslies 1265, A. D. 1855-56, and 1266, A. D. 1856-57, in the forms pointed out in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 22d March 1855, No. 319, a copy of which was furnished with your letter under reply.

* *With the Reports returned.*

2. The forms in which the accounts were originally furnished by me for Fusly 1265, and by Mr. Robinson for the subsequent year 1266 were introduced by my predecessor Mr. Maltby, and adhered to afterwards as no exception was taken to them. The principle observed up to Fusly 1266, or 1856-57, was as follows.

3. All expenditure incurred was charged in the accounts to "advances" and all money collected by the sale of Timber to "Deposits;" and at the end of the year the account was squared by ascertaining the amount of expenditure upon each description or supply of wood, and carrying the net amount of its value after deducting all charges, to the account of Government as the demand for the year. The amounts actually recovered, and the portion remaining due against the purchasers or Government officers who received Timber were shown, the former as collections, the latter as outstanding for future recovery. From this you will observe that the uncollected amount was included in the actual collections, as appears to have been inferred by Government.

Ex. Mins. Cons, 12th Nov. 1857. *Para.* 2.

4. The Government remark that needless details are given in the accounts originally sent, observing that "particulars are properly furnished to the Audit Department "but are not needed by Government." In the Account Current now sent, these details have been omitted, but I must observe, that the particulars of charges hitherto shown, were specially introduced in the Account Current, because they did not come under the cognizance of the Audit Office. The Accountant General has now proposed certain Rules with regard to the Forest Revenue and charges, being shown in the new form of Treasury accounts to be brought into operation from the beginning of the present official year, which will be observed hereafter. A copy of these instructions is herewith forwarded for your information.

Letter of Acct. Genl. to the Collr. of Coimbatore dated 8th June 1858, *No.* 267.

5. With regard to arithmetical errors in the accounts returned by Government, it must be stated that in giving the average rates of the sale of wood, the fractional parts of a pice were omitted as unnecessary. One or two clerical errors however exist.

No. 2.

6. The account of cash transactions as now sent shews the amount outstanding at the beginning of the year; that drawn during the year and repaid from the sale proceeds of wood within the same period, as well as the balance remaining to be accounted for at the close of the year.

7. Statement No. 3 exhibits the stock of timber in store at the end of each year for future disposal.

From W. FISHER, Esq., Collector of Canara; to Dr. H. CLEGHORN, M. D., Conservator of Forests; dated Mangalore, 26th June 1858.

SIR,

1. In forwarding the Forest accounts for the year ending 30th April, I have the honor to append the following summary shewing the financial results of our operations, and comparing them with those of the preceding year; after which I proceed to note, and make such observations as appear necessary, on the several transactions which in the aggregate, show the work done, and the steps taken in forest conservancy during the period under report.

2. The change in the system of keeping the Forest accounts makes it difficult to institute a clear comparison between the revenue derived from the Forests in the past and previous years. This perhaps is not of much consequence, as the year's income in future will be the amount realized within it, and will therefore be liable to considerable fluctuations, whilst the expenditure will include all outgoings, among which advances for work to be undertaken at a future period will form a large item, and render comparisons, except for a series of years, nearly valueless, as not only will there be considerable fluctuations both in expenditure and income, but the one will have but partial connection with the other.

3. The Account Current for the year under review gives the demand on the principles above alluded to as Rupees 70,656-10-7, the expenses at Rupees 22,869-3-2, leaving to be credited to Government Rupees 47,787-7-5.

4. The demand for Fusly 1266, 1856-57, amounted to Rupees 1,60,639-6-4. The expenses to Rupees 44,490-15-1, leaving to be credited to Government Rupees 1,16,148-7-3.

5. This difference is very great indeed, but is much reduced, if we consider the matter as we should have done last year. The balance in favor of Government would then appear to be Rupees 85,594. This arises from all proceeds of sales, &c., &c., collected or uncollected having been then considered income, whilst only so much of advances made to contractors, &c., &c., was entered under head of charges as actually appertained to the year under report.

	Rs.
Amount collected	47,787
„ *uncollected*	37,807
	85,594

6. New money is entered as received and expended, and whilst the full proceeds of the year do not find a place in the credit side of the account, the debit side exhibits money paid for work to be undertaken hereafter, the profits on which will appear in further Accounts Current.

7. The real difference between the out-turn of the year under comparison is to be attributed to less teak having been sold in the year under report than in Fusly 1266.

Paras. 19 *and* 20, *Report of Mr. Muller* 9*th April* 1858.

8. The Amani system now in its second year of trial is progressing very satisfactorily. It is highly remunerative and economical, and will prove beneficial to the Wudders (who are now beginning to work more readily under Mr. Müller), whilst careful felling and trimming are superseding the wasteful practices of former years.

9. The only amendment that strikes me as necessary at present is strict adherence to our present rules, even in the case of the Dharwar and Belgaum Government officers.

10. We ought soon to have sufficient timber (though I do not wish to see a stock much in excess of current demand) to meet the wants of these Public Departments at the Hullial Depôt, and they should purchase on exactly the same terms as other people. I am much opposed to any of their Contractors entering the Forest on any pretence whatever.

11. The contracts now being worked out are those of Messrs. Brice and Co.

Venkatasha Prahboo.
Vesvanathapah.
Fend Shenoy.

Jungle trees from Ekeguli Forests 2360 *term* 2 *years*		2500
Seignorage	*On felling*	1250
	On export	
	Rs.	3750
Collected this year		1250

12. The first is conducted according to the terms. The second, is apparently likely to fail not one out of about 2,000 logs which ought to have been at Sedashigur in March, have yet reached that place, but 900 of them are said to be in the Kallanuddee.

2245 *Teak girdled, Shivepoor Forest, time* 2 *years, terms Rs.* 2-7-6 *per candy superior; annas* 2-7 *per candy on sale proceeds of inferior.*
Para. 45 *repd. Fusly* 1266.

13. The two last are only of recent date, but Vesvanathapah* has, it appears, commenced operations. The terms accepted by Fend Shenvy appear at first sight even below those under which Venkatasha Prahboo is working, but as few logs comparatively speaking are likely to be 1st class, the contractors share on rejected wood may pay pretty well.

* 2000 *jungle trees time* 2 *years to be delivered at Sedashigar terms* 2-11-9 *per candy.*
Nakary teak 3744 *logs delivered at Gungavally, time* 2 *years, terms Rs.* 1-10-5 *per candy for superior, and annas* 3-5 *per rupee on sale proceeds of inferior.*

14. Firewood. The Billets sold on the coast for exportation have risen in prices from Rupees 4 to Rupees 13-10 per 1000. This article has risen in value enormously every where, and the supply of the coast towns is, as you are aware, a subject under consideration at this moment

15. I believe the plans proposed will have the desired effect, and that the establishment of depôts or rather of annual sales by anction (in small lots) of a quantity of firewood sufficient for the wants of each of these towns will not only furnish a sufficient supply at moderate prices, but that it will be the means of keeping up that supply, and of introducing more economical methods of obtaining fiewood, and thus put a stop to wholesale destruction of forest, which has only been checked of late years. The last of the old farms for bamboos and firewood which has hitherto existed in the Ballaghaut, the "Grahasopaskara" closes this year, and the whole of the business of the upper Forests wll thus be brought under the direct management of the Forest Department.

16. The great subject of anxiety at this moment is the due supply of timber and firewood both in town and country, to the trader and to the ryot. The difficulties which arise in attempting to settle this question are great, and it is doubtful whether any general rule would work well in all parts of the district.

17. At present the ryot cannot obtain a tree wherewith to repair his house or his mill without endless delays, and trouble. He gives in his Urzee and knowing that he must wait an indefinite time for the order which after all is pretty certain to come, he fells the whole or a portion of the timber required, transgr esses the rules, and being reported by some neighbour, is fined. A more fortunate or influen tial man really does what he likes.

18. As a rule the ryot will and can do little mischief in the forest, and as long as he is content with supplying his own wants, it is only necessary that the means of cutting up timber should be introduced, to enable him to substitute parts of full grown trees which will last for years, for the half grown and rudely shaped logs out of which at present he builds his house or cattle pen. In the lower country we must guard the rivers, and supply the towns, and traders and leave the ryots as free as possible; giving them every encouragement to raise usefu and profitable trees on their own grounds.

19. In the Ballaghaut it is different. Fine forest reaches in many instances down to the cultivated land. There are means of disposing of timber to traders from the interior in ways which are not easily detected, and at best, five or six roads or tracks have to be watched, when one river offers the only means of transport in the low country.

20. Regarding the Southern Forests a final stop has been put to the felling of timber by merchants under the old system. I am only awaiting the arrival of an Overseer to introduce that which now obtains in the north. A supply of timber (jungle wood) sufficient for the market, can be cut as soon as he knows the ground, and floated down both to Mangalore and Cassergode; but work should be commenced whilst the nullahs are full.

21. There are still good jungles which can be worked by means of the streams running into the Natrawutty or Comaradary, although the Forest has been very freely worked on the old system. In the Soolia jungles and other tracts along the banks of the Cassergode river, I believe there is much young jungle of great value, and as this has not been worked of late years, it will with care yield valuable supplies of the better kinds of timber a few years hence.

22. The accounts appended will show present stock of timber, and the manner in which it is stored, or in the course of being disposed of; particulars of money realized and outstanding; and the transactions of the year as required by the new forms.

(A true Copy.)

Secretary to Government.

Exd. H. M. Elliot.

P. Works 1859 Nov.ber
Cons 12th Ditto

№ 846.

Extract Commander-in-
the Forces Despatch

Dated 30th March 1859
Rec.d 9th April "
R. 425.

Relating order on the
subject of the accounts
of Lieut Lewis for duty
12 Dec. 56 & for Allowances
from 1st July 1857 to 30th April
1858; accompanied with a
claim of Cash transactions &
of arrears remaining to be
accounted for.

Fitts 1st order &
№ 854. 12th April 1859.

№ 854

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief
Engineer with reference to paras 5 and 6 of the order & Colonel
Faber will attend to the requisition contained in para 5

Fort St. George
12th April 1859

10 Copies to the Chief Engr. & Dispd 13th ditto E.R.C. No. 425.