

waste land, make valuable sites for plantations. They request therefore that the Collector, in conjunction with the Forest Officers, will have the necessary inquiries made.

2. "Padugai" lands should be reserved for planting purposes, and arrangements should be made accordingly.

3. In passing these Proceedings the Board assume that G.O., No. 531, of 27th May 1873, which directs that lands formally and finally relinquished by the Railway Companies should be offered to the original owners on putta at a fair price, and if refused, sold by auction, has been entirely set aside by the provisions of paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 206, dated 29th January 1881, which orders the utilization of such lands for "the growth of fuel, such as Euphorbia or Cacti, where the soil is poor, of manurial trees in better soils, and bamboos in damp localities" (paragraph 33 of His Grace the Governor's minute). An expression of the intention of Government on this point is solicited.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. SEWELL,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests.

" Secretary to Government, Revenue
Department.

Copy to the Collector of Trichinopoly.
" " Inspector-General of Forests.

ORDER—dated 17th January 1883, No. 70, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Board will be informed that G.O., 27th May 1873, No. 531, has not been set aside, and that G.O., 29th January 1881, No. 206, can only be brought into operation where the original owners refuse to take up relinquished lands, which in that case may, if suitable, be utilised in the manner prescribed by the latter order and, if not, sold by auction as directed by the former.

(True Extract.)

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" Public Works Department.
" Conservator of Forests.

Exd. W. H. French.

120 Copies.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th November 1882, No. 2903 :—

READ—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th February 1882, Mis. No. 1305 :—

Read—the following letter from H. SEWELL, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th January 1882, No. 125 :—

With reference to paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 206, Revenue Department, dated 29th January 1881, communicated with Board's Proceedings, Miscellaneous No. 2299, of 7th March idem, I have the honor to forward a statement, for the information of the Board, showing the extent of B-class lands relinquished by the Railway Company on the Erode line. It will be seen that there are 298.66 acres of these lands which are reported to be worth about Rs. 20,000. They are narrow strips on both sides of the line fitted for paddy cultivation, but entirely unsuitable for planting trees, being mostly on a very low level where earth has been dug out for the railway embankment. I am inclined to think it would be better to sell all these lands than to attempt to grow fuel on them as directed in paragraph 6 of Government Order quoted above. Large extents of Padugai lands are available for this district for planting up trees on which the Jungle Conservancy Funds as far as available can be most usefully spent in preference to selecting waste lands in villages and employing the funds thereon. As, however, the Government have ordered that the lands relinquished by the Railway Company should be at once proceeded with the work of planting, I submit this reference for Board's orders. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, with whom I consulted on the matter, agrees with me in the above-mentioned proposal to sell these lands.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

Resolution—dated 11th February 1882, Mis. No. 1305.

The Board doubt whether the land, which is stated to be on a very low level and must be subject to inundation in the rains, is suitable for paddy cultivation, and think that an attempt should first be made to carry out the orders of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Trichinopoly.

READ—also the following letter from Major J. C. WALKER, Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 18th October 1882, No. 1259-C :—

I have the honor to forward for consideration and, if deemed necessary, submission to Government for orders copy of a letter, No. 206, dated 19th ultimo, from the Sub-Assistant Conservator, Trichinopoly, with the Collector's endorsement thereon, No. 305, dated 30th ultimo, and to state that I concur with Mr. Newman and the Collector that any attempt to plant up the B-class lands in the Trichinopoly District would entail

great expense and probably result in failure, and request that the idea may be abandoned. This is also Mr. Gass' opinion and that of every Forest Officer who has had an opportunity of giving an opinion on the subject.

2. The orders on the subject contained in paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 206, dated 29th January 1881, were apparently based on a minute by the late Governor, His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, who was probably unaware of the practical difficulties in the way of planting such excavated tracts whence the best soil has been removed for railway purposes, leaving often nothing but pure rock beneath. The holes are full of water for days and weeks in the monsoon, and there is absolutely no drainage, whilst at other seasons they will dry and I can only compare them to ovens.

3. To attempt planting under such circumstances would, to my mind, be madness, especially when we have ample work on hand and areas much better suited for planting in the shape of the "Padugais" every available acre of which should, I would suggest, be at once taken up and reserved for planting as funds are made available.

4. I trust under this explanation that the Board may see fit to reconsider their Proceedings of 11th February last, No. 1305, and permit the Collector to devote the B-class lands to other purposes and secure for planting all the available Padugais.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From M. NEWMAN, Esq., Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, to the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund (through the Collector), dated Trichinopoly, 19th September 1882, No. 206, and endorsement by H. SEWELL, Esq., Collector of Trichinopoly, dated 30th September 1882.

I beg to inform you that I am now taking over the B-class lands from the Collector for the purpose of planting them up; but before commencing any operations or expending money in what I consider a futile project, and one which is not likely to reflect credit on the department, I consider that the matter should be fully reported on for your information and orders.

2. These lands consist of margins along the railway from Kumaramangalam to Kattalai—a distance of twenty miles—a great portion of which is covered with water all the year round, and consequently cannot be planted; the other portions consist of great excavations from whence the earth was removed for raising the line.

3. If this place is to be planted up, the whole portion containing water as well as dry lands will have to be fenced in.

4. The excavations will have to be levelled to a certain extent which will cost an enormous sum, and the worst of it is that after this large outlay there is not the remotest chance of getting up a good plantation, as the best portion of the soil was removed and the very little left is but mud and gravel. At the present time there is a great deal of important work to be done in the line of planting on good soil which will give the department a good return for the outlay, viz., large spaces in the plantations which were never planted up, or, if so, died afterwards. There are other portions where the trees were felled which require reproduction, and the replacing of a large amount of casualties caused by recent heavy floods which will occupy all the time of the establishment during the present season.

Endorsement, B. R. No. 305.

The undersigned addressed the Board and pointed out the inadvisability of planting trees in these B-class lands. But they directed that an attempt should be made to carry out the orders of Government. Copies of the letter to the Board and their order are herewith forwarded. The undersigned adheres to his opinion already expressed, and fully agrees with the Sub-Assistant Conservator as regards the difficulties pointed out by him.

Resolution—dated 27th November 1882, No. 2903.

The Board observe that though it is quite possible that many portions of the "B-class" lands in question may have been rendered unsuitable for cultivation or plantation, it is equally possible that, as in other districts, portions may be found which will, with the addition, perhaps, where practicable of small blocks of adjacent

J. M. Deptt

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 17th January 1883, No. 70.

JANUARY.

No 386 Wd 3 Feb 83.

Communicated to the officers of the J. M. Deptt

in continuation of G.O.

No 535 Wd 25 Feb 83

per J. M. Deptt

Lands relinquished by Railways.

Orders issued for the treatment of—

To

Supt Engineer

" Consul Engineer for Railways

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation

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Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

" Public Works Department.

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