Public Works (1890) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 808 Ry.

DATED 9th June 1890.

(Copy)

Re original case to. 2029 Ry. 18-12-90

[Despatch Abstract.]

Godavari District Forests.— Proceedings, Board of Revenue, submitting to Government Inspection note of the Conservator, Northern Circle, on the —, forwarded to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for communication to the Engineer-in-Chief, East Coast Railway Survey.

Indexed.

[P. W. Ry. 1. 760—25-9-99.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

MR. W. S. WHITESIDE.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, MADRAS.

CONSERVATOR'S OFFICE, NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Office Note.—Inspection Note on the Godávari District, 1890.

I entered the district from the hills of the Golgonda Agency on January 25th and, after passing through the Juddengi and Lakkonda forests to Rajahmundry, took the canal to Ellore, leaving the district on the 7th February. This was a very small tour for such a large and important district, but it could not be helped. One fortnight is about all a Conservator of Forests can give to each district on an average, if he is to visit all those of his Circle in the year, with due allowance of time, of course, for travelling from one to the other.

2. The reserved forests inspected were the following:—

Anantagiri, Loburti, Aminabada and Virabhadram in Juddengi; Lakkonda, Molleru, Sudikonda and Tirumalapalem in Lakkonda; Kovida, Murari and Devancheru in Rajahmundry; Ungutur in Tanuku.

The office was also inspected as well as those of the Rajahmundry and Ellore ranges.

3. The following are the inspection notes which have been written, to date:—

(1) My Inspection-note on the Upper taluks, dated 22nd March 1885 (Board's Proceedings, No. 1992—Forest No. 372, of 7th July 1885).

(2) My Inspection-note on the Lower taluks, dated 23rd March 1885 (Board's Proceedings, No. 3665, of 21st April 1885).

(3) My Inspection-note of January 1887 (Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 284, of 9th June 1888).

(4) Mr. Peet's Inspection-note of March 1888 (Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 345, of 22nd June 1889).

The chief recommendations of those notes were—

4. No. (1)—*The reservation of the areas I selected in the Upper taluks.*—This is being carried out; three forests have already been reserved, and all the rest, except 5, have been settled and will shortly be so. The five referred to will not take much longer.

The management of the Revenue collections under Special rules.—This has gone on quite satisfactorily. The rules have recently been redrafted and the new drafts are before the Government for their sanction.

The making of roads and construction of houses are going on.—They will be referred to later on.

In short, the recommendations made in 1885 are practically all being carried out, and the Upper taluks, once one of the difficult forest questions of the Presidency, are now in good management, our relations with the Koyas being very good.

5. No. (2)—*Paragraph* 2—*Selection and demarcation of the forests of Lakkonda.*—This has been done and the forest settlement is in progress. The demarcation is completed, with a 10-feet ride and stout (somi) posts at angles and intervals. The cost of the boundary ride was, on an average, Rs. 29 per mile, and the posts cost Rs. 60 per 100. The rides were rather expensive on account of the large number of bamboo

Loose stones should always be taken off and placed along the boundary *line*. Where the ride is converted into a roads it may be made 15 feet in all which will give plenty of space for the posts and cairns.

Paragraph 18—*Fire-protection.*—The recommendations made have been carried out and the area under special protection is being gradually extended. Form 62 of last year's annual report shows that 6 blocks in the Upper taluks, 5 in Rajahmundry and 7 in Ellore were specially protected. Their area was 144 square miles, of which 25 square miles, almost entirely in the Upper taluks, were burnt. The cost of protection was Rs. 298 or about Rs. 2 per square mile. This year the Bedanadole and Marlagudem blocks in Yernagúdem are to be added, raising the area under protection to 175 square miles. The Delta forests are not entered in the returns as they require no special expense or establishment, not being liable to be burnt. The bad success in the Upper taluks is due to the Sub-Assistant Conservator in charge not having made his preparations sufficiently early, and to the difficulty of getting good fire-patrols among the Koyas. So far the only measures of protection found necessary are the clearing of the boundary rides and burning outside of them and the entertainment of patrols. I would suggest the addition of clearing and straightening the right of way paths and the early commencement of block lines. If they are anywhere necessary special camping grounds should be formed.

Paragraph 19—*Communications.*—The following is the list of forest roads :—

(i) Upper taluks—

1. Jirigupa-Ramdeopet—11 miles; nearly complete.
2. Erguralpali-Bhandarguriam—$8\frac{3}{4}$ miles; complete.
3. Konrazipeta-Bhandarguriam—10 miles; nearly complete.
4. Kunavaram-Tatlunka—12 miles; nearly complete.
5. Murmur-Tatlunka—3 miles; nearly complete.

Then the following will be gradually taken in hand :—

6. Pochampalli-Darapale.
7. Raigudem-Yenkampeta.
8. Bhadráchalam-Tunikicheruvu.

The cost of these works is about 113 rupees per mile, for 15-feet roads with ditches.

(ii) Rajahmundry range—

1. Sudikonda-Pirthamamidi—8 miles cleared; not yet finished.
2. Sudikonda-Tirumalayapalem—4 miles complete; a good road.

Then the following will be done :—

3. Timmapuram-Juddengi.
4. Kimúr-Lododdi—about 20 miles.

(iii) Ellore range; none have yet been done, but the following will be put in hand at an early date :—

1. Mulagampalli to Pushkipad—8 miles.
2. Mulagampalli to Musulugamayya—8 miles.
3. Chintalapudi to Bandamcherla.

Paragraph 20—*Buildings.*—The following are complete in the Upper taluks :—

1. Wudagudem—cost Rs. 400.
2. Murmur—cost Rs. 400.

The following are expected to be ready before April 1st :—

3. Jirigupa.
4. Chintlur.
5. Bodogudiam.
6. Singavaram.

The series will then be completed by houses at—

7. Ramdeopet.
8. Motagudem.
9. Yepalapadu.
10. Bandreo.
11. Gogubaka.
12. Nalapali and with houses built by the Special Assistant Agent, the Upper taluks will be well supplied and the use of tents in the hot season and monsoon obviated.

In the Lower taluks none have yet been built, but the following will be done by degrees :—

Rajahmundry range—	Ellore range—
1. Mallaram.	1. Mulagampalle.
2. Juddengi.	2. Kanapur.
3. Vatangi.	3. Erraguntapalli.

The houses in the Upper taluks are wooden, but with chunam plaster walls, and raised off the ground.

Paragraph 21—*Boat.*—The District Forest-officer has been provided with a boat which though rather small, is suitable, and is very useful. The Forester of the Delta range should also have a small boat, as he may not always be able to hire.

Paragraph 22—*Elephants.*—As described in Mr. Peet's note, paragraph 9, four elephants have been provided. They have been at work in the Rékapalle hills for about a year and have brought out to the bank of the Saveri river over 500 logs.

Paragraphs 24 *to* 26—*Establishments.*—I do not propose to discuss this question here as I shall do so soon. I can, however, repeat that three years' further experience has only confirmed me more strongly in the opinions expressed in my paragraphs 25, 26, regarding the pay of Forest Guards. I may mention that the District Forest-officer agrees in my views, and in thinking that the new rules which will require examinations to have been passed and a knowledge of English are unworkable in Godávari; and that especially in the Agency and similar regions educated men of the kind proposed will not be got to serve. I should, as I have in other reports stated, like to amalgamate the "Forest Guards" on permanent and the "watchers" on temporary establishment, both of whom do practically the same work, and have all of them really working men, belonging to the country they are serving in and merely on temporary establishment giving security. This would obviate the necessity for pensions and the keeping of service-books, &c., required in consequence.

7. No. (4)—Mr. Peet's Inspection-note of March 1888.—*Paragraph* 3—*Rampa.*—This has already been alluded to. I agree in Mr. Peet's opinions and especially in thinking that the first thing wanted is clear and definite orders of Government.

Paragraph 4—*Proposals for dividing the Godávari District.*—It is, I think, useless to discuss this question at present and until the Government of India can be persuaded to give us the superior staff we ought to have. The Godávari forests, as already shown, are extensive enough to provide full work for more officers than the one they now have. For the Upper taluks an Assistant Conservator, or experienced Sub-Assistant Conservator, is absolutely necessary. Mr. Stafford has not been a success, but I shall endeavour to send a better officer as soon as I can.

Paragraph 5—*Grazing*—Mr. Peet recommends "special attention to the collection of grazing dues." I agree with him in thinking that the time has come to make a change in the grazing arrangements in Godávari. I find that the District Forest-officer entirely agrees with me in thinking that whether in the Upper or Lower taluks the free grazing of Koyas and Reddis must not be interfered with and that, so far as they can do so without damage, they should be allowed to use the reserved forest as well as the unreserved lands. This is easy to settle. But the case is different with the plains-dwellers and with such people as the settlers on the river banks of the Godávari and Saveri who are the great cattle-owners in the Upper taluks. The District Forest-officer tells me that he has already made proposals on this subject to the

Rev. Go. Lr. 2923 of 13th May 90
Recorded

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1890.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed June 23rd.

Proceedings, dated 31st March 1890,
Forest No. 179.

G. O. No. 808. R. 9th June 1890

Submitting to Government, with remarks, Northern Circle Conservator's *Inspection Note* on the Godávari District forests.