M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Rev. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1507 Press ~~Mis.~~

47-48

Dated 4 - 11 - 1859.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

No. 47. Read the following letter from H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests; to the Secretary to Government Revenue Department Fort Saint George; dated Utakamund 13th October 1859, No. 820.

I have the honor to report that on the occasion of my late visit to the Anamalli Hills, I * inspected the Malsar Farm in company with Mr. Fraser, the District Engineer of Coimbatore; we conversed freely with the Malsars, especially the two Headmen (Moopens) the following are Extracts of my Note book.

* *As directed in Proceedings of Govt. dated 26th July* 1859, *No.* 995.

2. Twenty one Bullahs equal to eighty acres have been cultivated, but there is no appearance of skilled or careful culture, the cholum is fine, growing in a rich soil but much overrun with weeds. The neighbouring fields not cultivated by Malsars are kept cleaner and are swon with more regularity.

3. A crop of Sesamum (*Til*) was also on the ground, and they propose sowing Horsegram (*Kulti,*) but they are entirely ignorant of times and seasons, and have been too late in sowing the present crop.

4. The soil of the farm at the foot of the slip is exceedingly rich, yielding two fine crops of dry grain; the fine mists coming over from the adjacent wooded hills, obviates the necessity of irrigating the Millet or Sesamum crops.

5. It seems to me a question whether it is desirable to commence wet cultivation in a locality where dry grains grow so well, yielding large returns.

6. The scheme for the Anamalli Ghât lately sanctioned will greatly affect local arrangements. The foot of the slip is exceedingly unhealthy, and the question of the proposed dam may lie over until the Timber depôt is removed consequent on the opening of the Ghât.

7. After full and careful inquiry, I found no instance of oppression, nor any treatment of an improper kind, if I may except the delay in payment of daily wages from the want of small coin which is easily remidied by tickets. Mr. Beddome has lately raised the wages from 2 annas to 2 annas 6 pice with my approval.

8. The dress of the Malsars is improved, and they are no longer thieves; but I see no very marked sign of their settling down to an agricultural life.

9, I do not think that it is necessary to keep up the Farm as a separate Institution; the Malsars prefer wood cutting and rope making to farming, (unless they receive bullocks and seed *gratis,*) and I think it would be better to improve them in their natural sphere than to attempt to elevate them in a position altogetner new to them. This tribe are extremely useful to the Forest Department for particular purposes, and they can always obtain full employment at remunerative wages.

10. I think it will be quite sufficient if they are allowed land on the present easy terms, on condition of hutting themselves, settling and cultivating their allotments.

11. The forest Overseer should inspect periodically, keeping a Malsar "Labour book," showing the "number employed," "nature of employment," "sums given;" and the state of the tribe should be noticed in the annual report.

12. The tribe of Malsars is a small one, not exceeding 3 or 400 scattered over a large extent of Forest, those connected with this Forest at present comprise 32 families.

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P. S. Having called on Lieutenant Beddome for his opinion as to the expediency of continuing the farm, I enclose his reply which was received after the foregoing notes were made. There is a discrepancy as to the extent of land cultivated, but this does not affect the principle involved.

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From Lieutenant R. H. BEDDOME, Assistant Conservator of Forests; to H. F. C. CLEGHORN, Esq., M. D., Conservator of Forests; dated Toonacadanoo 15th September 1859, No. 636.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 768 of the 5th instant, and beg to offer the following information on the subject of the Malsar Farm at the foot of the Annamally Hills.

2. A hundred Bullahs of land were originally given by Government to the Malsars; of this about 15 bullahs or 56 Acres have been cleared and this plot is cultivated here and there in small patches with * Cholum, Gingely, Castor oil, Raggy and † Sawmy.

* *Great Millet.*
† *Little Millet.*

3. There were originally at the village at the foot of the timber slip 21 men with their families (which consist of 21 women and 46 children). The land granted by Government was equally divided amongst these men by Mr. Martin, they were also provided with 23 bullocks and some implements for agriculture. Of these, 13 bullocks now only remain and some mamatties, axes and bill hooks.

4. Shortly after the cattle and tools had been given to these Malsars another batch of 14 men with their families joined the village, and they state that Mr. Martin continually promised to give them cattle and tools and that they therefore commenced clearing the jungle; they have cleared about a bullah and a half of land between the farm and the proposed anicut; but not receiving the tools, &c., they never attempted any cultivation: 8 of these 14 men have left with their families and have taken employment under some ryots between the Hills and the village of Annamallay. The remaining 6 men whose families consist of 10 women and 16 children, chiefly get their living by daily cooly hire.

5. A portion of the land above alluded to was cultivated this year in patches by the 21 men to whom the ground was allotted; the Malsars appear however to be perfectly ignorant of all the principles of agriculture, and as they had no one to guide them as to the proper seasons for sowing and tilling the ground their crops have been a failure. They commenced sowing their grain in May, a month after the proper season had commenced, and three quarters of the seed did not come up, after this they again sowed a quantity of seed but were not successful. From their accounts no one has been near their farm or given them the slightest advice during the season.

6. To make this farm answer, I consider it indispensable that some Gomastah or head ryot at the village of Annamally or Vettacarenpoodoor should be paid to occasionally visit the farm and give the Malsars advice as to the seasons for sowin the grain, &c. They themselves state that it is from the want of this advice that they have failed, and I attribute it to this, and their natural indolent habits combined.

7. I think that Government might assist the Malsars by purchasing some tools for them, and by giving them seed, and perhaps a few head of cattle. With ordinary industry and some little supervision, the Farm I am sure could be made to pay, though at present they do not get enough grain off the land to provide for their own wants

8. I think it most important that the Malsars should be placed under the general supervision of the head Overseer of the Annamallay forest establishment, and that they should be told to look to him for advice and to consider themselves in a measure under his control. The services of this tribe are, as you are aware, most important to our Forest operations; their fields need never be neglected for work in the forest, as they are never all required in the fields, and besides the harvest season is mostly over when the working season in the forest commences. The forest should be a good source of revenue to them; I pay them 2 annas and 6 pice per diem for cooly hire up in the forest, but when they go to work in the ryots, fields they only get 1 anna and 6 pie's worth of cholum for a day's work. I have lately paid their 3 Moopens 100 Rupees for felling Vella Naga and Ven Teak timber by contract at so much per log. From their idle habits, however, I often have the greatest difficulty in persuading them to come up to the forest for work; unless they are actually in want of food they will often prefer sitting idle in their village, to earning money up in the forest; my Overseer has often to go to their village and persuade the Moopens to come up with a batch of men. This would be in a great measure rectified if they consider themselves under the supervision of the Overseer.

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No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 4th November 1859, No. 1500.

It appears from this report from the Conservator of Forests that the anticipations expressed by Government in acceding to the recommendation to establish the Malsar farm, as it is called, have been realized. The field operations have been carried on for three years, with all the advantage derivable from the assistance and advice of an intelligent Superintendent, and with the least possible strain on the industry of the cultivators. The result is that the subjects of the experiment have undergone little change, and they have not learnt to like agricultural work or a settled life.

*Order of March 7th* 1856, *No.* 272, *para.* 2.

2. The Government adhere to the sentiments formerly expressed; they look with more hope to the regular employment obtainable by the Malsars under the Forest Department as a means of improving their condition and mode of life, than to any forced attempts to change their habits The Malsar farm has been tried and has failed, and will now be discontinued.

3. The accounts of the farm will be closed, the Malsars retaining the bullocks, tools, &c., which they have received. All official supervision over their agricultural operations, and all registers and reports of them, will cease. They will be allowed to retain the land reclaimed by their labour, if they desire it, and even to extend their cultivation; but it will be on terms similar to those of ordinary holdings. The Collector will fix a suitable assessment on the land, according to that borne by similar land in other like situations in the district, but the full amount will be imposed only in the fifth year commencing with the current Fusly; one-fifth being imposed this year, and an additional fifth in each of the succeeding four years.

*See para.* 9 *of Doctor Cleghorn's letter.*

4. The Governor in Council is glad to receive the additional testimony now furnished by Doctor Cleghorn that no compulsion has been exercised over the Malsars by the Forest Department.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of November* 1859.

No. 590.

Ootacamund 13th October 1859.

From,

H. Cleghorn Esqr. M.D.

Conservator of Forests.

To,

The Secretary to Government

Revenue Department

Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that on the occasion of my late visit to the Anamalli Hills, I inspected the Malsar Plains in company with Mr. Fraser, the District Engineer of Coimbatore, - we conversed freely with the Malsars, especially the two Headmen (Moopens) the following are Extracts of my Note book.

2. Twenty one Bullahs equal to eighty acres have been cultivated, but there is no appearance of skilled or careful culture - the cholum is fine - growing in a rich soil but much overrun with weeds. The neighbouring fields not cultivated by Malsars are kept cleaner and are sown with more regularity.

*(Recorded in Board's Proc. of 28 Oct. 1859 No. 975)

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3. [illegible] on the ground and [illegible] grant of land [illegible] grand of time and seasons, and [illegible] late in sowing the [illegible]

4. The soil of the farm at the foot of the slope is exceedingly rich, yielding [illegible] crops of dry grain; the fine mixed [illegible] from the adjacent wooded hills, obviates the necessity of irrigating the cultivated ground.

5. It seems to me a question whether it is desirable to commence cultivation in a locality where dry grain grows so well, yielding large returns.

6. The scheme of the Quarantine Establishment will greatly affect local arrangements. The foot of the slope is exceedingly unhealthy, and the question of the proposed dam may be over until the Timber Depot is removed from segment on the opening of the Khâl.

7. [illegible] full and careful inquiry, I found no instance of oppression or any treatment of an improper kind, [illegible] except the delay in payment of daily wages from the want of small coin which is easily remedied by tickets. Mr Beddome has lately raised the wages from 2 Annas to 2 Annas 6 pice with my approval.

8. The dress of the Malsars is improved and they are no longer thieves, but I see no very marked signs of their settling down to an agricultural life.

9. I do not think that it is necessary to keep up the Annas as a separate institution, the Malsars prefer wood cutting and rope making to farming, (unless they receive buffaloes and seed grain) and I think it would be better to improve them in their natural sphere than to attempt to elevate them in a position altogether new to them. This tribe are extremely useful to the Forest Department for particular purposes, and they can always obtain full employment at remunerative wages.

10. I think it will be quite sufficient if they are allowed land on the present easy terms, on condition of settling themselves, settling and cultivating their allotments.

11. The ~~First~~ Overseer should inspect periodically, keeping a Malsar "Labour Book", shewing the "number employed," "nature of

3. A crop of Sesamum (Til) was also on the ground, and they propose sowing Korrigram (Kulti) but they are entirely ignorant of times and seasons, and have been too late in sowing the present crop.

4. The soil of the farm at the foot of the slip is exceedingly rich, yielding two fine crops of dry grain; the fine mists coming over from the adjacent wooded hills, obviates the necessity of irrigating the Millet or Sesamum Crops.

5. It seems to me a question whether it is desirable to commence wet cultivation in a locality where dry grains grow so well, yielding large returns.

6. The scheme of the Anamalli Ghât lately sanctioned will greatly affect local arrangements. The foot of the slip is exceedingly unhealthy, and the question of the proposed dam may lie over until the Timber Depôt is removed consequent on the opening of the Ghât.

7. After full and careful inquiry, I found no instance of oppression, nor any treatment of an improper kind, if I may except the delay in payment of daily wages from the want of small coin which is easily remedied by tickets. Mr. Beddome has lately raised the wages from 2 Annas to 2 Annas 6 pice with my approval.

8. The dress of the Malsars is improved and they are no longer thieves, but I see no very marked signs of their settling down to an agricultural life.

9. I do not think that it is necessary to keep up the Farm as a separate Institution; the Malsars prefer wood cutting and pepe making to farming, (unless they receive seeds and seed gratis,) and I think it would be better to improve them in their natural sphere than to attempt to elevate them in a position altogether new to them. This tribe are extremely useful to the Forest Department for particular purposes, and they can always obtain full employment at remunerative wages.

10. I think it will be quite sufficient if they are allowed land on the present easy terms, on condition of settling themselves, settling and cultivating their allotments.

11. The ~~First~~ Forest Overseer should inspect periodically, keeping a Malsar "Labour Book," shewing the "number employed," "nature of

employment, "Rums given" and the State of the tribe should be noticed in the Annual Report.

12. The tribe of Malcas is a small one, not exceeding 3 or 400, scattered over a large extent of Forest, those connected with the Forest at present comprise 32 Families.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

H. Eagan
Conservator of Forests.

N.F. Caving called on Lieut. Beddome for his opinion as to the expediency of continuing the Farms, I enclose his reply which has received after the foregoing notes were made. There is a discrepancy as to the extent of land cultivated, but this does not affect the principle involved.

Pres. of Govt. 29 July /59 Nos. 24-25.
" " 29 " " 26-27.
" " 9 Sept. " 1-2

Rec: 1859 Sept.
Pres: of Govt. 10th Nov.
No. 1946.

From:
The Conservator of Forests.
" Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Dated 15th
Rec'd 21st October 1859

Encls Orig.
No. 1500 - 4th November

Reporting, in obedience to the Proceedings of Govt. 29th July 1859 No. 995 on the present state of the Palsar Farm, and that there appears to be no necessity for keeping it up as a separate institution, for reasons specified.

No. 27.

Rec'd 26th Oct. 1859

in their village, to earning money up in the forest;
My Overseer has often to go to their village
and persuade the people to come up with
a batch of men. This would be in a great
measure rectified if they considered themselves
under the supervision of the Overseer -

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.

Ritt Beddome Lieut.
Asst. Comdt. of Forest

Trincomalee
15th September 1859

Rev Dept.

No 1580.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 4th Nov 1859.
Read the following
Letter from the Conservator
of Forests.

Referring correspondence
to the proceedings of Government
20th July 1859 No 1580 and (Here enter the
date of the last proceedings)
Stating that applications for leave have been
by Native officials as mentioned
in the Margin during the current year
and requesting sanction of Government
to their absence on the terms specified
in the Rules (Here enter the number and date of the Rules)

Madras Revenue Board
Office
The Conservator of Forests thinks that the
Rules for the grant of leave to the
Native subordinates employed by him are
not sufficiently liberal and requests
that the following alterations may be made
in them.

1st That the Rules be extended to all
the Native officials of the Forest Department
called, leave being granted
by the Head of the Department
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Order of Madras 4/1/60
No 972 Para 2.

1859 Sept.
Encls. 1 to 1

Letter from the
Conservator of Forests
Dated 15 October 1859
No 821.

From Lt R. H. Beddome
To H. Oglivie Esq. B.C.S.
Conservator of Forests.
Dr 1940/59.

Submitting his
opinion as to the expe-
diency of continuing the
Malsar Farm.

the assistance and advice of
an intelligent superintendent,
and with the least possible strain
on the industry of the cultivator.
The result is that the subjects of
the experiment have undergone
little change, and they have not
learnt to like agricultural
work or a settled life.

2. The Government adhere to the sentiments formerly expressed; they look with more hope to the regular employment obtainable by the Malsans under the Forest Department, as a means of improving their condition and mode of life, than to any forced attempts to change their habits. The Malsan system has been tried and has failed, and will gradually be discontinued.

3 The accounts of the farm will be closed, the Malsans retaining the bullocks, tools,

See Para 9 of Dr. Cleghorn's letter.

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bids &c. which they have received. All official supervision over their agricultural operations, and all registers and reports of these, will cease. They will be allowed to retain the lands reclaimed by their labour, if they desire it, and even to extend their cultivation; but it will be on terms similar to those of ordinary holdings. The Collector will fix a suitable assessment on the land, according to that borne by similar land in other like situations in the district, but the full amount will be imposed only in the fifth year commencing with the current Fasly; one fifth being imposed this year, and an additional fifth in each of the succeeding four years.

4. The Governor in Council is glad to receive the additional testimony now furnished by Dr. Cleghorn, that no conclusive has

has been exercised over the Mat-
ters by the Forest Department.

1 Copy to the Conservator of Forests
6 " to the Board of Revenue

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crb Collation R 31st

Cons. of Govt. 29th July 59 No. 21 to 25.
Do — 25th — — — 26 to 27.
— — 9th Sept. — — 147

Revenue 1559 Dispatch
Pro: of Govt. 10th Jan.

No 1503.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dd 4th Nov. 59.
Pro: of the Bd of Rev. A/22
Nov. 59 Cons. 2172 in Pro: 22 Dec. p. 546

Ordering that
the Malsar farm
be discontinued --

No 147 to 148.