Peiceme Consultation.

No. 638

Dated 4th to 10th May 1859

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 4th to 10th May 1859.

No. 49. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st February 1859, No. 660.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Coimbatore, dated 30th November 1858, No. 194, submitting copies of further reports from Mr. Overseer St. Martin on the Experimental Mulcer Farm at the foot of the Anamallay.

(In Con. 28th December 1858, No. 5546.)

Read also letter from the same Officer, dated 16th December 1858, No. 206, forwarding a communication from Mr. St. Martin regarding the tribe of Kaders.

(In Con. 28th December 1858, No. 5781.)

Resolved that the foregoing communications together with their Enclosures be submitted for the information and orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

E. M. C. No. 272, R. D., 7th in Con. 18th March 1856.

In Con. 15th June 1858.

Board's Proceedings No. 1936, *dated 31st May* 1858.

2. The last report on the experimental Farm sanctioned by Government with the object of reclaiming the tribe of Mulcers inhabiting the Anamallay Jungles was submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings, No. 1531, dated 29th April 1858, and reviewed in Extract Minutes Consultation, R. D., No. 703, dated 29th May following, and an Accunt Current of receipts and disbursements connected with the Farm was subsequently forwarded to Government.

Mr. St. Martin's letter 9th October 1858, *p.* 1 *and* 18.

3. With the first letter above recorded, Mr. Cherry forwards further reports from Mr. St. Martin, which afford good grounds for believing that the experiment has not been unattended with benefit to the Mulcers, and that the Farm may eventually support itself without any assistance from Government.

Results of Harvest.

	1857.	1858.
	Measures.	*Measures.*
Cholum	4096	3840
Raggy	1896	712
Gingely Seeds	710	
Chamah	520	
Castor Seeds	128	
Cumboo	96. *This was not noticed in last report.*	*"One half of it has been resown and the remainder will be so shortly."*
Varagoo	0	
Horsegram	128. *Three-fourths of this will be sown shortly, the remainder has been destroyed by insects.*	

P. 2 to 5. 4. Compared with the previous year's harvest that of 1858 was not favorable as shewn in the margin, but this is owing, it is stated, to the failure of the rains, by which all kinds of cultivation were affected, and to the frequent compulsory absences of the Muclers from their Farm, in obedience to the demands of the Conservancy Department for their services in the Forest.

P. 2. 5. On this serious impediment the Acting Collector has been in correspondence with the Assistant Conservator, Lieutenant Beddome, and the Board entirely approve of his communication to that officer to the effect that, "it is not "in the Acting Collector's power to compel the Mulcers to work in the Forests, nor is it advisable "that the Forest Department should use coercive measures to take them away from their field "duties &c., but that the Mulcers are at liberty to engage themselves as laborers for the Forest "work provided it is in consonace with their own feelings". Nothing can be more opposed to the benevolent intentions of Government in this experiment than the extortion from these half wild beings of forced labour in the Government Forests.

P. 1 of Mr. St. Martin's letter, dated 29th July 1858.

6. As directed by Government in para. 3 of the Extract Minutes Consultation already referred to, only one-tenth of the out-turn of the first year's crops has been reserved as the Government share and sold to the Mulcers for seed. The Collector will see that the order of Government that the Melvarum should on no account be suddenly increased is strictly attended to.

Bd's. Pro., No. 153, dated 29th April 1858, para. 7 and para. 6, of E. M. C., No. 703 already referred to.

7. From paras. 6 and 7 of the Overseer's letter, dated 9th October 1858, the Board understand that most of the jungle land near the Oopar available with slight improvement for wet cultivation has been cleared and ploughed for dry cultivation at present, but that it is intended when the proposed Stone dam is constructed to sow a portion or the whole of this land with wet grain.

In Consultation 15th June 1858.

8. With regard to the proposed Stone dam and the Well alluded to by Government in para. 7 of Extract Minutes Consultation 29th May 1858, Mr. Cherry states (para. 4) that an estimate has been called for from the District Engineer, on the receipt of which steps will be taken for executing these works.

** Para. 2 E. M. C. No. 861, R. D. dated 22nd in Con. 30th June 1858.*

Para. 3 of Mr. St. Martin's letter, dated 29th July 1858.

9. The logs of wood felled by the Mulcers and sold to the Railway Company, which were valued at a Rupee each in the account current submitted to Government on 31st May last, had been cut on the slopes of the Hills and not as supposed* by Government within the area of the farm, the uncleared portions of which are stated to contain merely Brushwood with a few Tamarind and other inferior kinds of trees. As the logs were however cut prior to the organization of the Conservancy Department the Assistant Conservator has permitted their appropriation free of charge on the representation of Mr. St. Martin.

In Con. 15th June 1858.

10. Mr. Cherry is requested to state after communication with the Conservancy Department, and with reference to para. 7 of Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 703, dated 29th May 1858, whether any and what exclusive privilege is enjoyed by the Mulcers with regard to the felling of timber.

11. The Board observe that no further mention is made of the 313 logs which remained unsold at the date of the Account Current and were reported to be still in the jungles for want of Elephants to bring them down, which aid it was expected would be supplied by the Ootoogooly Poligar.

12. With reference to the valuation of the land cleared on the farm and which was noticed by Government in para. 3 Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 861, already quoted, Mr. Cherry observes that "the lands below the Anamallay mountains are situated under the influence of "the South West Monsoon, and reputed for retaining moisture longer than other lands," and that he is therefore "at a loss to compare them with those similarly situated at the foot of the "Neilgherry or other Hills"; but he is of opinion that Mr. St. Martin has not overrated the "value of the land reclaimed by the Mulcers."

Paras. 9 and 10.

13. No accessions since March last to the 39 families then residing on the farm, are reported, and owing to the unhealthiness of the locality pointed out by Mr. St. Martin for their village, they have been obliged to remove their huts to another quarter.

Para. 12.

14. The sum (Rupees 304-1-7) shewn in the last Account Current at the credit of the Farm has not been touched, but Mr. St. Martin had it in contemplation to apply for funds for the purchase of certain implements, &c., required on the Farm.

Vide para. of E. M. C. No. 703, dated 29th May in Con. 15th June 1858.

15. The second communication above recorded is a Report on the Kaders whose improvent was also contemplated by Government in sanctioning the Farm.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 4th to 10th May 1859.

Para. 3 Mr. St. Martin's letter.

16. Mr St. Martin's predecessor Mr. Reid who commenced the experiment was unable to persuade any of this tribe to leave the Forests and join the Farm. They appear to have always had a sure means subsistence on the Hills, the products* of which they collect and bring down to the plains where they barter them for grain, cloths, &c., and they are so strongly attached to this mode of living, that there is little likelihood of their being induced to abandon it in favor of agricultural pursuits.

**Cardamums, Green pepper, Ginger, rattans, honey, bees-wax, soapnuts, horns of deer and Bison and Gums, (p. 3.)*

Paras. 3 and 4.

17. They are however reported to be originally less uncivilized in their habits than the Mulcers, and they form indispensable, and when well treated willing auxiliaries to the forest Department in exploring tracts known only to themselves and in watching and guarding them, and preventing the destruction of timber by the fires to which the Forests are annually subject.

Para. 12.

18. Notwithstanding their unwillingness to join the Farm in 1856, Mr. St. Martin mentions an instance in 1857 where "the Head Mooppen Vyapoory had cultivated, and in a remote part of the hills, upwards of 6,000 feet above the level of the sea, a large patch of forest land with paddy, which was reared by the periodical rains, harvested and afforded food to upwards of 200 Kaders for a month. A sheaf of the paddy thus grown was brought to Toonacanavoo and inspected by Lieutenant Beddome."

19. Mr. St. Martin thinks it not improbable that further association with the laborers who come to the forest from the plains, the example of the Mulcers on the farm, and the proposed road up the Ghat will tend to give these people an increased desire for field occupations, and raise them to the standard of the Burghers on the Neilgherries.

20. The Board think these reports on the whole satisfactory, and are gratified to observe the interest manifested by Mr. St. Martin in the duty entrusted to him.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Sub-Secretary.*

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 9th May 1859, No. 638.

These Proceedings place before Government reports on the experimental *Malsar* Farm at the foot of the Annamallays in Coimbatore, and on the condition and habits of the *Kádars*, a small tribe inhabiting the tops of those hills. The establishment of the farm was authorized in March† 1856, with a grant of 1,550 Rupees, with the intention of benefiting both the tribes of *Malsars* and *Kádars*, by withdrawing them from their irregular habits of life, and attracting them to agricultural pursuits; but owing to the aversion of the *Kádars* from agricultural labour, the benefits of the farm have been confined to the *Malsars* alone.

† Order of Government, March 7th 1856, No. 272.

2. Compared with the outturn of 1857, the result of the harvest in 1858, the year under report, is not favorable, as shown in the margin of para. 4 of the Board's Proceedings. Only 384 measures of Cholum and 712 of Raggy have been harvested in 1858, against 4096 and 1896 measures respectively, besides smaller quantities of Gingelly seeds, Castor seeds, Chamah, Cumboo, and Horsegram, gathered in the previous year. This poor result is attributed to two causes, viz. want of rain which was generally felt during the year, and the compulsory withdrawal of the *Malsars* for labour in the Forests.

3. By an Account Current which accompanied the last report, it appeared that a balance of Rupees 304-1-7 stood at the credit of the farm out of the sanction of 1,550 Rupees. From para. 14 of the Board's present Proceedings, Government learn that this sum has not been since drawn, but that Mr. St. Martin, who has the superintendence of the farm, intends to apply for funds for the purchase of implements, &c., for the Malsars on the farm. Hitherto the cultivation attempted has been only that of dry grains; but it is proposed to try wet cultivation, as

soon as irrigation can be secured by throwing a rough stone dam across the adjacent Oopaur; and with that view the Collector has called upon the District Engineer to furnish an estimate of the cost of the dam suggested by Mr. St. Martin, and also of sinking a deep well recommended by the Government themselves* to ensure a steady supply of water in times of drought. To the enquiry of Government in their last order,† the Collector replies that he cannot compare the value of the land cleared on the *Malsar* farm with that of land similarly situated in his District, because the lands below the Annamallays are under the influence of the South West Moonsoon, and are reputed to retain moisture longer than other lands, but he does not think that Mr. St. Martin has overrated the value‡ of the reclaimed land.

* *Order of Government, May 29th 1858, No. 703.*

† *June 22nd 1858, No. 861.*

‡ *15 Rs. the Bullah, or 3·33 acres.*

4. The Governor in Council can see in these proceedings and in the other papers on the subject no evidence that the object for which this Farm was establised is likely to be in any material degree accomplished, and the Board of Revenue is requested to give their particular attention to the matter and to report their opinion whether it would be advisable to continue the experiment. In the mean time all expenditure not absolutely necessary is to be avoided.

5. The Governor in Council entirely disapproves of any coercion being employed to bring the *Malsars* to work in the forest. A copy of the Board's Proceedings, and of paras. 7 to 9 of Mr. St. Martin's letter of the 29th July 1858, and of para. 8 of his later letter of the 9th October 1858, will be forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, with instructions to call upon Lieutenant Beddome for early and full explanation, for the information of Government, as to such coercion being exercised by himself or his subordinates.

6. The report on the *Kádars* is interesting. It describes them to be in a very primitive state, attached to their wandering life though never descending to the plains but peaceable and harmless in their habits. Their chief occupation is the collection of wild products such as Cardamums, Ginger, Soapnut, Gums, Honey, Rattans, &c., which they barter for coarse rice and cloths with traders from the plains, who derive no small profit from the exchange. It is thought however that these people may eventually be induced to turn their attention to agriculture, by association with the forest laborers who go up from the plains, by the example of the *Malsars*, and by the opening of a road up the Ghaut.

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

Memo:

Experimental Farm for improving the condition of the Khaders and Mulcers, two jungle tribes inhabiting the Annamalays in Coimbatore.

E

1. Altho' reference to the degraded condition of the two tribes of Khaders and Mulcers appears to have been previously made, nothing definite was proposed to Govt until January 1856, when Mr. E. B. Thomas, the Coll of Coimbatore, [a] gave some account of these people, and suggested a plan for attracting them to civilized habits of life. The Khaders, it was said, numbered about 464 and inhabited the tops of the hills; and the Mulcers numbering about 2167, occupied the jungles at the base. The former were described as a race somewhat superior to the latter, tho both were in a wretched state often attending starvation, possessing neither agricultural tools nor cattle, attempting no cultivation whatever, & subsisting al-

[a] Letter, 3d Jan 3/56, No. 4.

most entirely on the wild products of nature. Latterly gangs of Mulcers had been driven by want to commit highway robbery, and in one case where resistance had been offered, had even committed murder. The Coll's plan was to dig wells, supply the tribes with a small agricultural stock, and persuade them to clear and cultivate portions of the dense jungles under the superintendence & management of a trustworthy overseer; so that by this means, by providing subsistence for them until their crops could be harvested, they might be induced practically to test the advantages of regular cultivation. The expense of this experiment was estimated at 1550 Rs. The Board recommended the experiment, and suggested that its details should be left to the discretion of the local authorities, adding that in their opinion, as much employment as possible should be given to both tribes by the Forest Conservancy.

b. vide para 3, of Coll's letter above quoted.

	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Overseer at 12 Rs a month	288.	..	..
Axes, Bill hooks, Pickaxes, &c.			
Mooties & Roughs	523.	12	..
6 Pairs of Bullocks @ 30 Rs	180.	..	..
Subsistence money until harvest of crops, to be recovered if possible.	500.	..	..
Sundries	58.	4	..
c Rs	1550.	..	..

c

d Coll's letter, 4 Feb'y/56, No 337.

d

c. E.M.C. 7 March/56, No 272 -

Although the experiment of trying to induce the Chermers of Malabar, and the reserved Meriahs in Sanjam, to settle down to agricultural pursuits, had failed after considerable expense, Govt were nevertheless unwilling to discourage any efforts so benevolent in their object as those now proposed to them, and accordingly sanctioned the appropriation of 1550 Rs in the manner proposed, directing the submission of a report after the lapse of the first year.

1st Report.

2. With his letter of the 22nd Feb'y/57, the Coll of Coimbatore forwarded a report from Corporal Reid of the Forest Dept at the Annamalays, to whom the experiment had been entrusted on account of his familiarity with the tribes. The sanction of Govt had been received at an advanced stage of the season; nevertheless the following results had been obtained, at an expense of Rs.* 768. 7. .. Thirty Mulcer families had been collected at the foot of the Vellairgh Ghaut; 70 to 80 Bullocks of last

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cost of implements	16.	9	..
Felling & squaring 392 logs of timber	157.	..	..
11 Bullocks	103.	4	..
Subsistence money to Mulcers employed in clearing land	491.	10	..
* Rs	768.	7	..

had been cleared for cultivation; and 392 logs had been felled and squared, 79 of which were sold to the Railway Company for a rupee a log, and the remaining 313 lay in the jungles for want of an elephant to drag them to the roadside. On the sale of these logs, Corporal Reid said that the Mulcers would owe little; and if the land cleared were sold for 15 Rs the bullah, which the ryots paid for clearing jungle, he thought that Govt would be indebted to the tribe. The subsistence money was 2 Annas each a day; but if any man wanted a cloth, it was given him, and he received half his allowance until his debt was cleared. Two thirds of the produce went to the people, and one third was reserved to Govt for furnishing seed; but Mr. Reid thought that a tax might be imposed in the 2d or 3d year. Mr. Reid referred to the Mulcers sense of right & wrong, his devotion to the man who was kind to him, and his keen resentment at indignity; and believed that if his successor took interest in the tribe, he could succeed in making them happy

A Bullah = Acres 3·33

and more than answer the expectations of Govt. His report referred exclusively to the Mulcers, and omitted all mention of the Khaders, an omission which the Bd noticed in their [f] Proceedings. Govt considered the information supplied by Corporal Reid satisfactory, and anticipated with much interest further reports on the condition of this class of people.

[f] Bd's Pro: 9th June/57, No 1957.

[g] E. M. C. 26 June/57, No 655.

2nd Report.

3. Mr. C. A. St. Martin succeeded Corporal Reid in the Forest Dept, and took up the management of the Experimental Farm. The Colr's letter of the 18 June/58 [h] gave cover to four reports [i] from Mr. St. Martin of the improving habits of the Mulcers, the cultivation in hand, and the result of the harvest. From these it appeared that the settlement at the foot of the Vellaigh Ghaut had received an addition of 9 families, so that there were 39 families in all. Besides their work in the Govt farm, they had private cultivation in remote parts of the forest, to which their women and children attended; but Mr. St. Martin

[h] See Bd's Pro: 29th April/58, No 1531.

[i] dated 3d & 13th Sept, and 21st Oct and 2d Dec/57, respectively.

discouraged this, and proposed their united labor being given to the farms, promising to divide it into individual lots, so that each family might reap the fruits of its own industry, to which the people cordially assented. These people had ploughed and cultivated nearly the whole of the 80 * Bullahs formerly said to have been cleared, and their stock of cattle had increased to 21 Bullocks; but besides their duties at the farm, a few had been engaged in felling timber for the Railway Company and in making Vuccanar ropes for dragging the logs. They further intended to take up more of the 200 * Bullahs, which had been marked out as the extent of the farms. The yield of their cultivation was as follows.

80 Bullahs = 306⅔ Acres.

* 200 Bullahs = 764 acres

4096 Measures of Cholum.
1896 — do — of Ragee.
760 — do — Jingelly oil seeds.
520 — do — Chamah.
128 — do — Castor oil seeds.

The Cumbos, Verago, and Horse Gram, that had been put down, had not been reaped at date of report. Mr. St. Martin intended to give two thirds of the produce to the

families, which he calculated would support them for 8 months, and to reserve the remaining third for sale to them for seed. The 313 logs still lay in the jungles, the Ostogoly Poligar having failed in his promise to lend his elephant. These logs had been felled previous to the present constitution of the Forest Conservancy; but now that ~~Dept was regularly~~ organized, Mr. St. Martin recommended that the privilege of cutting timber free, or at a low price, might be conceded to the Mulcers. A few cases of cholera had occurred in the settlement; but Mr. St. Martin and the Dispensary of the Forest Establishment had promptly attended. Four however died, and three were sick at date of report. Mr. St. Martin appeared to have been much among the people, pointing out to them the advantages of their present peaceful pursuits. They were said to have entirely forsaken their former irregular habits, having become attached to, and even familiar with, agriculture; they were happy and contended, and quite sensible of their

social improvement. The expenditure had now increased to about 968 Rs, still leaving a large balance out of the original sanction to the credit of the farm, which added to the proceeds of grain & timber in hand, would, it was calculated, enable the continuance of the experiment without further expence to Govt. Mr. St. Martin pointed out the scarcity of water, which was severely felt in the hot weather, there being only one large well or pond in the vicinity; but he thought that by throwing a small dam of rough stone across the adjacent Oopaur at a trifling outlay, an irrigating channel might be led into the area of the farm, so as to convert the dry into wet land. Mr. St. Martin mentioned a case of oppression towards the new arrivals on the part of a neighbouring Chetty; but the Board did not notice it, feeling perhaps that it was a case for Mr. Thomas as Magistrate.

4. Adverting to the proposal to take one third of the crops produced as the

E. M.C. 29 May 58, No 703.

Govt share, Govt thought that a tenth would be amply sufficient for the 1st year; and that the Malvárums might be made to increase progressively, but very gradually, until a moderate apeppment was reached. Govt wished to have the result of Mr. St. Martin's suggestions for irrigating the farm by damming the Oopaur, and presumed that his recommendation in respect to certain privileges for felling timber had been conceded to the Mulcers. They expressed their belief that money would be beneficially laid out in digging a deep well, to ensure a steady supply of water; and desired that Mr. Thomas would inform Mr St. Martin of their satisfaction with the state of things reported, and of their desire that he would persevere. Both the Board and the Govt noticed the omission of all allusion to the Khadars.

3d Report.

5. The Govt's letter of the 6th April 1858 gave cover to a further report from Mr St. Martin, with an Account Current of the Receipts & disbursements of the Esp.

k See P.C's Proc: 31 May 58, No 1936.

perimental Farm; and on the occasion Mr. Thomas again bore testimony to the active and benevolent interest taken by Mr. St. Martin in the Mulcer tribe. Out of the 1550 Rs given by Govt, Rs. 1245. A. P. 14. 5 had been expended in maintaining the Mulcers employed on the farm, and in purchasing cattle, ploughs, and other implements, leaving a balance of Rs 304. 1. 7. Adding however the sale proceeds of the 79 bags sold to the Railway Company, the total balance in the Coll's treasury to the credit of the farm was Rs. 383. 1. 7. The return for the outlay was more over very encouraging, apart from the social effects of the experiment. The Cumbo & horsegram unreaped at the date of last report had since been harvested, producing 360 measures of the former & 128 of the latter grain, valued in the Account Current at Rs 27. 11. " and Rs 8. 6. 4 respectively. The Cora. Gro Crop had been gathered, but was not yet estimated. The whole grain on hand was valued at Rs. 571. a. 5. p. 1; and the 80 Bullahs, or 306⅔ acres of land cleared for cultivation at 1200 Rs, according to the rate the ryots

	Rs.	A. P.
Amount Sanctioned	1,550.	"-"
Remaining in the Coll's Treasury	304.	1. 7
Expended,	1,245.	14. 5.
Value of grain on hand.	571.	5. 1
79 bags sold	79.	"-"
313 do, not yet sold	313.	"-"
80 Bullahs of land at 15 Rs per Bullah	1,200.	"-"
	2,163.	5. 1.
Difference Rs.	917.	6. 8

would be willing to pay for it, viz 15 Rs the Bullah. With the other items noted in the margin, the farm had cleared Rs. a. p. Rs. a. p. 2,163. 5. 1, or 917. 6. 8 in excess of the original sanction, irrespective of the value of the cattle, ploughs &c., and the Varagoo crop not yet estimated. Govt Con-

7. 2. M. C. 22 June 58, No 861.

sidered this state of things satisfactory; but in order to form a correct judgment of the value of the land reclaimed, they desired that the value of similar land in the District generally should be reported to them.

No. 660.

6. The Papers now before Govt are the Board's Proceedings of the 21st Oct/59, with Reports on the Mulcer Farms, and the Khader Tribe. The former will be noticed first.

4th, or present Report on the Mulcer Farm.

7. Mr. Cherry, the Acting Coll's letter of the 30 Nov/58 submits two reports from Mr. St. Martin on the Mulcer farms. In the first of these, Mr. St. Martin says that he has given orders to reserve one tenth instead of one third of the produce as the Govt share. In regard to the proposed dam across the

Ospaur, he promises a survey and estimate, as also an estimate for sinking a deep well to supply water in times of drought. The Mulcers have been allowed by the Conservancy to take free of charge the logs previously reported to have been cut on the hills out of the area of the farm*; but nothing is said as to their removal. Mr. St. Martin brings to notice that the Mulcers are taken away from their farm duties, and coerced by the subordinates of the Forest Conservancy to work in the forests, and that this has interfered with further clearing of land for cultivation. In the second report, Mr. St. Martin states the results of the harvest in 1858, and regrets that it was not so favorable as that of last year; but considering that the season was generally very unfavorable, he says that on the whole the experiment is a decided success. Compared with the last year, the following are the results.

	1857. Measures.	1858 Measures
Cholum	4096	3840
Raggy	1896	712
Singelly oil seed	710	"
Chamah	520	"
Castor oil seeds	128	"
Cumboo	96	"
Horsegram	128	"
Varagoo	"	"

* The uncleared portions of the farm contain merely brushwood, with a few standard other jungle trees.

half of the reserved portion of the Cumboo of the last previous year has already been put down, and the plants have already grown a few inches and are healthy. Half of the horsegram has been destroyed by vermin, but the other half is about to be sown. No seed is required at present. The castor oil seed sold for Rs 6. 4., but the money has not been realized. Most of the jungle land near the Ospaur and intended for next cultivation has been cleared; and the whole of it would have been cleared, were it not for the interference of one Coolroy Mordelly of Poolachee, but his intrusion has been repelled by the Mulcers. The colony has been forced to form a new set of tenants, as the old are proved unhealthy, and Mr. St. Martin has endeavoured to enforce certain sanitary provisions in the disposition of the huts. 4 of the new arrivals died of cholera, & two have been enticed away by two Chettiers on the plea of pecuniary indebtedness to them. The people are in want of a few implements, cattle, & clothes, of which Mr St. Martin intends to send a Memo. Mr St. Martin again complains of the coercive labors of the Mulcers in the Forests; and concludes that notwithstanding this drawback, and the want of

rain, the Mulcers have more than realized the expectations of Govt; for they shew a dislike for all kinds of labor but that of the field; they have refrained from plunder; are tractable & teachable; patient in labor; and jealous for, and watchful of, the land given them for cultivation. Para 8. Mr Cherry leaves the reports to speak for themselves; but he takes up the point of the Mulcers being compelled to work in the Forests. He says that he put himself in communication with Lieut Beddome (the present Supt of the Annamalays), and informed that officer that he (Mr Cherry) had not the power to compel the men to work in the forests; nor was it advisable that the Forest Dept should use coercive measures to take them from their field duties; but that the Mulcers were at liberty to engage themselves as labourers for the forest work, provided it was in consistance with their own feelings. Mr Cherry has called upon the District Engr for an estimate of the cost of throwing a dam across the Copaur, and of digging a well, and has instructed the Tahsildar of Poolachee to prevent encroachments on the Farm. In respect to the call for the value of similar land in the District generally, Mr Cherry says that the lands below the Anamarray Mountains are situated under the influence of the S. W. Monsoon, and reputed for retaining moisture longer than other lands. He is therefore at a loss to compare them with those similarly situated at the foot of the Nilgherry or other hills. He can however say that Mr. Martin has not overrated the value of the land reclaimed by the Mulcers, inasmuch as the demands for land in the neighbourhood of the Mulcer farm are great, and lands are there sold at higher rates than what Mr. Martin has entered as an approximation. In their Pro: the Board give a brief review of the facts noticed above. They call upon the Coll to report whether any and what exclusive privilege is enjoyed by the Mulcers with regard to the felling of timber; and they notice that no mention is made of the removal of the 313 logs lying in the jungles, nor of the Cottaypooly Poligar fulfilling his promise of lending his elephant.

21st Feb 59. No 660. Paras 2 to 14.

Report on the Khaders.

9. Mr Cherry's letter of the 16th Dec/58 gives cover to a very interesting report from Mr H. Martin of the social condition, habits, and ideas of the small mountain race of Khaders. These people, it is explained

have not been included in the benefits of the Experimental Farm, because they refused to give up their existing mode of life, notwithstanding the persuasion of Corporal Reid who was familiar with them. Although a superior race to the Mishmees, they are said to be migratory in their habits, never descending however to the plains. They dwell in bamboo and grass huts; and collect, often at great personal hazard, cardamoms, green pepper, ginger, rattans, honey, bees wax, Coapnuts, horns of deer and bison, and all the resinous products of the Forest trees, which they barter with the traders from the plains for coarse rice, cloths, and other necessaries of life. Mr. St. Martin describes the mode of collecting these wild products, and the perils the men risk especially, in descending precipices by means of rattan coils in search of honey combs. They do not care for money; but they have a rude knowledge of the value of a rupee and its subdivisions to regulate their barter, in which however they are very readily overreached by the men of the plains. e.g. the traders sell a measure or four quarts of honey for 4 annas, or 28 times less than its market value. In the absence of rice, they live on farinaceous

Paras 4, 5, 7-9.

Paras 6, 7, 7-8.

nuts, and occasionally pick up the offals of animals killed by wild beasts. They are nevertheless a peaceable race, never quarrelling among themselves, and entirely obedient to the head moppen, or chief of their clan. They are not addicted to any barbarous practices. Robbery is not known among them; not even petty thefts of grain &c. They have vague ideas of the Deity; have no particular ceremonies, not even for marriages: they bury their dead. The prevailing disease is small pox; and if a medical subordinate could be found willing to brave the risks of a mountain tour, Mr St. Martin recommends vaccination, to which the people have promised to submit. They have rendered great service to the Forest Dept, and are valuable auxiliaries in watching the forests against fire in unhealthy localities where none other but themselves could live, and in guiding the Conservancy agents through paths known only to the mountain race. Notwithstanding their refusal to abandon their wandering life & turn to agriculture

They are passionately fond of trinkets of brass, bone, or twigs, especially the women, who are described as comely, and decently clad, and adorned with head ornaments of evergreen twigs.

purchits, Mr St. Martin notices the curious fact that Vyapoory, the head mop-pew or chief, had in 1857 cultivated with paddy a large patch of forest land on a remote part of the Annamalays, at an elevation of 6000 feet above the level of the sea. The paddy was reared by the periodical rains, and afforded food to 200 Khaders for a month: a sheaf of this paddy was inspected by Lieutenant Beddome. Mr St. Martin thinks that by association with the forest labourers who go up from the plains, the example of the Mulcers, & the opening of a road up the Shaunt, the Khaders may eventually be induced to turn their attention to agriculture, and rise in civilization to the standard of the Burghers on the Neilgherries. Mr Cherry bears honorable testimony to Mr St. Martin's benevolent interest in these people & the Mulcers, an interest which he says proceeds from motives of charity alone, being entirely unremunerated; and the Board think the reports satisfactory on the whole, and are gratified with

I believe Mr St. Martin is not now an Overseer in the Forest Dept, but is Dy Accountant in the Coll Cutcherry, Madura for some time.
WS.

the interest manifested by Mr St. Martin in the duty entrusted to him.

W. Sharpe.
20/4/59.

Memo:

Reports on the Experimental Malsar Farm, and the conditions of the Kánders a mountain tribe inhabiting the Annamalays

Revenue Dept

No. 638.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 9th ~~April~~ May 1859.

Read the following Ex from the Pro: of the Board of Revenue

Vere enter 21st February 1859 No 69

These Proceedings place before Govt reports on the Experimental Malsar Farm at the foot of the Annamallays in Coimbatore, and on the condition and habits of the Kádars, a small tribe inhabiting the tops of those hills. The establishment of the ~~Malsar~~ Farm was authorized in March 1856, with a grant of 1550 Rs, with the ~~view~~ intention of benefitting both the tribes of Malsars and Kádars, by withdrawing them from their irregular habits of life, and attracting them

Malsar

Kádars

Please send us copies & any Plans papers that they be found

× Order of Govt, 7th March 56, No 272.

27th April to 5th May

to agricultural pursuits; but owing to the aversion of the Kaffirs from agricultural labour, the benefits of the farm have been confined to the Malays alone.

2. Compared with the outturn of 1857, the result of the harvest in 1858 the year under report, is not favorable, as shews in the margin of para 4 of the Boards Proceedings. Only 384 measures of Cholum and 7½ of Raggy have been harvested in 1858 against 2096 and 1896 measures of Cholum and Raggy respectively, besides smaller quantities of Gingelly seeds, Castor seeds, Channah, Cumboo, & Horsegram, gathered in the previous year. This poor result is attributed to two causes, viz: want of rain which has been generally felt during the year, and the compulsory withdrawal of the Malays for labour in the Forests.

N.F. 3

3 an Account Current which ac-

Order of Govt 29th May 58, No 903.

companied the last report, it appeared that a balance of Rs 304-1-7 stood at the credit of the farm out of the sanction of 1,550 Rds. From para 11 of the Boards present Proceedings, Govt learn that this sum has not been since drawn, but that Mr. St. Martin, who has the superintendence of the farm, intends to apply for funds for the purchase of implements &c for the cultivation of the farm. Hitherto the cultivation attempted has been only that of dry grains, but it is proposed to try wet cultivation, as soon as irrigation can be secured by throwing a rough stone dam across the adjacent Ooyaru, and with that view the Collector has called upon the District Engineer to furnish an estimate of the cost of the dam suggested by Mr St. Martin, and also of sinking a deep well recommended by the Government themselves to ensure

ensure a steady supply of water in times of drought. To the enquiry of Government in their last order, the Collector replies that he cannot compare the value of the land cleared on the Malsar farm with that of land similarly situated in his District, because the lands below the Anamallays are under the influence of the South West Monsoon, and are reputed to retain moisture longer than other lands, but he does not think that Mr. St. Martin has overrated the value of the reclaimed land. Government agrees with the Board that, notwithstanding the unfavorable result of 1858, the condition of the farm and the progress of the experiment may be considered on the whole to be satisfactory.

22 June 58, No 861

15 Rs the Kullah, or 3·33 acres

The Governor in Council can see in these proceedings & in the other Papers on the subject no evidence that the object for which this Farm was established is likely to be in any material degree accomplished, and the Board of Revenue is requested to give their particular attention to the matter and to report their opinion whether it would be advisable to continue the experiment. In the mean time all expenditure not absolutely necessary is to be avoided

The Governor in Council entirely disapproves of any coercion being employed to bring the Malsars to work in the forest. A copy of the Board's proceedings, and of paras 7 to 9 of Mr. St. Martin's letter of the 29th July 1858, and of para 8 of his later letter of the 9th October 1858, will be forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, with instructions to call upon Lieut. Beddome for early and full explanation for the information of Government, as to such coercion being exercised by himself or his subordinates.

5. The report on the

the Kádars is interesting. It describes them to be in a very primitive state, attached to their wandering life tho' never descending to the plains but peaceable and harmless in their habits. Their chief occupation is the collection of wild products such as Cardamums, Ginger, Soap-nut, Gums, Honey, Rattans &c., which they barter for coarse rice and Cloth with traders from the plains, who derive a small profit from the exchange. It is thought however that these people may eventually be induced to turn their attention to agriculture, by association with the forest

forest laborers who go up from the plains, by the example of the Malsars, and by the opening of a road up the Ghauts.

3 Copies to the Bd. of Revl. Dispd 10th with 4 Pmts.
4 " " Conservator of Forests.
with Bdl Ltr

Cons: 11 March /56 Nos 32-33-
— 1st June /58 — 33-34-
— 22 — " — " 67-68-

Revenue 1859 Departt
Cons 10th May

No 638

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 7th May 59-

From the Conservator of Forests Dy 28th
June /59 C Nos 1192 Cons: } 29th July - 26-27 }
From Board of Rev: 4th July
1859: Cons: 29th to 24-25-
26 & 27

Passing orders on the reports of the results of the experimental Farms established for improving the Kadars and Malears inhabiting the annamallay Pungleruh Coimbatore.

No 49 & 50.

From Board of Rev. 17th
Augt. /59. Cln. 1530.

Cons 3d Sept. 59 1162

C27 April R 5th May