M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1188	Press ~~Mis.~~
206-207	
Dated 18-7-	1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th July 1860.

No. 206. Read the following letters from Lieutenant Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 4th July 1860, No. 2,282 :—

1. I have the honor to forward herewith for the information of Government, and for communication, should the Government see fit, to the Conservator of Forests, a report from the Acting District Engineer of Kurnool, on the Nallamalai forests.

Letter from District Engineer, dated 16th June 1860, No. 249, with one enclosure.

2. Lieutenant Beckley gives a description of the different kinds of trees to be met with in these forests. He considers the hill sides and valleys most favorable for the growth of teak, which, with proper management, the forests might be made to yield in large quantities, and he adverts to the necessity of some measures of conservancy being established to prevent an indiscriminate and wasteful cutting of timber, which, if permitted to continue, will be the means of destroying the only forests from which timber can be obtained for building purposes in the Kurnool, Bellary, and Cuddapah Districts.

3. Lieutenant Beckley is of opinion that the present mode of obtaining a revenue from the timber of the forests in question is objectionable, from the facilities it affords for evading the payment of tax, and he suggests a system which he considers less liable to abuse.

4. Lieutenant Beckley adverts to the rapidly increasing demand for timber in the above Districts, and recommends the appointment of Captain Nelson of Siddapúr, as Assistant Conservator of Forests, as that Officer possesses much influence over a numerous jungle tribe, and is peculiarly fitted for such work.

5. He further recommends that the forest land adjacent to the Nandi Canama Ghát should be preserved for Public Works, all cutting by private individuals being strictly prohibited.

6. This, however, does not seem to me to be either desirable or necessary. If proper care be taken to prevent improper and wasteful felling of trees, I see no reason why the public should not have the advantage of procuring timber from the neighbourhood of the Nandi Canama Ghát as well as the Government.

From Lieutenant T. BECKLEY, Acting District Engineer of Kurnool, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Northern Circle, dated Kurnool, 16th June 1860, No. 249.

1. Having observed that the state of the forests of Southern have lately excited the attention of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, and that measures are consequently being adopted for their preservation, I have the honor to forward the following report on the jungles of the Nallamalais, hoping that attention being drawn to their extent and manifest importance, some kind of conservancy may be established to prevent a wasteful and indiscriminate cutting of timber, that if permitted to continue much longer, will most assuredly destroy the only forests from which timber can be obtained for buildings in the Kurnool, Bellary and Cuddapah Districts.

2. The whole area of the Nallamalai jungles in this District may be computed at 3,000 square miles, but south of the Nallamalais, the hills do not appear favorable for the growth of timber and the belts of jungle on either side of the hills easy of access to wood-cutters have been entirely denuded of all trees suitable for building purposes, deducting, therefore, 400 square miles south of the Nandi Canama, and 500 square miles of low jungle at the foot of the hills, the timber bearing tract is reduced to 2,100 square miles, of this perhaps one-third or 700 square miles is good forest land.

3. I have no data on which to form even an approximate estimate of the quantity of timber that might with good management be obtained from this area ; I have no doubt, however, that owing to a small rainfall and excessive dryness of atmosphere, the growth of trees is far slower here than in the Wainád, Salem and most other jungle, and am perfectly assured from personal observations that the forest have been very much overcut during the last two years.

4. I append a list of the trees that are met with in the Nallamalai jungles, many of the hill sides and valleys are most favorably situated for the growth of teak, but no-where have I seen what could be termed a teak forest; but numerous saplings everywhere, and large trees between two and three feet in diameter in inaccessible spots incontestably prove that these jungles might be made to yield large quantities of this valuable timber, the dryness of the climate, though unfavorable to quickness of growth or size would, I apprehend, cause the timber to be of superior quality; at present though slabs 12'×2'×½' are procurable in the market, no teak logs more than 6 inches square are ever brought from the hills, the reason being that only in places very difficult of access, have large trees escaped the wood-cutters axes.

5. There are still very large numbers of Yeghe and Nullumuddi trees fit for felling, the latter grow to a very large size, 50 feet height without a branch and three feet diameter; but I never saw any tree 22'×1'×1' brought into Kurnool, owing to bad roads and want of system, four small trees are felled for purposes for which one large tree would have been sufficient.

6. A tax of one Rupee per bandy load of common wood, 2 Rupees per load of teak, is now levied and collected at the first village through which the bandy passes, this tax is often evaded altogether, and can be always partly avoided by placing two or more cart loads upon one bandy before entering the village.

7. Should the above objectionable mode of raising a timber revenue not be at once replaced by some entirely new system less open to abuse, at least the facility of avoiding half the tax by merely carrying double loads for a short distance, might be remedied by laying the tax on the log instead of upon the load, were the rate raised sufficiently to materially affect the price of the wood, larger logs would be brought out of the jungle and the havoc going on among the very young trees arrested.

8. The total revenue derived from this tax during the past year amounts to Rupees 9,297-6-0, a satisfactory sum were it the net profit yielded by properly preserved jungles, but not at all sufficient to compensate for the wholesale destruction of these extensive and valuable forests.

9. I have no statistics showing the number of bandies that have paid the tax, I should imagine about 9,000 as logs for the greater portion of the Rupees 9,300 is derived from woods rated at 1 Rupee per bandy.

10. Considering the small average size of the logs and taking into account the double load expedient for escaping half the impost, I should calculate that the 9,000 bandies conveyed away about 36,000 logs, it is impossible to tell how many bandies are never taxed at all, but if we assume 60,000 as the total number of trees cut in 1859-60, we shall probably not be far wrong.

11. The demand for wood on every side is greatly increasing, the raiyats growing wealthy require houses far more substantial than they formerly occupied, immense numbers of bandies are being made to meet the requirements of a fast increasing traffiic and the Railway Company require an enormous quantity of timber for sleepers and the Irrigation Company for cargo boats, locks, &c.

12. I have no doubt but that Captain Nelson of Siddapúr, would most willingly accept the appointment of Assistant Conservator, living in the midst of the jungle and possessed of great influence over a numerous jungle tribe, he is admirably adapted for such a post, and in giving the appointment to him, the Government might have the satisfaction of knowing that not only would the duties be efficiently performed, but also that the salary would be devoted to the improvement of that part of the country and to reclaiming the Chemsewals from vagabondism to agricultural pursuits.

13. I most earnestly recommend that all the forest land adjacent to the Nandi Canama Ghát be strictly preserved for Public Works, and all cutting by private parties strictly prohibited, Government require some forests to be set apart for their especial use, and it is

only just that they should appropriate those rendered accessible by roads constructed entirely at their expense; had the preservation of the Nandi Canama valleys been commenced when the road was commenced, the enhanced value of the timber would now give a fair percentage on the cost of the road; as it is, this very costly road has afforded great facilities for destroying the timber; the cost of preserving these valleys would be very trifling, I would guarantee to do it for 20 Rupees per mensem.

List of Trees that are met within the Nallamalai jungles.

Names of Trees. Woods.	*Names of Trees. Woods.*	*Names of Trees. Woods.*
Condarageetree.	Bamboo.	Jeelagachettoo.
Parayagechettoo.	Billoochettoo.	Condamuddychettoo.
Aurooteegacommah.	Peresachettoo.	Jeedechettoo.
Ickachettoo.	Soombechettoo.	Condagummadychettoo.
Madapchettoo.	Pyraneechettoo.	Poolungekeeta.
Valagadavoodychettoo.	Ippachettoo.	Goompanachettoo.
Condapadegateega.	Canoogachettoo.	Condapaupadoochettoo.
Yerrachellachettoo.	Palacachettoo.	Chaurachettoo.
Nareduchettoo.	Gotacautachettoo.	Ragolachettoo.
Taikoocutta.	Teegachettoo.	Caruckayachettoo.
Cunnrachettoo.	Mymockachettoo.	Janakachettoo.
Raulachettoo.	Nullamuddychettoo.	Toomkeechettoo.
Poollungechettoo.	Tandrachettoo.	Pichecachettoo.
Condagogoochettoo.	Patraroo chettoo.	Taikoopalaka.
Botckachettoo.	Allachettoo.	Poolky.

(Signed) J. BECKLEY, Lieutenant,
Acting District Engineer of Kurnool.

No. 207. ORDER THEREON, 18th July 1860, No. 1,188.

April 4th 1860, *No.* 690.
June 18*th* ,, ,, 1,285.

Copy of this letter and of its enclosure will be sent to the Conservator of Forests, with reference to the Orders noted in the margin. The Honorable the Governor in Council considers it to be of great importance that the Nallamalai Forests should be explored as soon as possible by a competent Officer of the Conservancy Department, and efficient arrangements be made for their systematic working and renewal. No part of these valuable forests should be abandoned to indiscriminate felling; the whole should be under regular management.

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

Revenue 1860 Desp.
Rec: of Govt for July
No 1362

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to
Government N.W.P.

Dated 11th
Received 5th } July 1860

1 Encl. No 2282.
Enc: 2x

Forward Report
from the Acting Distrct
Engineer of Nurmool
on the Nullaymallai
forests.

Nos 206 & 207.

From Conservator of Forests 13th
Augt 60 Cr 1662.

No 1188. 18th July

With an Order

Soon

Apl 6-1860 No 690
June 18 " No 1256

No 1188.

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HEW

For Sec. to Govt.
18th July 1860.

4 Copies - Conservator of Forests
10 " Chief Engineer
12 " Com. of Revenue

Disp. 19