M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1454 Press ~~Mis~~

342-344

Dated 28-8-1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th August 1860.

Read the following letters :—

No. 342. From H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 26th July 1860, No. 78 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit herewith a letter* from the Collector of Coimbatore, giving cover to a communication† from Mr. Lascelles, on the subject of the supply of firewood and the management of the Sholas on the Neilgherry Hills.

* *No.* 29, *dated* 25*th June* 1860.
† *Dated* 21*st May* 1860.

2. Having recently reported to Government briefly what steps had been taken (letter dated 26th June last, No. 44), I shall now only advert to certain points which appear to call for remark.

3. With reference to the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Lascelles' letter, I admit that a large quantity of dead-wood lies in the Sholas within a radius of 10 or 12 miles from Ootacamund, but if all this was taken out and offered for sale, few would be found to purchase at so great a distance, and in many of the steep ravines, the receipts would not cover the expenses. Great part of this wood might be cleared and brought into the station, if liberty to carry it away free of any payment was given, but then it is very doubtful whether wood-cutters would restrict their operations to given Sholas, they would as formerly, take advantage of the privilege and begin to cut at the most convenient distance.

4. Mr. Lascelles alludes to the opening up of certain roads to render the Sholas accessible to carts, and which the Collector strongly advocates. In this I concur, but it should be a gradual work, undertaken as required. I think if the *Deva Shola* was now made accessible to carts, and Captain Francis' trace to Kotagherry opened out so as to allow of carts to pass for six miles, it would be sufficient at present. The firewood and charcoal supply of Ootacamund might be arranged by the Improvement Committee, in communication with my Department. The construction of the larger public roads as that to Pykara and Neddimuttum not being within the province of my Department, I refrain from giving an opinion as to the necessity of the outlay and the estimates specified. Perhaps on the whole, Mr. Lascelles has scarcely done justice to the state of the roads on the Hills.

5. I do not concur in the suggestion that a Committee be appointed for the management of the Forests of the Hills, there is already a planting Sub-Committee of the Improvement Commission, with whom I have had several interviews, and whose views and wishes I would gladly meet in a matter so deeply affecting the community.

6. The sale by auction of dead-wood near the station was recommended by His Excellency the late Governor on his visit to the Hills, and has proved of benefit to the community, and I venture to assert that it acts as a check to monopoly. There is a considerable amount of trouble in arranging the sales, and there is great difficulty in preventing theft during the moon-light nights. I consider that the auctions may be continued with advantage in the immediate vicinity of Ootacamund, and that they should be held regularly at stated intervals towards the end of the dry weather, when families are laying in stores for the monsoon.

7. The system of a fixed price at the Sholas at *some distance* from Ootacamund as proposed by Mr. Lascelles, might be adopted (if Government approve), but this would interfere with the operations of Contractors, and the two systems could not well be carried on simultaneously. Mr. Lascelles' plan would be convenient for those who have carts, whilst the Contractors' Depôts are considered to be an advantage to the many strangers who engage houses and have no means of carriage.

8. Mr. Lascellas also suggests that all cutting of wood by any others, save the Forest Department, should be strictly prohibited; this plan is now pursued, and the Department confine their operations to one or two localities. I cannot say that pilfering does not continue, particularly during the heavy bursts of the monsoon, when the axe may occasionally be heard in the dark evenings, but I believe that in the fine weather surreptitious cutting has been almost entirely suppressed. About 25 or 30 wood-cutters caught in the act of stealing wood have been taken before the Assistant Magistrate and punished.

9. Logs of the better jungle-woods, too good for fuel have been offered for sale as beams, but as the purchasers encounter much difficulty and expense in carriage there has been very little demand. The Sholas given on contract and those already cleared of dead-wood will be restored by planting, and to avoid the destruction caused by cattle, I have directed that a fence may be made or a trench dug round them to prevent the ingress of mischievous animals.

10. In paragraph 3, Mr. Lascelles refers to Government property at Kotagherry being "wasted, destroyed and lost." Much forest has been felled in this neighbourhood within a few years both for Coffee planting and Ragee cultivation, and there is a great quantity of fallen wood in the direction of Metapollum, but the requirements for fuel are too small (five or six European families) to justify the appointment of an Overseer.

11. There is an efficient Overseer near Coonoor, who has charge of a Depôt and who supervises the Contractors for the Wellington Barracks. Mr. Hall has been directed to visit Kotagherry periodically, and it may be advisable to appoint a Native under him to overlook the conservancy of the Sholas in the vicinity.

12. If Mr. Rohde be the "official" alluded to "who has permission to cut," I would remark that the Inspector General of Jails, purchased the dead-wood of a Shola at public auction, before I took charge of the Neilgherry forests. After the expiration of the time, he obtained permission to remove all the wood previously cut. I have been frequently over the ground and can speak most favorably of the systematic way in which the Shola has been worked, Mr. Rohde engaged the services of a Superintendent for this duty to whom I gave instructions, and no reckless cutting was permitted. The wood was purchased for the brick-making of the new Jail, and a very large quantity being require for a public purpose, I considered it my duty to afford ready aid, particularly when I had to deal with Mr. Rohde, a Member of the Improvement Committee, and an ardent Arboriculturist.

13. In conclusion, I would observe that the firewood question at Ootacamund, has been one of increasing difficulty for some years, as the station has risen in importance, and after careful observation, I am assured that the annual consumption of wood within a certain distance (six miles) is greater than the natural reproduction. The new system of operations has not yet had a fair trial, the community have scarcely accommodated themselves to the altered regulations. There are four main desiderata.

I. Cart-roads.
II. Additional Carts.
III. Persons to deliver.
IV. Godowns for storing wood.

Cart-roads to the Sholas can easily be made and the outlay be proportionately debited to the Public Works and Forest Departments. Additional carts are being prepared or imported, the total number a short time ago was 90, which was insufficient. Persons to deliver wood on moderate terms will spring up, and doubtless householders will remedy the deficiency of storing room, so that there may be abundant space for a monsoon stock of fuel. Most families at present find their supply exhausted in the middle of the rainy season.

	Rs.
1 *Overseer*	80
Horse allowance...	15
2 *Foresters* @ 35	70
7 *Peons* @ 5	35
Rupees...	200

* *Per mensem.*

14. The cost of the Forest Establishment on the Hills is now 200 Rupees per mensem, and the balance in favor of Government at the close of the official year, after a short trial, was Rupees 859-13-6. I think it likely that the proceeds may ere long allow of an outlay of Rupees 400* (as suggested by Mr. Lascelles) and in that case a Special Assistant might be employed, but great economy is necessary, or there will be a small margin for making roads and replanting the Sholas.

15. I think the disadvantages of the present system have been exaggerated, I am informed that there is a very large stock of wood for sale in two places in the Bazaar at 1½ Anna per maund or 2½ Rupees the cart load of 750 lbs. Charcole now sells at 10 Annas the piled *para*, weighing about 1 maund and is of better quality than it was. There is a desire on the part

of many to revert to the old system under which wood was brought by the Badagars to the doors of the residents, whose houses lay convenient to the road, but I know that several of those in moderate circumstances have stated that the present system is more advantageous to them, and I see no mode of checking the indiscriminate cutting of wood, if any thing approaching to the old system was permitted.

No. 343. From H. CLEGHORN, Esq., M.D., Conservator of Forests, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated 11th August 1860, No. 99.

SIR,

With reference to my letter No. 89, dated 6th instant, regarding the management of the Neilgherry Sholas, I beg to suggest that in the event of my absence, or that of my *locum tenens*, the Foresters should apply for instructions on any doubtful point to Mr. Rohde, C.S., Member of the "Improvement Committee."

No. 344. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1860, No. 1,454.

1. With the earlier of these letters the Conservator sends up with his remarks a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, giving cover to one from Mr. Lascelles, recommending certain measures for the improvement of the supply of fuel at Ootacamund. In the later, he proposes that during his absence, or that of his *locum tenens* from the hills, the foresters should be placed under the orders of Mr. Rohde.

2. The chief measures proposed by Mr. Lascelles are as follow:—

(1.) To abolish the present system, established a few months ago under the Order of March 20th 1860, No. 425.

(2.) To appoint a Committee consisting of the Conservator of Forests and two members of the present Improvement Committee, to manage the supply of wood, the opening of roads to distant Sholas, &c.

(3.) To sell the dead-wood at a certain fixed price at the wood side.

Mr. Thomas approves and warmly supports the proposals. Dr. Cleghorn does not agree with him.

3. The subject of fuel supply for Ootacamund is by no means a new one; the outcry as to the dearness of the article has been loud for years. Up to a few months ago there was scarcely any interference with the cutting of fuel, yet this did not prevent complaints of its dearness and scarcity, while it produced evils of its own; the chief of which was the gradual but certain destruction of the Sholas. This scarcity and dearness of fuel was one of the local inconveniences to which Sir Charles Trevelyan addressed himself when at Ootacamund; and after a full discussion, a system was substituted for the previous practice.

4. That system is as follows; as described in the Order of Government of March 20th 1860.

"First. The whole of the Sholas, or woods, in the neighbourhood of the station to be "absolutely reserved, not only for their beauty but also from fear of injuring the water "springs; their limits to be marked; no private cutters to be allowed inside; old trees to "be felled by servants of the department, and brought outside, and to be sold there by "public auction. Trees to be planted where required, in vacant spaces.

"Secondly. Suitable woods at a distance from the station to be selected and marked "out in lots of moderate size; and a number of these lots, amply sufficient for a year's "supply, to be put up to auction annually. The Contractor to be permitted to clear the "ground entirely within his lot or lots, with the exception of such trees as may be "marked by the Conservancy Department previously to the sale.

"Thirdly. The cleared lots to be planted, as required, by the Conservancy Department.

"Fourthly. No private felling of any kind, or for any person, to be allowed in woods "or on land belonging to Government."

5. This arrangement has been carried into effect. It has only been in operation about three months, and it is now proposed to abolish it. The Government are not prepared to accede to this recommendation; the present system was resolved on, as already said, after full and careful consideration, and it has not yet been fairly tried. Every new system must be under disadvantages at first. In the present case the change involves the substitution of carts for cooly labour to a large extent, and at first the necessary number of carts are not forthcoming; but this want will soon be supplied. It takes some time also for the residents to become used to the new system; and some mistakes may be expected at first, both on the part of the Conservancy Department and of the Contractors, as to the proper quantity required. All these things, however, may be expected soon to come right.

6. The auction sales of dead-wood near the station, referred to in paragraph 6 of Dr. Cleghorn's letter, and reported more fully in his previous letter of June 26, are calculated to check any tendency on the part of the Shola-renters to combine to keep up prices. But he is probably right in saying that Mr. Lascelles' plan of selling at a fixed price at the distant Sholas could not consist with the contract system, because to make such a plan pay there must be an expensive Establishment kept up at the Shola; and the sales must be very large to pay for such an Establishment.

7. Dr. Cleghorn states in the last paragraph of his letter that there is a large stock of firewood for sale in the Bazar, at 1½ Anna a maund, equal to 2½ Rupees a bandy load of 750lbs. And this being the case the complaints of dearness and scarcity seem to be without foundation.

8. The Government think it desirable however to appoint an Assistant to the Conservator, for the Neilgherry Hills; and Dr. Cleghorn will be requested to submit the name of the person whom he would recommend for the appointment.

9. With regard to roads to open access to the Sholas, the District Engineer was called on in an Order of the 11th July to give attention to the subject. Dr. Cleghorn's present letter will be communicated to him through the Chief Engineer.

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

No. 29.

Coimbatore Collr's Office
to
25th June 1860.

From
E. B. Thomas Esqre
Collector of Coimbatore

To
F. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

1 I beg to transmit for the consideration of Government a letter from Mr Lascelles on a subject which is of vital importance to Government and much inconvenience to the whole community on the Neelgherries. The present scarcity and cost of fuel, almost as necessary there, as food, may be truly said to be a crying evil.

2 I have considered this subject, and had the Forests under my charge, for many years. I know the localities and facts adverted to by Mr Lascelles, and on careful and full consideration, I must say I concur entirely in his remarks, and would strongly advocate his plan, as the only system calculated to

economize the Forests, and supply the Community, European and Native, with this necessary of life, the extra Cost of which is now enhancing the Cost of all other articles on the Hills - and affecting even the wages of labour, both to Government and individuals, to a considerable extent - nearly 1/4th of a Coolys wages must now really be spent to cook the food of himself and family, unless wood is stolen (the only and ready alternative) from the Government Forests -

3 Government have already offered to increase Dr Cleghorn's establishment merely to conserve the Forests, without remunerative return - I am so confident of Mr Lascelles being a correct and remunerative system, that I would gladly and at once be answerable, from my own pay, for half the amount advanced, beit 3000 (as stated in my letter of 31st May 1860 No 19)

or 5000 as now requested - and as Dr Cleghorn's distant and arduous duties (in which he never spares himself, and has already I fear injured his own health), often take him far away, I will gladly, if he and Government like to entrust me, take the detail of this experiment on myself in his absence, with the assistance of Mr Lascelles and Mr Dawson (Hill Residents), and independent Members of the community; Mr Lascelles being perhaps eventually entered as one of the Hill improvement Committee -

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedt & Servant
P. B. Maxwell
Collector -

Woodlands, 21th May 1860.

To,

The Collector of Coimbatore-

Sir,

I do myself the honor to address you on the subject of the supply of Firewood and the General management of the Forests on the Neilgherries-

2 The extraordinary anomaly is at present presented, of fuel being more expensive in Coimbatore, than in London, whilst there are thousands of tons of the Commodity within 12 miles of the former place, a vast proportion of which is rotting and being lost to the public. The principal cause of this state of things is to be found in the inaccessibility of the sources of supply, in other words, the want of proper roads to the forests, other causes likewise operate to produce this high price of one of the most important necessaries of life (in this

1860 Extract
From
the Govt. Order of the Govt.
Madras
to the Collector of Coimbatore
dated 28th May 1860
Received 1st June
No. 1539/86
Forwarded for information
Considered in Council
Copy to Conservator
Passed 48 orders
Sent to Collectors
Coimbatore
Nilgiris
Salem
Malabar
Canara
Madura
Tinnevelly
Dindigul
Trichinopoly
Tanjore
South Arcot
North Arcot
Chingleput

climate) both they are of less importance, and would be partly removed by the same measure as would remedy this, which may be termed the "origo mali". Government are at present in the position of owners of a mine to which there is no shaft. It is scarcely to be believed that they would sanction the present inconvenience to the public, and positive & direct loss to themselves (in depreciation of their property) for lack of a few thousand Rupees, which might reasonably be expected to be repaid within a very short time, if they were really aware of the actual state of things, and of the extent to which they are actual bonafide losers, by not providing the means of access (for wheeled Conveyances), to the different Forests from which the supply of fuel and timber is derived, and still less would sanction for such expenditure be withheld, if the political advantages attained were duly represented. These are briefly comprised, in rendering accessible

(and consequently valuable) what are at present inaccessible tracts of land, in providing additional rides and drives on the Hills for the benefit of the invalids of the Govt. Services, in improving (in many cases) the lines of traffic between the different stations, such as from Ooty to Pykerah, to Kotagherry, to Manlin, and the Choundabettah Ghaut, (via the large Dava Sholay), and from Potaca-mund to the Koondahs — These roads if put in a satisfactory state, would render accessible sources of supply of fuel, which under judicious management, might almost be considered inexhaustible, but at present some of these roads, (in fact all except one) are impassable to wheeled traffic, and the road principally used for bringing in wood (that to Pykerah), is in parts so steep and slippery, as to be practically useless during a great part of the year, and even during the dry season, from 4 to 500 lbs is the most load that a bandy can bring in, whilst from 8 to 1000 lbs can be carried on a good ordinary road, on all the lines of road

which I have named, there are roads in a more or less trafficable state, and from 2 to 300 Rs. P mile, would be found sufficient to place these in a satisfactory state, although in such cases as the new road to Oykerah and Neddiyuttum, (which constitutes a portion of the trace known as New Western Chanchor Carcoor, C and the various advantages resulting from the opening of which it is difficult to over estimate) even double the above allowance might safely be sanctioned. To proceed however from generalities to specific and definite arrangements, I venture to suggest that Government should be applied to, to place the woods and forests on the Malabar Fisheries under a Committee composed of the Conservator of Forests and two of the Members of the present Polaccamund Improvement Committee, that they shall decide which shall be the first forest to be systematically examined, and the mature and decaying trees marked, that a small advance shall be applied for, for making

or repairing the road to the forest, which advance should be under certain limitations refunded out of the proceeds of the sale of the wood, further I would suggest that this Committee should have the power of deciding what proportion of such expenditure, should be borne by the Forest Department, and what might be fairly allotted to the Public Works Dept., or be defrayed out of the Funds (1500 Rs.) sanctioned for the repairs and formation of the bridle paths about the station of Polaccamund. I take the liberty further of suggesting that the present system of sale of wood by auction, be put a stop to, as not calculated to ensure the two great ends which a Government must have in view, viz. the realization of the full value of the Commodity, and the affording every facility to every one of obtaining wood at as nearly as possible the rate at which it is sold by Government. The present system is eminently adapted to foster monopoly, as only those individuals who have large bodies of labourers and means

of Conveyance can avail themselves of the sales under the present system, and it is moreover from the very reason that the competition is limited, ill calculated to secure the fullest value for the article, and the difference betwixt this and the rate of sale is loss, both to Government and the public, and falls into the hands of the monopolist- Here again to avoid the error of pointing out a grievance, without suggesting a remedy, I venture to propose, that all cutting of wood of any description in any places, save those actually sanctioned by the Forest Committee, shall be strictly prohibited and severely punished, and that the Committee should as much as possible restrict their operations to one or two localities simultaneously, with a view of checking depredations, and affording better supervision, with the very limited establishment which would be at their Command at first, and I would further propose, that the wood be sold at a given rate ₱ load at the forest, where a European

Superintendent & 2 peons should be in attendance from 7 A.M. till 5 P.M. who should further see that none but marked trees were cut, and that no wanton damage was done, I believe that if ordinary means of access are provided, 8 as. ₱ bandy, 2 as. ₱ bullock, 1 anna ₱ man's load would be a fair rate of sale, and that whilst such a rate would be remunerative to Government, it would under the circumstances already detailed, be far more advantageous to the public, I venture also to suggest that the Committee should also sell such trees as are valuable and useful as timber for building purposes at a given rate per tree, according to size and that the proceeds of the department, after refund of the advance made for roads &c. should be employed in systematic planting in those parts where the old forests have undergone clearing and thinning, thereby taking further advantage of the roads as a means of access to the new planting- This planting out can be performed at the rate of 24 Rs. ₱ acre

such an allowance for guarding weeding &c
of 4 as. per acre per mensem, would also be
necessary for the first five years; under
Competent management this might be
made a highly remunerative part of the
department.

The difficulties which appear to be
felt by this department are principally want
of esperience of the peculiar practice of
forestry, ignorance of the localities, of the
different woods and trees, and above all,
organization of efficient machinery to work
the department; at present the system, if
such it can be called, is from hand to mouth,
a tiding over the present difficulties, appears
to be only thought of - At Kolagherry
and in several other places, Govt. property
is wasted, destroyed & lost, when it should
be realizing a handsome revenue - I take
the liberty of suggesting that at such
places as that last named, where the
consumption is not so great as to justify
the employment of a European on a high salary,

a good native (to be changed periodically) should
be employed to superintend the woods and receive
payment for the timber and fuel, and I
would also remark that no class or persons
whatsoever should be granted a license
to cut - It would be and is now, impossible
to prevent abuse of the permission, one official
in Coimbatore has such a permission, and
I am in a position to state, that (probably
without his knowledge) the wood is stolen
on all sides, I believe that even the Hill
Tribes should be placed under the same
restriction, the enormous rates obtainable
for every article of agricultural produce
render such restriction by no means harsh,
and indeed, unless it were enforced, the
whole scheme would be rendered abortive -

I have taken the liberty of thus
addressing you, because with statistics
before me of the consumption of the
Neelgherry population and of the extent
of woods and forests within available
distance of the different stations,

appears to me that only an efficient system, and judicious and economical expenditure are requisite, to overcome a difficulty which is a source of anxiety to Govt. and the Conservator's Dept., and that an advance from Govt. of 5000 Rs. to be expended during one year with the prospect of refund within the following 2 years, would place the Dept. on an efficient footing, at the same time I venture to express a serious doubt as to the sufficiency of the Establishment proposed by the Conservator in his minutes. (in the published records of Govt.)

The importance of the subject justifies a far larger expenditure, especially as the Establishment would be entirely self supporting after one year, a long residence on these Hills, and intimate acquaintance with the localities, and the inhabitants and their requirements, leads me to believe that the Forest Dept. might safely be increased to between 4 & 500 Rs. a month, without any fear of its becoming a charge to the State,

but its remunerative character will depend entirely on its complete efficiency, and whilst I am forced to doubt whether the system at present pursued and the Establishment as now constituted, will even pay its expenses, I feel assured that under a liberal economical expenditure, and strict efficiency, all source of anxiety as to future supplies of wood and timber would be removed, without any permanent charge to the State.

With many apologies for occupying your valuable time

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed. Servant
"Signed" A. R. H. Lascelles.

|True Copy|

F. B. J.

Collector

Memo on Revenue Dpt. 1530.

1. The Conservator sends up with his remarks a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, giving cover to one from Mr. Cascelles, recommending certain measures for the improvement of the supply of fuel at Ootacammund. The chief measures proposed are as follows.

1st To abolish the present system, established a few months ago.

2nd To appoint a committee consisting of the Conservator of Forests and two members of the present Improvement Committee, to manage the supply of wood, the opening of roads to distant sholas &c.

3rd To sell the dead wood at a certain fixed price at the wood side.

2. Mr. Thomas approves and warmly supports the proposals; as he

he does at present everything coming from that quarter. Dr. Cleghorn does not agree with him.

3. The subject of fuel supply for Ootacamund is by no means a new one; the outcry as to the dearness of the article has been loud for years. Up to a few months ago there was scarcely any interference with the cutting of fuel, yet this did not prevent the dearness and scarcity of the article, while it produced evils of its own, viz. gradual but certain destruction of the Sholas, and the employment of large numbers of coolies in cutting and bringing in fuel. This scarcity and dearness of fuel was one of the local inconveniences to which Sir Charles Trevelyan addressed himself when at Ootacamund; and after a full discussion, a system was substituted for the previous practice, with the apparent concurrence of all concerned.

That

4. That system is as follows; as described in the order of Government of March 20th 1860.

"First. The whole of the Sholas, or woods, in the neighbourhood of the station to be absolutely reserved, not only for their beauty but also from fear of injuring the water springs; their limits to be marked, no private cutters to be allowed inside; old trees to be felled by servants of the department, and brought outside, and to be sold there by public auction. Trees to be planted where required, in vacant spaces.

Secondly. Suitable woods at a distance from the station to be selected and marked out in lots of moderate size; and a number of these lots, amply sufficient for a year's supply, to be put up to auction annually. The Contractor to be permitted to clear the ground entirely within his

lot

lot or lots, with the exception of such trees as may be marked by the Conservancy Department previously to the sale.

Thirdly. The cleared lots to be planted, as required, by the Conservancy Department.

"Fourthly. No private felling of any kind, or for any person, to be allowed in woods or on land belonging to Government."

5. This arrangement has been carried into effect. The Conservator at first made the mistake of putting up only two Sholas; but measures appear to have been since adopted for correcting this mistake, by putting up other Sholas.

6. Thus this plan has hardly been in operation three months when it is proposed to abolish it. I think for my part that it is more likely to succeed than Mr. Cascelles'; but at all events it ought not to be condemned without a fair trial. Every new system must be under disadvantages at first. In the present case the change involves the substitution of carts for cooly labour to a large extent, and at first the necessary number of carts is not forthcoming, but this want will soon be supplied. It takes some time also for the residents to become used to the new system, and some mistakes may be expected at first, both on the part of the Conservancy Department and of the Contractors, as to the proper quantity required. All these things, however, will soon come right, unless confidence in the new system should be shaken by any apprehension that the Government do not mean to maintain it. In that case of course few contractors would come forward, and those few would be

be backward to incur expense in the business.

7. The auction sales of dead wood near the station referred to in Para 6 of Dr. Cleghorn's letter, and reported more fully in his previous letter of June 26th, are calculated to check any tendency on the part of the Shola renters to combine to keep up prices. But he is probably right in saying that Mr. Cascelles' plan of selling at a fixed price at the distant sholas could not consist with the contract system, because to make such a plan pay there must be an expensive Establishment kept up at the Shola; and the sales must be very large to pay for such an Establishment.

8. Dr. Cleghorn states in the last para of his letter that there is a large stock of firewood for sale in the Bazar, at 1/2 anna a maund, equal to 2/2 Rs a handy load of 750 lbs. And this being the case the

see letter 11-30

as he stood by Dr Cleghorn. Will the Govt. be pleased to see the Depot has always appeared to me to be the best place of sale for fire wood. 2 Way Rabbit- 2 Mail and Jeypore as above recorded. 11- Should apt- a list Contractors- 2 to- Mail Yes-

-Very well- but cannot the proposal apt Cross- ation be turned to use in some other way also- 11 he would hardly have his time occupied in the Forest Dept. on the Hills

2 Nov - Since the foregoing was written I have had a conversation with Dr Clayton on the subject. He is against any increase of the Establishment on the Hills at present, as he is afraid of the expense, & thinks that the two overseers will be sufficient for the present; if

the complaints of dearness and scarcity seem to be without foundation.

9. I think it very likely that the conservancy Establishment on the Hills is too weak; this was suggested in the order of the 20 March 1860 No. 425 C 11. The funds appear ample for augmenting it, and I think Dr Cleghorn's attention should be called to the importance of making it equal to its work.

10. With regard to roads to open access to the Sholas, the District Engineer was called on in an order of the 11th July to give attention to the subject, and Dr Cleghorn's present letter might be sent to him.

Memo

On the measures for improving the supply of fuel recommended.

to get the right men. I still think there ought to be an Assistant Conservator for the Hills; but I presume the Govt will not press it against Mr. Ci[illegible] opinion.

12. Mr. Cleghorn is averse to the control of the overseers being given to the Conservancy Committee, as it is a varying body, & the views of its members on conservancy matters are very various. He is also against Mr. Thomas having the control, & thinks my wishes to - He considers that the best plan will be to put them under Mr. Rohde; who is likely to be a good deal on the Hills for the next year, who thoroughly understands his views & system, & has hitherto negatived nothing of an ornamental tone - He will write about this. However the main question now is whether the system established by the order of March 20 is to be enforced or not -

I think we should appoint an Assistant Conservator - Mr. Cleghorn is averse to the Conservancy Committee, as it is a varying body, & the views of its members on conservancy matters are very various. He is also against Mr. Thomas having the control, & thinks my wishes to - He considers that the best plan will be to put them under Mr. Rohde; who is likely to be a good deal on the Hills for the next year, who thoroughly understands his views & system, & has hitherto negatived nothing of an ornamental tone - He will write about this. However the main question now is whether the system established by the order of March 20 is to be enforced or not -

Rec'd Sept.

No 1454.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 28th August 1860.

Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests -

Submitting a letter received from the Collector of Coimbatore giving cover to a communication from Mr Lascelles on the subject of the supply of firewood and the management of the Sholas on the Nilgiri Hills with remarks -

(Here enter 26 July 1860 No 78)

Suggesting that during his absence or that of his locum tenens the Foresters should apply for instructions regarding the shola management to Mr Rohde C.S.

(Here enter 11 Augt 1860 No 99)

With the earlier of these letters the Conservator sends up with his remarks a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, giving cover to one from Mr Lascelles recommending certain measures

measures for the improvement of the supply of fuel at Ootacamund.

In the latter, he proposes that during his absence, or that of his locum tenens from the hills, the foresters should be placed under the orders of Mr. Rohde.

2. The chief measures proposed by Mr. Lascelles are as follow.

1st To abolish the present system, established a few months ago under the order of March 20/60 & 425.

2nd To appoint a committee consisting of the Conservator of Forests and two members of the present Improvement Committee, to manage

manage the supply of wood, the opening of roads to distant sholas, viz.

3rd To sell the dead wood at a certain fixed price at the wood side.

Mr. Thomas approves and warmly supports the proposals. Dr. Cleghorn does not agree with him.

3 The subject of fuel supply for Ootacamund is by no means a new one. the outcry as to the dearness of the article has been loud for years. Up to a few months ago there was scarcely any interference with the cutting

cutting of fuel, yet this
complaints of
did not prevent the
clearness and scarcity
of the article, while
it produced evils of its
chief of which was the
own. The gradual but
certain destruction of
the scholas ~~and the em-~~
~~-ployment of large num-~~
~~-bers of coolies in cutting~~
~~and bringing in fuel~~
This scarcity and clear-
-ness of fuel was one
of the local inconve-
-niences to which Sir
Charles Trevelyan ad-
-dressed himself when
at Ootacamund; and
after a full discus-
-sion, a system was sub-
-stituted for the previous
practice, ~~with the ap-~~
~~-proval concurrence~~
of

~~of all concerned.~~

That system is as
follows; as described
in the order of Govt
of March 20 1860.

"First. The whole of the
scholas, or woods, in
the neighbourhood
of the station to be
absolutely reserved,
not only for their
beauty but also from
fear of injuring the
water springs, their
limits to be marked,
no private cutters
to be allowed inside,
old trees to be felled
by servants of the
department, and
brought outside, and
to be sold there by
public auction. Trees
to

to be planted where required, in vacant spaces.

"Secondly. Suitable woods at a distance from the station to be selected and marked out in lots of moderate size; and a number of these lots, amply sufficient for a years supply, to be put up to auction annually. The Contractor to be permitted to clear the ground entirely within two lot or lots, with the exception of such trees as may be marked by the Conservancy Department previously to the sale.

Thirdly

"Thirdly The cleared lots to be planted, as required, by the Conservancy Department.

"Fourthly. No private felling of any kind, or for any person, to be allowed in woods or on land belonging to Government."

5 This arrangement has been carried into effect. ~~It has only been in~~ ~~Their has been~~ at first made the mistake of putting esp only two pholas; but measures appear to have been since adopted for correcting this mistake, by putting esp other pholas.

7 Thus this plan has hardly been in operation

operation about three months, ~~when it~~ this now proposed to abolish it. The Govt are not prepared to accede to this recommendation; ~~thinks that it is more~~ the present system was resolved on likely to succeed than as already said, after full and Mr Luscelles ~~but not all~~ careful consideration, and it ~~seems it ought~~ ought to be con has not yet been fairly tried; ~~deserves not about a poor~~ tried. Every new system must be under disad- vantages at first. In the present case the change involves the sub- stitution of carts for coolie labour to a large extent, and at first the necessary num- ber of carts are not forth- coming, but this want will soon be supplied. It takes some time also for the residents to become used to the new

new system, and some mistakes may be ex- pected at first, both on the part of the Conserva- cy department and of the Contractors, as to the proper quantity re- quired. All these things however, may be expected soon to come right.

6. The auction sales of dead wood near the station, referred to in Para 6 of Dr Cleghorn's letter, and reported more fully in his pre- vious letter of June 26, are calculated to check any tendency on the part of the shola renters to combine to keep up prices. But he is pro- bably right in saying that

that Mr. Lascelles' plan
of selling at a fixed price
at the distant sholas
could not consist with
the contract system, be-
cause to make such a
plan pay there must
be an expensive Esta-
blishment kept up at
the Shola, and the sales
must be very large to
pay for such an Estabt.
7. Dr. Cleghorn re-
states in the last para
of his letter that there
is a large stock of fire
wood for sale in the
Bazar, at 1½ anna a
maund, equal to 2½
Rupees a bandy load of
750 lbs. And this being
the case the complaints
of dearness and scarcity
seem to be without foundation

8. The Govt. think it desirable
however to appoint an assistant

* To the Conservator, for the Neilgherry Hills, & Dr. Cleghorn will be requested to sub-mit the name of the person whom he would recommend for the appointment.

9. With regard to
roads to open access to
the sholas, the District
Engineer was called on
in an order of the 11th July
to give attention to the
subject. Dr. Cleghorn's
present letter will be
communicated to him
there the Chief Engineer

3 Copies
To
The Conservator of Forests Cy. 29
2. Chief Engineer √
2. B. of Rev. for information √

Copy in a Letter to England
Dy 6th April 61 No 149.

117-118
20-3-60

122-123
11-7-60

152-153
13-7-60

28-29
4-10-59

No 342 at 344.

W Lascelles' proposals
for improving the supply
of fuel at Ootacamund

Revenue 1860 Depart.
Pro. of Govt for August

No 454.

Pro. of the Madras Govt.
Dy 28 August 1860.

From Coll. of Coimbatore 26 September
No 2142. in Prog. & Corr. No 2179

Declining to abolish
the present system of supply-
ing fuel at Ootacamund, and
considering it desirable to ap-
point an Assistant to the
Conservator for the Neilgherry
Hills.