M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2179	Press ~~Mis.~~
824-327	
Dated 19—11—	18 69

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19th November 1860.

Read the following letters :—

No. 324. From Lieutenant R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 29th September 1860, No. 202 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that in accordance with instructions received from the Conservator of Forests relative to the Proceedings of Government No. 1,538, dated 6th September 1860, I halted at Ootacamund en route from Anamallai to Madras, and enquired into the infringement of the contract for removing the dead wood from the sholas along the Cotagherry road. I personally inspected these sholas which are situated on the slopes of the Dodabetta mountains and found that the contract has been infringed, and considerable mischief done by the Contractors ; forty-seven green trees have been cut down (some of large size), whereas the contract stipulated that only dead wood should be removed. I therefore inflicted the full penalty of Rupees 100 upon the Contractor, and confiscated the outlying green timber, and had all the stamps marked by one of the Overseers. I also annulled the contract as I found that it had been purchased by a servant of Government in the name of another party who stated that he had not authorized the act, and would not be held responsible for the infringement of the contract.

2. I have consulted with Mr. Thomas on the Nílgiri shola question, and agree with him that the sholas in the immediate neighbourhood of Ootacamund should be strictly conserved ; great destruction has of late been committed in many of the sholas around the station and with the small establishment at present allowed it will be very difficult, as long as felling goes on in various directions, to entirely stop depredations, or to prevent Contractors from infringing their contracts to a certain extent. If Government will sanction the road proposed to be opened to the Déva shola I would recommend that all felling in the immediate vicinity of Ootacamund should cease. The supply of timber in this shola is, I may say, unlimited and planting under the superintendence of the Conservancy Department might be carried on in cleared portions of the shola.

3. There are at present two Overseers employed at Ootacamund upon small salaries, viz., 35 Rupees each. This allowance I consider very small and would recommend to Government that they each should be allowed 15 Rupees Horse allowance per mensem, which would make their pay up to 50 Rupees. There is no Superintendent upon the Nílgiris, but Doctor Cleghorn has, I believe, recommended to Government that the sholas be placed under the charge of the Superintendent of the Múdúmallai forests. It is important that these Overseers should have some direct superior, and the supervision could be exercised either by the Officer in charge of Múdúmallai or by the Officer in charge of the Wáinád range.

No. 325. From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coonoor, 26th September 1860, No. 51.

SIR,

Of the Nilgiris.

I beg to forward, for such notice as Government may deem fit, a further letter from Mr. La celles, on the forests and fuel. I need only add, that facts, from whatever quarter, if correct, are what Government, I conclude, would desire for information : that those adduced by Mr. Lascelles, from his own experience and observations of more than 20 years, *are correct*, I am bound to add my official testimony. It is for Government to notice them, as they deem fit ; but I would myself strongly and on public grounds advise Mr. Lascelles' offer in his 7th paragraph being accepted ; he* is always on the Hills, and the Conservator can observe his proceedings.

* *Mr. Lascelles.*

From A. R. W. LASCELLES, Esq., to E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Ootacamund, 8th September 1860.

SIR,

1. I have been favored with a perusal of the orders of Government (dated 28th August 1860, No. 1,454) on the subject of a communication from the Conservator of Forests, in which some allusions are made to the letter which I had the honor to address you on the 21st May 1860.

2. I feel assured that you will pardon my again intruding upon you on this subject, and I trust you will admit that if I am in error, it is not from want of information, local experience, or I might add, both theoretical and practical acquaintance with the subject in all its details.

3. In the 3rd paragraph of the orders of Government above alluded to, it is stated that "the scarcity and dearness of fuel at Ootacamund is by no means a new complaint;" doubtless there are *some* who would find fault with wood sold at the old rate, of from 1 anna to 1 anna 4 cash per maund, for the best split dry firewood, brought to their own doors; but if such was considered an inconvenience of sufficient weight to attract the attention of Sir Charles Trevelyan, what must the present rate of 1 anna 6 cash per maund, for wet *green* logs (of which fifty per cent. is water) sold at *the bazar*, and which cost as much more to rive and store them; being in fact fully quadruple the old rate, and it must be remembered that *the highest rate* under the old system is here named; wood being frequently purchased under the old system at 2 annas per man's load of about 50lbs, whilst on the other hand, the wood as sold at the different depôts in the station is weighed with bark moss, &c., on it, and green as cut from the forest.

4. In the 4th paragraph of the orders so much ignorance is evinced of what is the real state of affairs, that I believe it to be my duty to call to attention the frightful spoliation and damage done in woods, which Sir Charles Trevelyan, in my own presence, ordered to be "preserved." On the S. W. slope of Dodabet, from which the springs, which supply the station of Ootacamund, principally take their rise, upwards of 300 of the finest trees in the woods have been cut, regardless of their vicinity to the springs, or the damage caused; you are yourself aware that I made the spoliation going on within one *mile* of my house, and two of the centre of the station, the subject of an urgent remonstrance with you.

5. I was myself an eye witness of seven large fine trees being smashed and demolished by the cutting of *one* (so called) old tree, of course greatly to the advantage of the Contractor; and I am prepared to *point* out, to any official deputed for the purpose, spots within two miles of the Cantonment, where the forests have been demolished *by the acre*, only a few brambles and bushes left; and this in localities where under the old system, cutting a green stick was a criminal offence, and the woods were regaining their pristine vigour and beauty.

6. Whatever may be the merits of the new system, it is undoubtedly correct that it has not been fairly tried; the grossest abuses prevail both in the sales and in the working of the forests; whilst the profit goes solely to the monopolist, who under the *plea* of purchasing the dead and useless timber in a few sholas, denudes the locality of every thing which he can possibly cut and carry away, during the period of his contract. As for the "dead wood" talked of, it would be criminal to permit the Government to rest under the *delusion* that such *only* is for an instant contemplated by the Contractors. I have repeatedly found men cutting young saplings six inches thick, and large handsome trees of one to one feet in diameter, and the answer has been always the same, EVEN within two miles of the Cantonment, "we have bought *the jungle*."

7. I am myself so thoroughly convinced of the waste and damage going on, and of the large and increasing revenue to be derived by a very different but beneficial system, that I am prepared to undertake the superintendence and inauguration of such a charge, without any salary or emolument, but 50 per cent. of the *net profits*, if the present system is at the same time abandoned; and to guarantee that fuel shall be sold cheaper than at the present rate.

8. Respecting the 6th paragraph of the orders of Government now under notice, I may be permitted to remark, that I believe the District Engineer has made the very same suggestion in his letter to the Chief Engineer; and that he recommends from scientific and theoretic principles, the very same line of action, as was suggested by myself from practical experience and actual working in the business.

9. In the 3rd paragraph of my letter I alluded to the destruction of wood at and near Kotagherry. I alluded to valuable building timber, "Vangamarram," "blackwood" and such like. From facts which have come to my knowledge, I believe, in this locality alone, 1,000 Rupees per annum might be realized by the enforcement of the system which I advocate.

10. I regret that my own experience of the sale of good timber logs does not correspond with that of the Conservator. I have sold fine logs, one and two miles from the Cantonment, at 6 annas per cubic foot, and a bandy load of common firewood which it cost me 3 annas to cut, has realized 8 to 12 annas. At this rate the last sale of Government wood on Dodabet, must have returned a net profit to the Contractors of about 2,000 Rupees.

11. In conclusion, I take the liberty of calling attention to the abominable destruction now taking place under the *Charcoal* Contractor, in the Déva shola. This splendid forest, of about five miles square, will be ruined under a twelve months continuance of the present system. Trees are being BARKED all over this wood, the charcoal made from bark, realizing a high price with Gold and Silversmiths, and also I presume with a view of rendering the standing trees "dead wood" as speedily as possible.

12. Having examined this fine forest twice lately at an interval of three months, I was quite astonished at the damage that had already been effected in so short a space of time; the charcoal is made in the least expensive and most wasteful manner, large trees being burned above the surface of the ground, and reduced partially to ashes and partially to nearly useless charcoal.

13. I state these *facts* from *actual observation*, and as you are well aware that I have ample supplies of fuel myself, and that I can have no motive but the good of the community generally, I trust you will excuse my having tresspassed again or your valuable time, and should you see no objection, perhaps you will do me the favor to forward a copy of this letter in explanation of mine of 21st May.

Since writing the above I am favored with information, which enables me to refer to the District Engineer's letter to the Chief Engineer for entire corrobroation of what has been above written.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) E. B. THOMAS, *Collector*.

No. 326. From E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore 4th October 1860,
No. 53.

SIR,

1. With reference to Government Order 25th ultimo, No. 1,700, I would not recommend any *other forest* shola to be sold, or destroyed; (they are *synonomous* in *practice*, and sad is the injury already done; as is well known to all who move about the Hills, and *know* the forests).

2. As has been already reported, there is sufficient *dead* wood now lying in "Déva shola" only nine miles from Ootacamund, to last for several years; and there will be the wood, (live and dead,) in the same spot, of the 40 acres Government have given Mr. Rae leave to *fell*, but not to appropriate. The only thing wanted, is a bandy track of a few miles, to bring it in, as suggested both in my own, in the District Engineer, and in Mr. Lascelles' letters of the 20th May and 8th September 1860.

Several miles were made by Captain Francis.

See also letters.
No. 19 *of* 31*st May* 1860, *paragraph* 6.
No 29 *of* 25*th June* 1860, *Mr Lascelles' of* 21*st May* 1860.

3. If this trace be made, and wood, allowed to be sold on the spot, to all comers, whether by bandy, bullock, or cooly *load*, the market will be supplied, the road repay itself, and other forests be spared.

4. I would strongly recommend that the Tahsíldár be allowed to make such trace, with the labor of the Hill tribes, who will do it at a moderate cost, as *they* will also benefit by the road, by which they are willing* to bring in firewood, if allowed to buy it at the forests.

* *I am informed by them.*

5. Unless Government prefer to get rid of the whole cost, establishment, and trouble, by accepting the contract offered by Mr. Lascelles in his letter of 8th September, paragraph 7.

6. Doctor Cleghorn's *contracts*, with natives, would be unobjectionable if they were at all *adhered* to, but they are so palpably and *grossly* infringed, at this moment, and continually, that they are most destructive to the forest.

P. S.—If I speak strongly on this subject, it is from 11 years personal, careful, and full knowledge, of the facts and the localities.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th November 1860.

No. 327. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1860, No. 2,179.

1. These letters relate to the subject of the Nilgiri woods. In compliance with the order in paragraph 3 of the Proceedings of Government 6th September No. 1,538, the Acting Conservator of Forests reports that, when recently at Ootacamund he found that the contract "to cut all the dead wood on the slopes and woods of Dodabet" had been grossly infringed, that he therefore inflicted the full penalty of Rupees 100 upon the Contractor, and confiscated the outlying green timber; and that he annulled the contract because the Contractor was a servant of Government. Lieutenant Beddome recommends that all felling in the immediate vicinity of Ootacamund should cease, as soon as the road to the Déva shola is open. He also recommends that the two foresters at that station should be granted horse allowance at the rate of Rupees 15 per mensem each.

2. The remaining two letters are from the Collector of Coimbatore; with the earlier of them Mr. Thomas lays before Government one from Mr. Lascelles on the subject of his recommendations* formerly made for the improvement of the supply of fuel at Ootacamund. The second is in reply to the inquiry of Government in the order† of September 25, whether another shola ought to be sold. Mr. Thomas does not answer the question, but recommends that the whole existing system should be abolished, in favor of Mr. Lascelles' plan.

* *Vide Order 28th August* 1860, *No.* 1,454.

† *No.* 1700, *paragraph* 2.

3. The Government approve Lieutenant Beddome's proceeding in annulling the contract referred to by him; not however for the reason given, viz., that the Contractor was a Government servant, but because the conditions had been grossly infringed.

4. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 2, it was the special order that the sholas near the station should be carefully preserved. But sholas three or four miles distant may be used without injury. Déva shola is nine miles distant at the least, and the Government do not consider that it would improve matters to prevent all nearer supplies. There are two Overseers, and a number of Peons, and an Assistant Conservator has now been appointed for the Hills; and the Government think that this Establishment ought to be able to do a great deal in the way of prevention of illicit cutting.

See Order of March 20th 1860, *No.* 425.

5. The Government sanction Horse allowance at the rate of Rupees 15 per mensem to the Overseers at Ootacamund, as recommended by Lieutenant Beddome in the last paragraph of his letter. The same increase should be given to the Overseer at Kunúr. Application will be made to the Government of India for sanction to these additions, as well as for the Assistant Conservator for the Nilgiris.

6. Mr. Lascelles' proposal, in the letter now submitted by the Collector, is that the present system shall be abandoned, and that he shall be appointed Conservator and Manager of the sholas and fuel supply on the Hills, "without any salary or emolument, but with fifty per cent. of the net profit." The Government decline this offer. They see no occasion to alter the system of management lately established; and the appointment of an Officer to the special and sole charge of the Nilgiri woods, will, it is to be hoped, greatly improve the administration of that system.

7. With regard to the destruction of wood alluded to by Mr. Lascelles, it is only necessary to remark that, as stated above in paragraph 1 the Dodabet contract has been cancelled. Mr. Lascelles' statement in paragraphs 11 and 12 as to the charcoal shola will be communicated, through the Acting Conservator, to Captain Babington, in order to his giving immediate attention to the subject. Captain Babington will report the result of his inquiry and his action thereon, through the head of his Department, for the information of Government.

8. Adverting to the views again expressed by Mr. Thomas in these letters, the Government see no reason to make any change at present in the system established. But it will be open to Captain Babington, after he has fairly tested the plan now in operation, to submit through the Acting Conservator, for the consideration of Government, any modification of it that he may deem judicious.

11th July 1860, *No.* 1,145 *paragraph* 2.
28th August " " 1,454 " 9.

9. With reference to the orders noted in the margin, the Chief Engineer will be requested to state whether he is able to allot a sum for the improvement of the roads to the sholas. Any sums so assigned may properly be placed at the disposal of the Assistant Conservator on the spot.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 202. Madras, 29th September 1860.

From Lieutenant R. H. Beddome
officiating Conservator of Forests

To J. D. Bourdillon Esqre
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Sir,

I have the honor to report that in accordance with instructions received from the Conservator of Forests relative to the proceedings of Government No. 1538 dated 6th September 1860 I halted at Colacamund en route from Anamallai to Madras and enquired into the infringement of the contract for removing the dead wood from the Sholas along the Cotagherry road. I personally inspected these Sholas which are situated on the slopes of the Dodabetta mountain and found that the Contract has been infringed, and considerable mischief done by the Contractors; forty seven green trees have been cut down some of large size whereas the Contract stipulated that only dead wood should be removed. I therefore inflicted the full penalty of Rupees 100 upon the Contractor, and confiscated the outlying green timber, and had all the

the stumps marked by one of the Overseers. I also annulled the Contract as I found that it had been purchased by a servant of Government in the name of another party who stated that he had not authorized the act and would not be held responsible for the infringement of the Contract.

2. I have consulted with Mr. Thomas on the Neilgherry Shola question, and agree with him that the Sholas in the immediate neighbourhood of Colacamund should be strictly Conserved; great destruction has of late been committed in many of the Sholas around the Station and with the small establishment at present allowed it will be very difficult, as long as felling goes on in various directions, to entirely stop depredations, or to prevent Contractors from infringing their contracts to a certain extent. If Government will sanction the road proposed to be opened to the Davva Shola I would recommend that all felling in the immediate vicinity of Colacamund should cease. The supply of timber in this Shola I may say unlimited and planting under the Superintendence of the Conservancy department might be carried on in cleared portions of this Shola.

3. There are at present Two Conservators employed at Colacamund upon small sala-

ries viz: 35 Rupees each. This allowance I consider very small and would recommend to Government that they each should be allowed 15 Rupees horse allowance per mensem which would make their pay up to 50 Rupees. There is no Superintendent upon the Neilgherries but Dr. Cleghorn has I believe recommended to Government that the Sholas be placed under the charge of the Superintendent of the Mudumalai forests. It is important that these Overseers should have some direct superior, and the supervision could be exercised either by the Officer in charge of Mudumallai or by the Officer in charge of the Wynaad range.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servant
Robt. Beddome Lieut.
Offg. Conr. of Forests.

No. 51

Coimbatore Collectors Office
Coonoor 26th September 1860

From,

E. B. Thomas Esqre
Collector of Coimbatore

To,

J. D. Bourdillon Esqre
Secretary to Government
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

I beg to forward, for such notice as Government may deem fit, a further letter from Mr. Lascelles, on the Forests & Fuel- of the Neilgherries

I need only add, that facts, from whatever quarter, if correct, are what Government, I conclude, would desire, for information: that those adduced by Mr. Lascelles, from his own experience and observations of more than 20 years, are correct. I am bound to add my official testimony. It is for Government to notice them, as they deem fit, but I would myself strongly and on public grounds advise Mr. Lascelles' offer in his 7th para being accepted

Rt. 6th September /60 No. 1062/108

Copy in a Letter to Govt
Dated 4th Sept. 1860 Rg.

From the Collr. Coimr
Dated 26th Decr 1860 Recd
2806.

No 324.

Dated 29th September 1860.
Rec'd 29th " No. 202.

Enclosures. Four

Reporting that Mr. Lascelles
now at Coonoor is ready to
give information from his
Coffee Estate on the Neilgherries
Contract on the Forests
has also left Coimbatore
although Mr. Lascelles
for renewal of that
commencing 15th Dec
Lawrance for inspection
Pack of the Conservancy
Dated 19th Dec

By Octr. Bds
Encl. Collr. Coimr

He is always on the Hills, and the Conservator - Mr. Lacelles can observe his proceedings -

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obed.t Servant

S. B. Thomas.

Collector -

note - Mr Lacelles' letter is that he shall "be conversant" on the Hills - no mention appears in accepting the offer - the appointment for actual office in Capt. Morgan will I should take steady work a change in the status, there will be part to the act - - tunction of word allow by Mr Lacelles, Ct. Headman - notice in a letter now circulated That the Docketts continue to be cancelled -

As to the character of the is may be doubted, I think whether

the information given is strictly correct, but Capt. Morgan attention shd be directed to the subject -

J. H. H.

No. 53

Coimbatore Collr's Office
4th October 1860.

From,

E. B. Thomas Esqre
Collector of Coimbatore.

To,

J. D. Bourdillon Esqre
Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to
Government order 25th ultimo
No. 1700, I would not recommend
Forest
any attempt to be made to cut Dhaks, or destroy, (they are Lyncus
moves in practice, and Sad is the
injury already done, as is well
known to all who move about
the Hills, and know the forests/
2 As has been already
reported, there is sufficient
dead wood now lying in Deva Shola

D Coimbr 1860 Reports
Encg for Nov.

No. 2142

From the Collr of Coimbatore

Read 25 September 1860
Rd 2 October
Ansd 17 "
Forwarded a Circular
to the Collrs of Rajahmundry
Masulipatam & Guntoor
Canara & Malabar &
the Collr of Nilgiris and advised
that the offer made
therein respecting the
importation of Lyncus
be accepted.

Your
Most Obedt Servt
Chief Secy

R-28th Augt/60 No 2442
Collr of Coimbr
Forest Dept/60 No 2142

only 9 miles from Colaconnund, to
lash for several years, and there
will be the wood, (live and dead,)
in the same spot, of the 40 years
Government have given Mr. Rae leave
to fell, but not to appropriate —
The only thing wanted, is a Bandy
track of a few miles, to bring it
in, as suggested both in my own,
in the District Engineers, and in
Mr. Lascelles's letters, of the 20th
May and 8th September 1860.

3 If this trace be made,
and wood — allowed to be sold on the
spot, to all comers, whether by
Bandy, Bullock, or Cooly load,
the market will be supplied,
the Road repay itself, and other
Forests be spared —

Several miles were made by Capt. Francis.

See Letters Sept. 19 & 31st May 1860 inclosed
Sept. 20 & 25th June 1860
Trace Cert. of 21st Sept. 1860.

4 I would strongly recom-
:mend that the Talsieldars be
allowed to make such trace, with
the labor of the Hill Tribes, who
will do it at a moderate cost, as
they will also benefit by the Road,
by which they are willing to —
bring in firewood, if allowed to
buy it at the Forest.

5 Unless Government —
prefer to get rid of the whole
Establishment and trouble,
Cost, by accepting the Contract —
offered by Mr. Lascelles in his
letter of 8th September para 7.

6 Dr. Cleghorn's Contracts,
with natives, would be unobjec-
:tionable if they were at all
adhered to. but they are so —

"To be drawn"
for the purpose,
I presume.

× I am informed by them.

palpably and grosly inpringed, at
this moment, and continually,
that they are most destructive
to the Forests.

I have the honor to be

Sir

your most Obedt Servant.

S. B. Ward

Collector.

P. S.

If I speak strongly on this subject,
it is from 11 years personal careful,
and full knowledge of the facts
and the localities.

S. B. W.

Petitioner's title should be Kaleswaram Subba Rao

10

Encls. as Rec. Nos. 2133, 2142, & 2208.

Have no further letters on the subject of the Guntur Irrigation Scheme requiring the orders of Govt.: viz. one from Lt. Headlam, & two from the Collr. of Coimbatore. Two of them (Nos. 2133 & 2142) were issued before the Govt. had given their orders on the petition which was then [redacted] to be the appeal

Should make no change in the present Rule

Collr. of Guntur

Collr. of Coimbatore

Nos. 2133 & 2142

Petn. of Kaleswara Subba Rao

Petn. to be heard by Board

Rule

R-25th September 1860 Nos. 434, 435

Ryots' petn. for Govt. Order - Nos. 2208.

Nos. 2133 & 2142

Petn. of Kaleswara Subba Rao

Petn. to be heard by Board

Rule

No. 326.

Collr. of Guntur

Collr. of Coimbatore

conversation on the subject.

The action respecting Cabot Lowell
has been attended accordingly; &
I am waiting for the orders of Govt
on the remaining matters in these
two letters—

No. 1. The third letter (No. 2208)
is the reply of Mr Thomas
to the enquiry of Govt whether
another L Lieut would be sent.
The reply, as I entered, recommending that the alteration
should be abandoned, in favour of
Lancelles' plan—

D. Hart. 15.

See the memo
first circulated
with No. 2133.

Mr Crowder
Will

place now in Spain
2 Vols - it will be for
Govt, in Washington
2 Cahoon letter to
Lieut Colonel Cooke
to submit copy
of the Code despatch
of Govt to any change of
by Mr Root to any
intended publication
would it not be well
if Mr D.E. would furnish
to Mr Hart a full &

Memo on Rec. No. 2133

The annulling of the contract announced in the first para. of this letter, was of course right; not however for the reason given, but for breach of the conditions. The penalty imposed was very light; it was held that the penalty of 100 Rupees might be levied for every separate infringement, i.e. for every tree cut; but the wording of the contract was loose.

2. With regard to para 2, it was the special order (see order of March 20th, Para 8) that the sholas near the stations should be carefully preserved. But sholas 3 and 4 miles distant may be used without injury. Deva shola is 12 miles distant, and it would hardly improve matters to prevent all nearer supplies. There are two Overseers, and a number of peons, besides the Assistant Conservator

Rec. 2133

second memo

the whole wood of the body to be the shola - the body the whole wood to be preserved & the leaves to be kept on trees & not left to rot - to be cut & kept - G -

The stipulations made in para 4 of the last memo - should be applied to both

A Ve

Ootacamund Rec'd

think they ought to be able to do much in the way of prevention.

3 Lieutenant Beddome has never had anything to do with the Hills before, and is evidently unacquainted with what has been done respecting the schools yet he at once proposes to overset the present arrangements and introduce something new. He seems to have given up his judgment to Mr. Thomas, as the latter has his to Mr. Lasselles. The present arrangements are the result of careful thought first by Dr. Cleghorn, and afterwards by Sir Charles Trevelyan, after full enquiry on the spot; and the Government have lately resolved that it shall have a fair trial.

4. I think the addition may well be given to the Overseers. I think there are funds available but this can be ascertained. There is another Overseer at Kunnur

a very deserving man who should have the same increase.

[illegible] the Forests [illegible] the more [illegible] Head of the Department of Forests an Assistant Conservator [illegible] 2 Hospital Assistant [illegible] Dy Conservator [illegible] Commissariat Establishment [illegible] has two Overseers under him [illegible] to discharge [illegible] Office [illegible] Assistant for the duties [illegible] to the Collectorate [illegible] for the Nilgiri Forests, [illegible] Forests [illegible] Establishment [illegible] to do the work for the salary [illegible]

Rev. Dept.

Memo.

Infringement of the Nilgiri shola contract.

Pleasure given to Capt. Morgan that allowance to leave the whole of Capt. ... time devoted to his own duty, I propose to nominate ... the Conservator of Forests ... the Capt. Morgan which ... not yet been ...

His Excellency

W. M.

[illegible]

No. 2179

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 19th November 1860.

Read the following letters

From the Offg. Conservator of Forests,

Reporting that he has in accordance with instructions from the Conservator ... enquired into the infringement of the contract ... Nilgiri sholas and has imposed a penalty of 100 Rs on the contractor and annulled the contract for reasons ... also recommending ... allowance per ... to each of the ... (Here enter 29th Septr. 60 No 202)

From the Collr. of Coimbatore

Forwards a further letter from Mr. Lascelles on the ... fuel of the Nilgiris, & ... that the offer made ... respecting Superin... may be accepted (Here enter 26 ...)

From the Collr. of Coimbatore

Submits his opinion ... order of Govt. of 25 Sep. ... regard to the shola ... Nilgiris. (Here enter 4 Octr. ... 53)

These letters relate to the subject of the Nilgiri

Nilgiri woods. In compliance with the orders contained in para 3 of the proceedings of Govt. 6 September No. 1538 the Ag Conservator of Forests reports that, when recently at Ootacamund he found that the contractor "to cut all the deadwood on the slopes and woods of Dodabet" had been grossly infringed, that he therefore inflicted the full penalty of 1 Rupee per 100 c/ft on the contractor, and confiscated the cut-lying green timber, and that he annulled the contract because the Contractor was a servant of Govt. - Lt Beddome recommends that all felling in the immediate vicinity of Ootacamund should cease, as soon as

the

the road to the Dévashola is open. He also recommends that the two Foresters at that station should be granted horse allowance at the rate of Rupees 15 per mensem each.

2. The remaining two letters are from the Collr. of Coimbatore; with the earlier of them a Mr. Thomas large before Govt. one from Mr. Lavelle on the subject of his recommendations formerly made for the improvement of the supply of fuel at Ootacamund -

* Vide order 28th. Augt. 1860 No. 1454

The

The second is in reply to the enquiries of Govt. in the order of Sept. 25, whether another Scholar ought to be added.

Mr. Thomas does not answer the question, but recommends that the whole existing system should be abolished, in favor of Mr. Lancelles plan.—

3rd The Govt. approve Lieut. Beddeloe's proceeding in cancelling the contract referred to by him, not having required for the reasons given by that the Contractor was a Govt. Servant but

Rec. under cover of letter 20th March No. 425

because the conditions had will be because grossly infringed. of India

4th With regard to the petitions recommendation in para 2 Asstt. it was the special order that the Scholars near the station Nilgiris should be carefully pre- served. But Scholars three or four miles distant may be used without injury. Govt. Scholars in nine miles and distant at the least, and project the Govt. do not consider that it would improve matters to prevent all near suppliers. There are two Overseers, and a number of Peons, and an Asstt. Engr.

Conservator has now been appointed for the Mills; and the Govt. think that this Estabt. ought to be able to do a great deal in the way of prevention of illicit cutting

5.— The Govt. sanction Horse allowance at the rate of Rs. 15/per mensem to the Overseer at Chotacamund recommended by Lt. Reddone in the last para of his letter.— The same increase should be given to the Overseer at Kunoor.

Coorly

Coorly, Application will be made to the Govt. of India for sanction to the additions as well as for the Asstt. Conservator for the Nilgiris

6.— Mr. Lascelles' proposal, in the letter now submitted by the Collr., is that the present system shall be abandoned and that he shall be appointed Conservator and Manager of the Sholas and fuel supply on the hills without any salary or emolument but with a fifty

fifty per cent of the net profit". The Government decline this offer. There is no occasion to alter the system of management lately established, and the appointment of an Officer to the special and sole charge of the Nil-giri woods mill, it is to be hoped, greatly improve the administration of that system. —

4. — With regard to the destruction of wood alluded to by Mr. Lavedlon, it is only necessary to remark that, as stated above in para 1 the Dodabet contract has been cancelled. Mr. Lavedlon's statement in para 4 of 11th as to the charcoal shola will be communicated, thro' the Acting Conservator, to Captain Babington in order to his giving immediate attention to the subject — Captain Babington will report the result of his enquiry and his action thereon, thro' the head of this Deptt.

for

for the reformation of Govt.

8.— Adverting to the views again expressed by Mr. Thomas in these letters, the Govt. see no reason to make any change at present in the system established. But it will be open to Captain Barrington, after he has fairly tested the existing plans now in operation, to submit thro' the Conserv-ing Conservator, for the consideration of Govt.

11th July 1860 No. 1145 - p 2.
28 Augt. -u-u-1454-o-9.

to Cr Circs
Ag. Consr. of Forests Coimr
~~with paras 11 & 12 of Mr.~~
~~Lovell's letter~~
1 " Coll. of Coimbatore ✓
10 " C.E. Engrs. ✓
12. Bd. of Revr. for info ✓
3 — Acctt. Genl's
3 — Civil Audrs. ✓

were the most pleasing judicious.

9.— With reference to the or-ders noted in the margin, the Chief Engr. will be re-quested to state whether he is able to allot a sum for the improvement of roads to the schools. Any sums so assigned may properly be placed at the disposal of the Agrtl. Con-servator on the spot.—

[signature]

26th Sept 1859 Col 28-2
20th March 1860 Col 119-12
11th July 1860 Col 122-124
13th Sept 1860 Col 154-155
22d August 1860 Col 256-257
25th August 1860 Col 342-344.
6th Sept 1860 Col 106-109
25th Sept 1860 Col 434-435.

Y 4

Copy in a Letter to England
dy 6th April 61 No 49.

From Civil Pay Mr D/
28 augt 62 No 2475 Ins
1859-1915

Nilgiri Shola.

Revenue 1860 Departt
Pro: of Govt for November
No 2179.

Proceedings of the Madras
Government
Dated 19th November 1860.

From the Offg Comg Engrs
of 30th Branch 16th & 18th August
further Cs No 3108/61 18th April 1861
No 299-301

Passing orders on Papers
relating to the subject of the
Nilgiri woods.

From the Secy Colaccamund Improve
=ment Committee D/21st Janry/61
C. No 226.

No 324 at 327.

From Chief Engr D. P. W. D/4th Nov
1861 C. No 2609

From Offg Conservr of
Forests D/14 Augt 62
C No 2340