

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 844	Press Mis.
257 252	
Dated 18-4-1862	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th April 1862.*

No. 251. Read the following letter from Captain H. R. MORGAN, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Manantoddy, 27th February 1862, No. 830 :—

Sir,

1. I have the honor to report upon the teak forests of Wainád, and beg you will bring to the notice of Government their great value and extent.

2. As Mr. Stewart is now on the point of settling the various claims advanced by the Dévastánams to teak forests, and no one being on the spot to protect the interests of Government, I have made it my duty to visit these forests, and make some inquiries with regard to their tenure.

3. It appears that in Wainád, teak has always been looked upon as an appanage of Royalty, and there is no record of any kind to show, that teak forests have ever been presented to Pagodas, though paddy lands have been granted.

4. The Rájá of Numblecottah specially reserved the right of felling teak in Mudumallai forest, and the Temple people of Numblecottah to this day never cut a teak tree.

5. The Pogada people of Terumalai can show no claims to forest land of any kind, still less then, can the minor Dévastánam of Poolpully, claim a right not possessed by so celebrated a temple as Terumalai.

6. The fact of usurpation of manorial powers by the Dévastánam of Poolpully (the chief Trustee of which is the Adhigátri of the Amsham) can constitute no claim, the only documents produced being old receipts for timber sold surreptitiously. A similar case to this occurred a few years ago in the new forest in Hampshire, a Royal forest, several squatters who for more than fifty years had exercised the rights of ownership were ejected, nor did the Crown consider its right had lapsed, though fifty years had passed. It is only for the last fifteen years that teak has been sold at all by the Dévastánam people.

7. Politically viewed, it appears to me that the resumption of the teak forests by Government cannot have an evil effect, for had the forests been resumed by Government ten years ago, and the gift of paddy lands to the Pagodas been confirmed, the present claimants would have preferred no claims to teak forest land, but would have acquiesced, nor can the lapse of ten years even have any great effect upon the question at issue.

8. Should Government consider it expedient to admit the so called claims of the Dévastánam of Poolpully and elsewhere, I would strongly recommend that all the teak forests be reserved for Government, and a money compensation be made to the Dévastánam people, who are incapable of conserving these forests in any way.

9. I have lately traversed the teak forests from the east at Koorehent to the west near Poolpully, and am satisfied that they are very valuable teak forests, and are capable of immense improvement. Under the Dévastánams they will never improve; under us, their value will be increased tenfold, and I would earnestly press upon Government the great importance of keeping these teak forests in their own hands.

10. We have lately lost North Canara with a Revenue of two lacs of Rupees. Mudumallai Forest lease will be up in a year. The lease of the best teak ground on the Anamalais expires in six years, and Wainád alone will remain to us.

11. In seven years there will be no Madras teak forests to conserve, and already the giving up of valuable teak forests and the retention of non-paying forests has changed what was once a surplus Revenue into a deficit.

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1862, No. 844.

1. In their Order dated 31st January 1860, No. 166, the Government on the recommendation of the Collector of Malabar, directed that pending the survey of the Taluq no further proceedings should be taken in the matter of investigating the claims of certain Temples in Wainád to valuable Forests claimed by their Trustees, and that the Collector should furnish the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement with all the information and documents in his possession in order that the Deputy Director might report fully on the subject, through the Director.

2. The Governor in Council resolves to call on the Acting Director to state what progress has been made in the investigation of the claims above referred to, and when the Government may expect to receive his Deputy's report.

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

No. 844. No. 844. No. 844.
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 15th April 1862
Read the following letter from the
offg Commr of Forests (Mysore, 27th Feb 1862, p. 844)
In ~~form~~ 2 of their

Order of 31 Jan 7,
1860 No. 166. The for
on the recommen-
-dation of the C.M.
of Malabar, directed
that no further
proceedings should
be taken in the matter
of investigating the
claims of certain
temples in Wynad
to valuable forests
claimed by their
Trustees, and that
the C.M. should
furnish the Depy
Director of Res.
Settlement with the
full all the in-
-formation & docu.

pending the
Survey of the
Galack

WV

WV

ments in his
possession in
order that the
Depy Director
might report fully
on the subject, through
the Director.

The Sup^r is
desirous to call on
the Depy Director to
~~report~~ ^{state} what progress
has been made
in the investigation
of the claims
above referred to,
and when the
pt. may expect
to receive his de-
puty's report.

J. D. S.

14 - Copies to the Secy

15 - to the Depy Secy

4 - to the Comdr

Revenue ~~1812~~ Dept
of Canton April

1844.

Living the old man put
at 15 April 1862.

Page No. $\frac{53-55}{5-12-60}$

Deputy orders on
a letter from Governor
of Texas regarding the
necessity of keeping the
State Treasury in
mind.

Ch 257 + 252.

John
L. D.
C.