M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 973	Press Mis.
85.86	
Dated 5. 5.	18 62

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th May 1862.

No. 85. 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 Bagherry Hill, 6th March 1862, No. 841 :—

SIR,

I have the honor to request you will bring the subject of the accompanying Memorandum to the notice of Government.

Memorandum on the Wainád Teak Forest.

1. When Tippoo conquered the Wainád though he secured to Devastanums' their existing rights over Paddy lands, he gave them no manorial rights over Teak Forests, but erected the whole of them into a royalty, the extent of the Teak Forest lands being from Rampore on the east to Moogadi on the west.

2. The eastern Teak Forests are called after Tippoo to this day or Tippookádu, the Tamil for forest. In the Trigonometrical Survey Map the name Tippookádu does not appear, but a small village consisting of three huts, in the extreme end of eastern Wainád and situate at the Coimbatore boundary is still called Tippookádu.

3. In 1824 when the Pyche Rajah's estate was escheated by order of Government, the Collector, Mr. Vaughan, declared that in addition to the Paddy land only twelve small valueless hills were escheated, it was difficult to reconcile this apparently incomprehensible blunder ; but it appears to me, that Mr. Vaughan was well aware that the whole belt of Teak was a royalty, and as such fell to us by right of conquest.

4. After the fall of Seringapatam in 1799, the Duke of Wellington reserved the Koncheat, Ponson and Korderykote Teak Forests for the Madras Government, and the history of this transaction must be in the Government archives, and possibly copies at home.

5. Some fifteen years ago the Devastanum people, at the instigation of the Mysore wood merchants, finding that we neglected the western and central Forests took to selling the trees on stump fee, and only a few years ago the Collector of Malabar was selling trees in the Kirderykote Forest on stump fee, whilst the Rajah of Mysore was working the same, under a lease from the Devastanum of Terunuly.

6. It is but five years since that the Mysore Commissioner ordered the Teak Forests to be conserved, before that all was confusion, people cut when and where they liked.

7. Some idea of the damage done to these Forests by the reckless system of "Tukkul" may be imagined when I state that the belt of Teak from Rampore to Moogadi equals 180 square miles, and the Honsoor Forest 130 square miles, or in all 310 square miles, of this amount 100 square miles of Teak have been destroyed. If we allow that an acre contains one hundred trees value 5 Rupees each, and this is a low valuation, as we now get 10 Rupees for an ordinary tree, then $100 \times 5 = 500$ Rupees, $500 \times 640 = 3{,}20{,}000$ Rupees per square mile, 300 square miles equal 960,00,000 lacs of Rupees.

8. The natural belt of Teak fairly represents the Forest land that clearly belongs to Government, and will form a most efficient boundary.

CAMP BAGHERRY,
6th March 1862.

(Signed) H. R. MORGAN, Captain,
Officiating Conservator of Forests.

No. 86. ORDER THEREON, 5th May 1862, No. 973.

1. The Government cannot make out with what object Major Morgan has addressed this communication to them ; whether it refers to the Forests claimed by the Trustees of certain Temples in Wainád or to the boundary between Wainád and Mysore, which formed the subject of his letter dated 4th March 1862, No. 839.

2. Major Morgan should invariably give the date and number of the letters to which his communication refers, his failure to do so causes much unnecessary trouble and delay.

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

23 April/62 No 321-322

Rev= 1862. Dept
Rec: of Govt for May
From No. 694.

The Offg Consr of Forests

To

The Secretary to Govt
Revenue Dept.
Fort St. George

Dated 6th
Recd 12th } March 1862

No 841

Enclosure- one.

Forwarding a Memorandum on the Teak Forests in Wynad.

No 973 — 5th May
With an Order

No 85 & 86.

City Spnl Rec'd

Rec'd 5th May 1862
5th Cohit
989 Conservancy of Forests to Govt &c

No 973.

The Government cannot make out with what object Major Morgan has addressed this communication to them:- whether it refers to the Forests claimed by the Trustees of certain Temples in Wynad or to the boundary between Wynad and Mysore which formed the subject of his letter dated

Major Morgan should invariably give the date & number of the letters to which his communication refers. his failure to do so causes much unnecessary trouble & delay.

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