

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd June 1863.*

No. 318. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 28th May 1863, No. 519 :—

SIR,

1. With regard to the Government Order No. 879 of the 20th of May 1863, I have the honor to report that I consider it very important that the new Code of Forest Rules be at once published and circulated in the different Districts of our Presidency.

2. As already stated in my letter No. 520 of the 12th of May 1863, I have not, after reading the Report alluded to in the Government Order No. 736 of the 23rd of April 1863, been able to suggest any improvements that might be introduced into our Presidency from the system pursued in Burmah. In fact the two systems are so entirely different they cannot be compared ; and with regard to paragraph 6 of my letter No. 11 of the 5th of May 1862, I beg to inform you that I have at the time of visiting each District made what improvements and alterations have seemed necessary, these have been reported to Government and have received their sanction at the time.

3. The Cuddapah Establishment was entirely re-organized and placed on a much more economical footing, and the North Arcot hill forests were placed under the same Establishment. The District is now yielding a very good revenue. The South Arcot hill forests have been amalgamated with the Salem forests. The Hunsur Teak forests have been placed under the supervision of the Officer of Wynád, a good revenue is certain from these forests. Some reduction has been made in the Anamallay Establishment, and the supervision of the forests of the Bolampetty Valley have been added to the duties of the Assistant Conservator. Considerable changes have been introduced at the Nellumbur Teak plantations, the indigenous forests are to be worked in connection with the plantations, and a fair revenue is certain. A considerable reduction has been made in the Central Office. An increased Establishment was found to be absolutely necessary for the South Canara District, and the sanction of the Supreme Government has been applied for.

4. In all forests not worked by the Department a new system of printed vouchers and licenses has been introduced, the system works admirably ; all seigniorage is paid in advance to the Tahsildar, who grants a printed voucher for the amount paid, the Forest Department then grant a printed license, this is a complete check against any peculation on the part of the subordinates of the Forest Department, and it also prevents the possibility of any nefarious transactions on the side of the native Revenue authorities. It has proved a great check against smuggling, and has caused a considerable rise in the monthly receipts for seigniorage in the Salem, Cuddapah and Kurnool Districts. In the latter District although we have stopped the felling of Teak saplings which yielded the chief revenue under the old system, the monthly receipts are now far more than double what they were before conservancy was introduced.

5. My annual Report will be forwarded in a few days, in it I have entered rather fully upon the working of each District, and I hope that Government will think that the revenue now derived from each District is satisfactory. The Establishments will not, I consider, bear any reduction, and if more economical management is still considered necessary, it must be in the superintendence. The Establishments of Mudumallay and Seegur, the Anamallays, Wynád and Hunsur, and the Salem District are under Commissioned Officers, there are however important operations in each of these Districts, and the revenue fully authorizes the expenditure incurred for superintendence, and I could not recommend that these Districts should be placed under mere Foresters.

No. 519.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1863, No. 1,099.

Ordered accordingly.

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

[illegible]

