

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1151	Press Mis.
	82.83	
Dated	4 - 7 - 19	1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th July 1863.*

No. 82. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India (Revenue), to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 24th April 1863, No. 14:—

SIR,

1. I have considered in Council the Report of the Acting Conservator of Forests in your Presidency for 1861-62, which was transmitted in the letter from your Excellency in Council, numbered 68, and dated the 25th of September last.

2. The forests of North Canara, which have since been transferred to the Bombay Government, swelled the profits on the forests for the present year by the large sum of Rs. 3,97,711, but a great portion of this amount arose from the large quantity of timber made over to the Bombay Government on the transfer of the Province. You therefore propose, in order to make a fair estimate of profit and loss, to take the profit for North Canara at the amount at which it stood last year, viz., Rupees 1,71,754.

Total net profit, 1861-62	Rs. 4,24,639
Deduct Canara	3,97,711
	30,928
Add for Canara	1,71,754
	2,05,682

By substituting this sum for the larger one, it appears that the profit of the year would be Rupees 2,05,682 (instead of Rupees 2,03,585, given by the Conservator, and adopted by you in your Order), while the profit on the year, exclusive of North Canara, is shown to have been Rupees 30,928. The net profit of the previous year, including North Canara, was Rupees 1,83,731, and, deducting it, Rupees 8,977, leaving a balance in favour of the year under review of Rupees 21,951.

Total profit 1860-61	Rs. 1,83,731
Deduct North Canara	1,71,754
	8,977
Profit, exclusive of North Canara, 1860-61	30,928
Profit, exclusive of North Canara, 1861-62	21,951

3. In the imperfect state in which conservancy now is, I do not consider that this return, small as it appears to be, is generally unsatisfactory, or such as to cause any doubt that the forests, when the system of conservancy has been established on a sound basis and on permanent principles, may be made to yield a profitable return, while, at the same time, the object is gained of securing a sufficient supply of timber and firewood for the wants of the Presidency. There is an actual profit in all except four of the separate forest charges. Of these four, the most alarming deficiency occurs in the Anamallai forests; for, whereas the last report gave a profit of Rupees 20,110, this one shows a loss of Rupees 14,166, making a deterioration of Rupees 34,276 since last year. The Conservator has adduced several reasons for this. The principal one certainly seems to have been the health of Captain Brine, the Assistant Conservator of the forests, but he seems also on other grounds to have been unfit for the situation which he held; and I perceive, by your Proceedings of December 11th, 1862, that you have called on him for an explanation, and have resolved, pending its receipt, to hold him responsible for all loss consequent on his neglect of duty. The other causes, such as the misapplication of the labour of the establishment, the visiting the forests at the wrong time, the splitting timber into planks, when it ought to have been cut into logs, the want of branch roads, and the absence of carts and bullocks, are errors or deficiencies which would not have occurred, or not to the same extent, under an efficient superintendence, and will, I hope, therefore, be obviated in future.

4. It is clear, too, that the returns might have been greater from the Nellumboor plantations, had the whole not been left to one individual, Chatoo Menon, highly efficient as he proved himself. This evil will have been corrected for the future by the appointment of Mr. Ferguson, which I sanctioned in my Despatch of the 27th December last.

5. It was not to be expected that at first the Neilgherry Sholas and the Wellington plantations of Australian trees would be very remunerative, but you have justly pointed out the excessive cost of these experiments, and called for further reports, with the result of which I shall wish to be made acquainted, as also with the further report which you have desired to receive on the South Canara forests, which are not in your opinion in a satisfactory state, although I observe that the balance is in favour of Government.

6. The Mudumallai forest affords a gratifying instance of improved management, the profit being Rupees 3,589 instead of a loss of Rupees 13,854 in the previous year. The Conservator bears testimony to the great advantage derived from the lease of this forest. In paragraph G of my Despatch of the 14th August last, I intimated a strong opinion as to the expediency of securing a perpetual lease of this forest, but I have not yet been informed that you have done so, although I see by your Order now before me that the present lease was to expire in March of this year. It is certainly important that the boundary between this forest and Wynaad

should be defined as soon as possible, if it have not already been done. With regard to the forests in the last named District, the settlement of the question of the burgher rights, and the decision as to the claims of the temples to the forests, sanctioned in my Despatches of March 9th, No. 7, and 24th April 1863, No. 12, have removed some of the difficulties noticed in the report before me. The amalgamation of this forest with that of Hoonsoor seems a wise measure, and I trust will realize the considerable revenue you anticipate from it.

7. I regret to learn that "takku" or coomery, has been much practised by the Coorumbars in Wynaad, as well as in other forests. It seems, however, to be on the decline, and in Madura the resort to it during the year under review is accounted for by the prevalence of famine from a failure of dry crops.

8. The question of the Tanibracherry Glât will be considered in the Public Works Department, but, pending the decision as to the completion of that work, it is worthy of consideration whether it might not perhaps be possible to provide some slip or track to facilitate the transport of the timber. This, too, would be desirable in the Denkincothah forest of the Salem District, where the want of a proper Glât creates a difficulty in working the forest. I may remark too, that, not only in these, but in all other similar cases of difficulty from the want of roads and tracks, such works should be undertaken, and the estimated amount inserted in the Budget sent in by the Forest Department. The Salem and Sigur Forests show in the greatest degree the improved profit derived from conservancy, and the annual profit seems at least likely to be continued.

9. The forests in the Districts of Madura, Cuddapah, North Arcot and Kurnool, have not yet been worked under the regular establishments for conservancy which have been allotted to them. It is, therefore, to be hoped that next year the profit side of the forest account will be considerably increased by returns from these forests.

10. You desired that the proposal not to renew to the railway the lease of the Chennat Nair forest might be brought before you in a definite shape; but you will perceive, from my subsequent remarks, that I think the case which would take any forest out of the hands of the Government ought to be very exceptional.

11. The only point in respect to the Chinchona tree which calls for remarks here is, that it is highly satisfactory to find that, besides the more valuable property of the tree, it may also be looked to hereafter as contributing to the supply of firewood.

12. There seems to be rather a discrepancy in the statements as to the value of Vengay wood (*Pterocarpus Marsupium*). In Madura, it is described as the most greedily purchased of all the indigenous trees, whilst in the Anamallais it is said to be only cut at a loss.

13. It is satisfactory to learn, from paragraph 102 of the Report, that the tea plantations of Mr. Mann and Mr. Rae are being extended. The correction of Mr. Thomas's mistake, in naming five years instead of three as the right period for plucking the leaves, is important, a collection of papers on the interesting subject of tea cultivation in India has been presented to Parliament in this Session.

14. The question of the value of the satin-wood, found at the foot of the Anamallais, is one which it will be very proper to try by the proposed sale of specimen loads at Madras; and the result, if favourable, should be made known.

15. Before I conclude this Despatch, I wish to make a few general remarks on the question of forest conservancy.

16. The importance of forests, not only as yielding timber and firewood, but as affecting the rain-fall, the climate, and the soil, and as protecting in mountainous regions the country of the plains, has been overlooked, not in India alone, but in other countries of the world. But of late years sounder views on this point have been adopted. Humboldt very broadly stated (and the statement is now very generally accepted), that the more cultivation increases and the forests diminish, the drier both soil and climate become. Nor is there any reason, as I remarked in paragraph 6 of my Despatch of the 9th March, No. 7, if the forests are properly managed, and a judicious outlay is bestowed on them, why a proportionate profit should not be obtained from them. Whatever may have been the case formerly, there can be no doubt of this in India now, since the introduction of railways, the stimulus given to the construction of other public works, and the building of private houses and manufactories, from the increased and increasing influx of Europeans into India, has created so large a demand for timber.

17. To forests, from their nature, the usual maxim of political economy which leaves such undertakings to private enterprise, cannot be applied. Their vast extent, the long time that a tree takes to reach maturity, and the consequence that few persons live long enough to obtain any, and more especially the highest returns for expenditure, even once in the course of their lives, are proofs of the necessity that forest management should be conducted on permanent

principles, and not be left to the negligence, avarice, or caprice of individuals, and, therefore, point to the State as the proper administrator, bound to take care that, in supplying the wants of the present generation, there is no reckless waste, no needless forestalling of the supply of future generations. This is matter of experience, not in India only but in all other countries, of the world. For several years past, some of the forests of your Presidency have been under the superintendence of an able Conservator and a small Forest Department, and the attention of your Government has been creditably directed to their preservation from utter ruin. But, as Major Morgan has observed in the Report before me, "conservancy is yet in its infancy." What has been done, however, has shown that, by extending the system, and placing it on a sound and permanent footing, much more might be done. To attain this, the Forest Department should be made thoroughly effective, and all forests, without exception, should be at once brought under its authority. The Conservator should have competent Superintendents under him, with a moderate, but still a sufficient, staff, suited to the requirements of each forest. He should lay down general rules, which should only be departed from with his permission, and when a difference in the circumstances of a District might render a change expedient. Some system of this kind does, I am aware, exist to a certain extent, but it requires to be made more complete, and to have a permanent character.

18. The rules should, for the most part, be determined on in concert with the Revenue authorities. Intimately connected as the forests are with cultivation, it is highly important that the Department should work in strict connexion and communication with the Collectors of the several Districts and their subordinate officers. I mention this, as I regret to perceive, from Mr. Spring's Report, that this has not been the case on the borders of Cuddapah and North Arcot, the jungles of which have, notwithstanding your orders, suffered very much in consequence.

19. One rule, which is of paramount importance, should at once be adopted wherever circumstances permit it. The cuttings should be conducted by the officers of the Department. To the want of such a rule, and the admission of contractors to do this work, or to cut trees on the payment of seigniorage fees, may be traced in great measure the wholesale destruction which has occurred in all the forests of India. Instances of the truth of this view will be found in the account given by Major Morgan of almost every forest. He calls it in one place, and with great justice, "a simple way of saving the Assistant trouble, and conveying the largest share of the profit into the pocket of the contractor." It does not, therefore, seem to me that the case of the contract suggested by Captains Beddome and Brine was quoted by the Acting Conservator inappositely, as an example of the superiority of conservancy over the system of felling by Contractors. It is, I think, therefore, to be regretted that, by the Order on your Proceedings Nos. 233 and 281, page 3, 527, of December 20th last, you have sanctioned rules for working the forests of the Kurnool, Cuddapah, and Salem Districts on the seigniorage fee principle. When an establishment of sufficient strength is given to these forests, this arrangement should be altered.

20. A further advantage of departmental cuttings is, that it does away with all excuse for "girdling," a practice which, if I rightly interpret paragraphs 2 and 100 of the Report, is now discovered to be on all accounts prejudicial.

21. Another point, which has hitherto been neglected, is, that sufficient protection should, as far as possible, be provided to persons working in the forests and jungles. Major Morgan mentions the want of proper shelter for the men employed in the Anamallais as one of the causes of the loss on that forest, and due provision for those who are working in these fever-haunted localities, besides being a duty on the part of Government, would also, by husbanding the health and strength of their servants, prove in the end a measure of economy.

22. I have lately, in paragraph 6 of my Despatch of the 9th March, urged upon you the necessity of impressing upon all Officers concerned the caution of the Governor General as to the reservation of valuable forest, and this caution seems more necessary after a perusal of some of the opinions expressed in the report now before me. I will refer particularly to paragraphs 11, 20, and 103.

23. Wherever there is forest of valuable wood, or wood which, although not now absolutely required for the present necessities of the country, is likely to be valuable hereafter, that should at once be reserved. In forests, the wood of which is not now, nor likely to be, of value, the plan suggested by the Acting Conservator, of preserving a ridge of 450 feet to attract the rain-fall, and prevent deterioration of soil and climate, seems very judicious, but no reason is assigned for, in all instances, limiting that to forests which are above a certain elevation. When Chinchona are to be planted, as these will hereafter, it is to be hoped, grow into forest trees, there is not the same objection to clear the forest on the score of atmospheric influence, as when the clearing is made for cultivation of a different nature.

24. I quite agree with your Excellency in Council, that it is not desirable that there should be any reservation of trees on land made over to purchasers, although in those cases a valuation may be put upon the trees before the sale.

of Captain Birmes neglect.

4 *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
4th July 1863.

25. With reference to paragraph 4 of my Despatch, No. 31, of the 14th of August last, as to the employment of steam-sawing machines in the forests, I observe by your Proceedings for December 1862, that, in consequence of a report from Captain Beddome, in which he states that, on account of the liability of the Malabar timber to "heartshake," a steam saw-mill would not suit the Anamallais, you are not prepared to sanction one for these forests. But you remark that Captain Beddome has omitted to state whether there are not other forests in which such machinery might be advantageously employed, and have specially called his attention to the Sigur Depot. I see also, by the Report now under review, that both in the Salem and the Mudumallai forests operations are interfered with by the want of labour, so that, if the same objections did not apply to them as to the Anamallai, the experiment might be tried in them. With this suggestion, I shall await your reply to my Despatch on this point.

No. 116 and 117, page 3, 415. 26. I approve the measures which, by your Proceedings of the 8th of December last, I see that you have taken to translate and circulate select portions of Monsieur Clave's work for the information of the Officers of the Forest Department.

27. You have deferred ordering the lithographing of Captain Hunter's map on the Wynad forests, until further information is added to it. I desire to be supplied with some copies of it when it is complete. It would, likewise, be very advantageous that a rough sketch map of all the forests of your Presidency should be prepared, with brief notes as to the produce and extent of the several forests, and I desire that such a map may be prepared and copies sent to this Office.

No. 83. ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1863, No. 1,191.

1. Ordered that a copy of this Despatch be furnished to the Acting Conservator of Forests and the Board of Revenue for their information.

2. With reference to the latter part of paragraph 3, the Government observe that final orders have not yet been passed on the subject of the loss incurred in consequence of Captain Brine's neglect of duty pending the measurement of certain planks at Ponany towards the end of this month or the beginning of the next, as permitted in the Order of Government, dated 13th April 1863, No. 646.

Procs. 25th October 1862, Nos. 320, 321.
Do. 17th November " " 197, 198.
Do. 18th December " " 260, 261.

3. The papers noted in the margin regarding the Wellington Plantations of Australian trees will be forwarded to the Secretary of State as required in paragraph 5 of the Despatch. He will observe from them that upon the recommendation of the Acting Conservator of Forests the continuance of the plantations has been authorized, and that provision has been made for the expenditure of Rupees 500 on them in 1863-64.

4. In paragraph 5 the Secretary of State requests to be furnished with a copy of the separate report on the South Canara Forests, called for in paragraph 8 of the Order of Government, dated 19th September 1862, No. 2,040. This report has not yet been submitted as Captain Beddome was unable to visit the forests in 1862-63. He will be requested to give his early attention to the subject, and the report when received will be transmitted to Sir Charles Wood.

5. The Government observe, with reference to paragraph 6 of the Despatch, that the renewal of the lease of the Mudumallai Forests for ninety-nine years on a rental of Rupees 3,500 per annum, was reported to the Secretary of State in the letter from this Department, dated 16th March 1863, No. 26.

6. The Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement will be requested to report if any progress has been made in the Settlement of the boundary line, between the Mudumallai Forests and the Wainad, alluded to by the Secretary of State in paragraph 6 of his Despatch.

7. Paragraph 8 of the Despatch will be communicated to the Public Works Department. The Acting Conservator of Forests will be requested to report upon the suggestion made therein in regard to providing slips or tracks to facilitate the transport of the timber. He will communicate with the Officers of the Public Works Department on the subject if he deems it necessary.

8. The Government observe that the lease of the Chennat Nair forest held by the Railway Company, and alluded to in paragraph 10 of the Despatch, has been renewed for a further period of three years under the authority given in the Order of Government, dated 18th October 1862, No. 2,332.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5
4th July 1863.

9. Paragraph 11 of the Despatch will be communicated to the Superintendent of the Chinchona Plantations for his information.

10. Captain Beddome will be requested to explain the discrepancy alluded to in paragraph 12.

11. The sale in Madras of the Satin-wood found at the foot of the Annamallais should be tried as early as possible, and the result reported to Government.

12. The Acting Conservator of Forests will be requested to report without delay on the several suggestions contained in paragraphs 15 to 21.

13. The attention of the Board of Revenue and the Acting Conservator will be called to paragraphs 22 and 23, in which Sir Charles Wood again points out the necessity and importance of the reservation of valuable forest land.

14. The use of steam-sawing machines in the forests has received the consideration of Government in the papers noted in the margin. Captain Beddome will be requested to submit at an early date the plans and information called for in the second Order; and as soon as they are received a reply will be sent to paragraph 4 of the Despatch of the Secretary of State, dated 14th August 1862, No. 31.

15. The Acting Conservator of Forests will be requested to report what steps should be taken for the preparation of a map of the forests of this Presidency of the description given in paragraph 27.

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

of Captain Beddome's neglect.

Revenue Department

N^o 1191-

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 14th ^{July} ~~June~~ 1863

Read the following
letter from the Right
Honorable the Secretary of
State for India.

Reviewing the Report
of the Forest Department
of this Presidency for 1861/62

(Here enter 24th April 1863
N^o 114)

Ordered that a copy
of this despatch be furnished
to the A^d Conservator of
Forests and the Board of
Revenue for their information.

2. With reference to the
latter part of para 3 the
Gov^t observe that final
orders have not yet been
passed on the subject of the
loss incurred in consequence
of Captain Brine's neglect

JP

of duty pending the measurement of certain plants at Rangoon towards the end of this month or the beginning of the next as permitted in the order of Govt. dated 13th April 1863, No. 643.

3 The papers noted in the margin regarding the Wellington Plantations of Australian trees will be forwarded to the Secretary of State as required in para 5 of the Despatch. He will observe from them that upon the recommendation of the A^d Conservator of Forests the condemnation of the plantations has been authorized and that provision has been made for the expenditure of Rs. 500 in them in 1863/64.

25 Oct 1862 No 320 & 321.
17 Nov " " 147 & 148
18 Dec " " 260 & 261

In para 5 the Secretary of State requests to be furnished with a copy of the separate report on the Forests of Bhamara Forest called for in para 8 of the order of Govt. dated 19 September 1862, No. 2040. This report has not yet been submitted as Captain Boddome was unable to visit the Forest in 1862-63. He will be requested to give his early attention to the subject and the report when received will be transmitted to Sir Charles Wood.

* Para 1 of Captain Boddome's letter of 27 Feb 1863 is not

5 The Government observe with regret in para 6 of this Despatch that the renewal of the lease of the Mithun Hill

forests for nearly minor
years on a rental of Rs
3000 per annum, was
reported to the Secretary
of State in the letter
from this Department
dated 16th March 1863.

6 The Officiating
Director of Revenue will
be requested to report
if any progress has been
made in the settlement
of the boundary lines
between the Madras
Forests and the Madras
alluded to by the Sec-
retary of State in para
6 of his Despatch.

7 Para 8 of the Des-
patch will be commu-
nicated to the Public
Works Department. The
Acting Conservator of Forests
will be requested to report
upon the suggestion made
herein in providing

slipway, tracks & facilities
for the transport of the timber.
He will communicate with
the Officers of the Public
Works Department on the
subject if he deems it
necessary.

The Government
decree that the lease of the
Schemmair Fair forest, held
by the Railway Company
and attested to in para 10
of the Despatch has been
renewed for a further period
of three years under the
authority given in the
order of Government of 8th
October 1862, S^o 2232.

9 Para 11 of the Des-
patch will be commu-
nicated to the Superin-
tendent of the Madras
Mines for his information.
10 Captain Redburn
will be requested to

the discrepancy alluded
to in para 12.

11 The ^{in manner} sale of the
Lalim wood found at the
foot of the Anamallais
~~at present~~ should be
tried as early as possible
and the result reported
to Government.

12 The Acting Forest
- officer of Forests will be
requested to report ^{without delay} on the
several suggestions con-
tained in paras 15 to 29.
~~From the present position~~
~~concerning regulation~~
~~complete and permanent~~
~~in the character, to increase~~
~~the number of the officers~~
~~of the Department~~
~~of the Department~~
~~and to afford proper~~
~~whether to preserve or to~~
~~the forests and~~

13 The attention of
the

7
The Board of Revenue and
the Acting Forest Officer will
be called to para 20. B
in which Sir Charles Hall
again points out the
necessity and importance
of the preservation of
valuable forest lands.

14 The use of Steam
Sawing Machines in the
Forests has received the
consideration of Govt. in
the papers noted in the
margin - Captain Stirling
will be requested to submit
at an early date the plans
and information called
for in the second order
and as soon as they are
received a reply will
be sent to para 4 of the
Despatch of the Secretary
of State dated 11 Aug 1862, 1863.

15 The Acting Forest

1st December 1862 signed
26 February 1863 2864337

of Forests public register
to report what steps shall
be taken for the preser-
vation of a map of the
Forests of this Presidency
of the description given
in para 27.

J. S.

- 4. 19 (Inventory of Forests (Sept 5))
- 4. Board of Revenue
- 13. 09. 02 of the Settlement
- 21. 10. 02. 02. 02. 02
- 1. Sup. H. P. (Encl. 10. 10. 02. 02. 02)

Revenue 1863. Madras
Princ Genl. Secy. July.

N^o 1191

From the Madras Govt.
of 4th July 1863.

Despatch from Secretary
of State reviewing the South
Africa for 1861-62 with
order thereon -

N^o 82 and 83.

25 June/63 A 26.