M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1258 Press Mis.

215-216

Dated 11-7-1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th July 1853.

No. 215. Read the following Memorandum from Captain F. NELSON, dated Madras, 1st November 1852 :—

The object I have in view in printing this Memorandum for the perusal of his Excellency the Governor, is to enable his Excellency, with as little inconvenience as possible, to judge of the merits of my case and to obtain a favorable consideration of the request which I am about to prefer. I must entreat his Excellency's indulgence if I deem it necessary to enter into details, which may appear tedious, but without which the peculiar circumstances of my case would not be made known.

In 1833 I was invalided after seventeen years' service, from the 2nd European Light Infantry Regiment, on account of an injured knee joint, and I was commanding the station of Ongole in the latter part of that year. I was unmarried and without incumbrance, and although unfitted for active duty with my Regiment, I was not incapable of exertion or of bearing fatigue. I had for many years been struck, in the course of my wanderings in pursuit of game, by the extraordinary and rapid changes produced, in the course of a few years by the invasion of jungle, when from any cause lands once under cultivation had been abandoned.

It had frequently occurred to me that there was in many parts of Southern India good work to be done, in combating the usurpations of the jungle, and that much could be effected by individual Europeans towards restoring to fertility the lands which had been conquered by the rapid vegetation of the tropics.

I felt that natives have seldom the sustained energy and perseverance required to clear jungles in the face of special difficulty and danger. For it must be remembered that when the jungle has once established itself it is guarded by a powerful companion, the deadly jungle fever, and that it requires resolute and continuous efforts to clear such an amount of jungle as will make residence in the clearing possible. Besides this natives are superstitious; they believe the jungles to be tenanted by evil spirits, and on the first appearance of sickness they pronounce a place accursed and fly to a less dangerous locality.

I believed, however, that much might be achieved by natives under the leadership of an Englishman, who understood native character and knew how easily they can be swayed by those who treat them justly and with kindness; and I resolved to make the experiment of restoring some such tract of country as would offer complete scope to the experiment I had in view.

While in command of Ongole in 1834 I obtained three months' leave to examine certain portions of the country on the banks of the Kistna river, marked on the Trigonometrical Survey Map No. 76, as "impenetrable."

The objects I had in view in this expedition were to ascertain the real nature of this country; to see the Chenchuwars who were supposed to be thinly scattered through these jungles; and to ascertain whether the jungles contained valuable timber, and if so, what means of transit for this timber were available.

The result of my researches were communicated to the Secretary to Government on the 24th June 1834. In this report I stated, that the so-called "impenetrable tract" on both sides of the river is a mountainous rugged country covered with jungle grass and more or less with bamboo and several kinds of useful timber trees. Rose-wood is scarce and small; Black-wood plentiful in some parts but of no great size, averaging from 12 to 18 inches diameter in the bark; Teak is not common. I pointed out that the intense heat which prevailed during three or four months of the year was opposed to the growth of the finest sized and valuable timber, and that the pernicious custom which prevailed of firing the jungle was destructive to the young saplings. Still I ascertained the fact that timber to some extent was felled, permission being granted by the Collector of Kurnool, and that this timber was sold at a considerable profit.

I also ascertained that about 30 miles to the south of the Monteral Cannama (*vide* Survey Map No. 76,) first class Teak of great size was to be found in limited quantities, but that use of this large timber was prevented by the inaccessible nature of the country, which made its transmission to the nearest market too costly.

The rocks and fragments of rocks which covered the greater portion of the tract which I explored, were chiefly Sandstone, Syenite and Hornblende. The rocks in the bed of the river Kistna uniformly consisted of Limestone.

I pointed out the errors in the Trigonometrical Survey of certain portions of the country included in the Map No. 76.

Thus far my object of ascertaining the probable supply of timber from this tract of country was effected, and did not promise to render any direct effort at establishing a wood trade advisable. But I was able to report to the Government that which was to me of much more interest, that portions of the tract which I had explored presented traces of having formerly been carefully cultivated, and that in the heart of these jungles were remains of towns, forts, villages, and above all of large and expensively constructed works of irrigation. The tract to which I more particularly alluded was that portion of jungle which had once been the Zemindari of Siddapoor and Peddacheroo. Peddacheroo is situated at the head of a large valley, with a good deal of open ground dotted with large banian trees, and is a place of great natural beauty. It is inhabited at present by a few of the Chenchuwars, who before my arrival derived a miserable subsistence by hunting and selling the skins and horns of the wild beasts of the jungle, and by thefts and exactions levied on the Lumbarees, the picturesque carriers of salt and grain, whose cattle, during a portion of the year are driven for pasturage into these jungles, during their progress from the eastern coast to the Ceded Districts and the Hyderabad country.

There is also a fine tank in the valley with an area of about 60 Acres; all beyond the plain and the bed of the tank is over-grown with bamboo and forest trees. At the time of my visit, the tank was dry, but it was an unusually hot season; and I was informed that this was the first time during the last twelve years that the water had failed.

To my inquiries why this beautiful spot had ceased to be cultivated, I was told by the Lumbarees that the people had been afraid of the fever during the last thirty or forty years, but that formerly it was healthy; and my guides, in evidence of this, pointed out the remains of the town that had once existed, and the ruins of the fort.

In spite of the fever the Lumbarees had many *pentahs*, or cattle-runs, here and in the neighbourhood, for the advantages of the rich pasture induced them to brave the danger, the reality of which was made evident to my eyes by the frequency among them particularly among the children, of the pot-belly indicating an advanced stage of spleen disease.

From Peddacheroo I proceeded to Siddapoor; and there found the ruins of a stone fort standing on high ground. Here also were remains of a town, and the ruins of Pagodas, Musulman Eedgahs and a stone tower for storing grain, &c. In short here were all the traces of former prosperity, innumerable proofs that this tract had once been cultivated and thickly inhabited; although at the time of my visit only a few rude Chenchuwar huts occupied the site of the once flourishing town of Siddapoor.

I was able to obtain some information regarding both Siddapoor and Peddacheroo from an inteligent native in whose family the Curnumship of these places had been hereditary for many generations.

He stated that the lands of Peddacheroo above the Ghâts on the high level of the Nullamala Hills and the rich lands of Siddapoor spreading out from Nagalcoty under the Ghâts, constituted in former times the patrimony of the Rajahs of Siddapoor. This baronial property was highly cultivated and produced great revenues.

I am borne out in my opinion of the former prosperity of this portion of the country by the entries found in the Mahratta records, a statement from which was drawn up shortly after Lord Cornwallis' campaign.

This statement is appended to Scott Waring's History of the Mahrattas 1810.— *Vide* Note 39, page 237. According to these records the revenue of Kurnool, which is included in the Sircar of Adoni is estimated at 3,88,610 Rupees. The revenues of Peddacheroo and Siddapoor, included in the Sircar of Gazeepeer, are estimated respectively, at 18,550 Rs. and 1,61,250 Rs.

The great bund of the tank of Siddapoor had been raised at the cost of half a lac of Rupees, but the water thus stored had given a hundred-fold return, for the great expense incurred. From these lands had been derived the revenues which supported in luxury and splendid array the 350 dancing girls who in happier times formed the great procession which on religious festal days marched round the holy temple of Purwuttum, 350 Carpenters and Smiths were also maintained for the service of the temple buildings.

But then came the era of Mussulman conquest, and with it the downfall of the excellent and paternal rule of the Hindoo Rajahs of Siddapoor.

The place was re-named, Taous-nuggur, or City of the Peacock, and became celebrated only for the fanatical oppression of the Mussulman conquerors, and for the indignities offered by them to Purwuttum, one of the holiest shrines of Southern India. The Hindoos, unable to bear the tyranny of the conquerors, fled; and from that day the jungle recovered its rights and overrun the once fertile plains of Siddapoor.

The Mussulmans were bad cultivators, and retreated in dismay before the deadly fever which accompanied the rapid encroachment of the jungle. They retreated from this enemy declaring, "the lands of Siddapoor accursed of Allah, on account of the sins and idolatry of the Hindoos."

The Hindoos witnessed the pestilence which decimated their cruel conquerors with satisfaction, and attributed it to the anger of their goddess, Stri-chellumba, at the violation of her shrine at Purwuttum. Since those days the jungle has never ceased its advance and consolidation, and has carried with it the deadly fever which has kept Siddapoor desolate.

My informant proceeded to tell me that an attempt had been made in 1819 by his own uncle, a Brahmin, descended from one of the old families who formerly resided at Siddapoor, to reclaim the lands, but that it had failed.

A party of 80 squatters were collected at Siddapoor; they cut down some of the jungle; sowed 20 Acres of paddy; cleared the large stone well which supplied good drinking water; and under the energetic direction of Billakulla Gooroo Kistapah their leader, partially repaired the bund of the Siddapoor tank.

The health of the squatters was excellent for about ten months, when fever broke out, and about 30 persons including Gooroo Kistapah, died. The rest were panic stricken, and fled from the place.

I attributed the failure of this really admirable attempt by Gooroo Kistapah, to the want of system with which he commenced his operations. Every man as soon as he had cleared a small space under the tank, proceeded at once to sow paddy. They forgot that unless they cleared the surrounding jungle sufficiently to reduce malarious influence, they would never reap the crops they were sowing; and so it proved. I resolved to emulate the courage which had inspired my native predecessor, and hoped to avoid much of the disaster which had attended his efforts, by the systematic clearance of sufficient jungle before attempting to cultivate the clearings.

I therefore proposed to the Government in a letter dated 24th June 1854, that 1st, I should be permitted to reside at Siddapoor in order to cut down the jungles and to attempt to restore that District to the state of agricultural importance it once enjoyed; 2nd, that I be permitted to cultivate the land without restriction as to quantity at a nominal rent, or rent free for the period of ten years.

That I should be permitted to draw on the Collector of Kurnool for a sum of three thousand Rupees, to enable me to commence the first repairs of the Siddapoor tank.

After some correspondence between myself and the revenue authorities and the Government on the 11th December 1854, I received the sanction of Government to reside at Siddapoor and to commence my operations.

On the 28th February 1855 I arrived at Biarlcoty and pitched my tent on the only available spot of open ground near the ruins of a Hindoo temple, where there is a spring of water. The very next morning I contrived to persuade a party of Chenchuwars who were living at no great

distance to commence clearing jungle for me on daily pay. After cutting down about sixty Acres of jungle and leaving it to dry for several weeks, I set fire to it, under the supposition that aided by the long grass, the conflagration would effectually dispose of the forest and brushwood, and prepare the ground for the plough. But I soon found that while the grass and the smaller twigs made a grand blaze, the trunks and larger branches of the trees were merely charred and hardened, so that the task of chopping them into pieces for stacking and burning them, to which I ultimately had to resort, was only rendered more difficult.

The few men that had followed me, about fifteen in number, from the Nellore District soon began to suffer from the fever, so that I was frequently disturbed all night by the groans from the barrack I erected near my tent for them to live in. Nearly half of these men died during the first year, and the others all fled the country. In fact I almost began to despair of the undertaking and to think that I should be obliged to give it up entirely. Three bricklayer maistries whom I engaged to come from Kurnool to build indigo vats, died of fever in the latter part of the first year.

During the first month while the clearing operations were carried on by the Chenchuwars, I had about 20 ploughs made by the nearest village carpenters, and in the month of June I commenced ploughing and sowing indigo, cholum and paddy.

I was put to great expense in having to fence every field to keep out the Chenchuwars' cattle, which roam through the jungles with no one to tend them. But with every precaution the cattle and still worse the wild hogs would break through every fence, and destroy whole fields of grain. In time, however, I managed by an unflinching and persevering system of pounding the cattle to induce more orderly habits among the Nomad tribes; while I kept down the wild pigs with my gun.

In the second year I was much more successful, and the crops were so large as to induce me to form a somewhat fallacious estimate of the probable returns of my farming operations. The fever however was still severe, and I began to suffer from it myself.

However, although slowly my efforts were becoming successful. The Chenchuwars were more orderly in their habits and willingly accepted wages paid in grain for the lighter kinds of agricultural labor.

Less dread was felt by settlers of the formerly deadly climate, and the occasional fever was less fatal in its character and left few severe symptoms on those attacked.

I was not unsuccessful in breeding cattle, for which these jungles are very well suited; and I began yearly, to see the land which I had, at so much cost and difficulty, brought under cultivation, yielding regularly their yearly produce.

This produce consisting of indigo, rice, sugar and cereals, grown in between 200 and 300 Acres, amounted in money value to 5,600 Rupees.—leaving me a net profit after paying all expenses of about one half of that sum.

These results will necessarily appear small, but it must be remembered that I commenced my experiment without capital, that the tract upon which the experiment was made is of the same description as that marked upon the Survey Map as impenetrable, that it was further defended by a superstitious fear, that there was a curse on the spot manifesting itself by a deadly fever, and that neither life nor property were secure from the wild Chenchuwar tribes who wandered through these jungle tracts.

My success in dealing with these people, who although not probably destined, at least in the present generation, to become useful agriculturists, were active for evil, has been acknowledged by the Government both here and at home, in a manner very gratifying to my feelings, and this fact alone will I trust, dispose His Excellency the present Governor to regard my experiment with favor.

I have thus far described the nature of the country in which I established myself in 1854, the difficulties which I had to encounter, and the results obtained with the limited capital at my disposal. While in England, whither I had proceeded in 1860 for the recovery of my health, I wrote as follows to Mr. Bourdillon, then Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department.

From Captain F. NELSON, of Siddapoor and Peddacheroo, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated London, 4th September 1860.

SIR,

1. The operations of the Irrigation Company will almost immediately be felt, and the value of timber and bamboos on my lands will certainly become of importance.

2. In a letter received from Diarlooty by last Mail, I am informed that the Collector of the District is already taking measures in regard to a tax on every load of timber from Siddapoor.

3. In my original proposal to Government to clear and cultivate the lands of Siddapoor and Peddacheroo, the question of timber was entirely overlooked by me in consequence of its then comparative worthlessness.

4. Experience has greatly modified my hopes and expectations in regard to the project on which I have staked my life: not that the undertaking seems of less importance in my eyes, but that I have acquired a more true perception of the different sources from which income may be derived, and their relative value one to another.

The recollection of my original scheme of restoring the great Siddapoor tank, and counting revenue by tens of thousands, is now but a smile and a sigh; but the fever and the spleen remain a reality. I firmly and honestly believe that my personal prosperity means the success of the undertaking; the amelioration of a deadly climate; the enrichment of the people, and the advantage of the country.

6. The Collector of the District, the Honorable D. Arbuthnott, or the Acting Collector, Mr. J. I. Minchin, and the people of the villages contiguous to the Zemindary, could speak on the subject of my usefulness. I cannot with decency do so myself.

7. I would respectfully solicit His Excellency the Governor in Council to call for that opinion and consider whether, although no mention of timber is made in my original proposal to clear and cultivate the lands in question, I may not be allowed the same privileges accorded to settlers in Pegu—the right to all the wood excepting Teak growing on the Estate."

This letter was sent through Mr. Minchin, the Acting Collector of Kurnool, who in transmitting my letter to the Secretary to Government through the Board of Revenue wrote.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th November 1860, *No.* 5,525.

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Acting Collector of Kurnool, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated 30th October 1860, No. 172:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward for transmission through the Board, a letter received by the last Mail from Captain Nelson, addressed to the Secretary to Government, in which he applies for the same privileges as are accorded to settlers in Pegu, the right to all the wood excepting Teak, growing on the Estate which has been made over to him for a term of years.

2. With reference to the statement in paragraph 2 that measures have been recently taken to levy a tax on every load of timber from Siddapoor, I have the honor to state that since the commencement of last year a general tax of one Rupee per bandy load for ordinary timber, and two Rupees per load for Teak, has been levied throughout the District, in order to prevent the previous indiscriminate felling of the Nullamulla forests. The measure had no special reference to Siddapoor.

3. As appealed to in paragraph 6 of Captain Nelson's letter, I have no hesitation in stating that I consider his enterprise one of the highest usefulness to the Nomad population that have hitherto wandered through the jungles in which he has settled, and a few of whom he has re-claimed. The continued unhealthiness of the station, forces me to speak with less confidence of the probability of his permanently restoring this deserted tract of country to cultivation.

4. In his attempt Captain Nelson has sacrificed his own health, which after a long struggle he was obliged to return to England to recruit. During his enforced absence I fear that his enterprise has greatly suffered, and that when he returns to India early next year, as he has

determined to do, he will have to go over his work again from the beginning, with but little benefit beyond that of increased experience from his previous labors.

5. The Government may be satisfied that any pecuniary advantages granted to Captain Nelson, will be devoted by him sacredly to the object on which his life is cast. That object is one of unquestionable public utility, as well as of great personal risk, and under such peculiar circumstances, I venture to recommend Captain Nelson's request to the favorable consideration of the Board and Government.

6. It would of course be necessary for the sake of principle to take measures to prevent the timber on Captain Nelson's forests from being exhausted, or even felled more rapidly than the others in the District. I would suggest, therefore, that any system of taxation, or conservation adopted in the rest of the District, should be enforced in Captain Nelson's territory, but that the machinery and profits of collection should be left in his own hands. I am confident that such a privilege would never be abused by him for his mere personal profit, as his love for his jungles would restrain him, if he had no other motive.

7. As during Captain Nelson's absence from the country such a privilege granted native Manager might be liable to abuse, I would only recommend that it should be granted from the date of Captain Nelson's return to take personal charge of his Estate.

The Board of Revenue in submitting the correspondence to Government, recommended, that in consideration of the character and original terms of Captain Nelson's undertaking, and with such reservations for strictly conservancy purposes as the Conservator of Forests may desire to establish, Captain Nelson be allowed the benefit of all the timber on the Estate except Teak, Sandal and Black-wood.

2. The Board have full reliance on the singleness of Captain Nelson's intentions, and believe that the administration of the conservancy arrangements may safely be left in his hands.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

To my great regret the Governor in Council saw no sufficient grounds for conceding the privilege I sought to obtain, and which was recommended both by the Acting Collector of Kurnool, who was able personally to judge of the nature and beneficial effect of the experiment I had made, and by the Board of Revenue. The reasons upon which my request was refused are contained in the following extract from the Government Order, dated 30th January 1861.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 30th January 1861, *No.* 215.

2. The Honorable the Governor in Council sees no sufficient grounds for conceding the privilege sought by Captain Nelson. That Officer obtained permission in 1854, *to clear and cultivate the waste lands* of the tract in question free of assessment for ten years. But no manorial or Zamindari rights were conferred on him, or any rights except in the lands cleared and cultivated; the use of the term Estate to signify the whole tract of forest is therefore inappropriate. The lease was afterwards extended in 1857 for another term of ten years on half assessment; and Captain Nelson at the same time obtained the Pullari or grazing farm.

3. The tract to which Captain Nelson's application refers, is very extensive, comprising, it is believed, many thousand Acres, for the most part covered with forest. The Government fully recognize the importance of the object which Captain Nelson had in view in settling at Siddapoor, and the energy with which he has pursued that object; but they fail to see any reason for giving over to him the whole of the valuable timber on the land.

4. The forest will remain under the rules of the Conservancy Department; but Captain Nelson will be considered to be entitled to fell any timber in the *bonâ fide* prosecution of his enterprize and to use it on the spot without any charge. But all timber felled and removed for sale must pay to the Government the fee fixed by the Conservancy rules. The Board of Revenue is requested to cause this decision to be communicated to Captain Nelson.

(True Extract.)

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

I trust I may not be thought importunate or disrespectful if I earnestly request a re-consideration of this order which I believe was passed when the Governor in Council had not before him the detailed account of my situation, which I have now prepared for submission to His Excellency.

It is undoubtedly true that my position is correctly described in paragraph 2 above quoted, if it is intended to interpret literally the cowle granted to me—but I believe that it is not unreasonable to suppose that when the Government allowed me in 1854 to settle in the desolate Zemindari of Siddapoor and Peddacheroo and when they further extended my lease in 1857, they had no objection whatever to my making use of all the available produce either from cultivation or spontaneous that I could find in the jungle tract conceded to me.

Although this tract as shown by the Map appears very extensive, the greater portion of it consists of rocky hills which are utterly useless, and the rest is made up of my clearing, of grazing grounds and of uncleared dense jungle.

The Government in the order of which I most respectfully request the re-consideration, say, "that although they fully recognize the importance of the object which Captain Nelson had in in settling at Siddapoor, and the energy with which he has pursued that object; they fail to see any reason for giving over to him *the whole of the valuable timber on the Land.*"

I would respectfully urge that until my settlement at Siddapoor the timber trade had little or no value or importance. At that time, 1854, very little timber was felled. There was no security to person or property, and no traveller thought of passing over the Monteral Cunnama or through the Siddapoor jungle, without paying the Chenchuwars for a free pass and employing one or two of them as a safe conduct.

Moreover, the deadly character of the fever deterred strangers from cutting timber. All this is changed. Where the jungle was densest and where it was supposed that the water was of the worst description, I made a clearing and built my house. Where there was only a bridle path leading to the spring, there is now a broad open plain growing indigo or cereal crops. The fever is neither so frequent or so deadly as to deter natives from living round me. In short the simple experiment of clearing the jungle has changed materially the nature of the climate, of the people, and the condition of the place; even women can now go in perfect safety through the jungles where no traveller formerly passed without paying black mail.

The effect of this change has been that the Ryots of the Cuddapah, Bellary, and even Dharwar country have gradually been finding out, that after their crops are all gathered in their own country, there is no better way of employing their leisure during the hot season, than to proceed to the jungles of Siddapoor, encamp under the protection of my house and clearings, &c., to fell and transport the timber growing on the Siddapoor and Peddacheroo Zemindary.

The only advantage I at present derive from these visitors arises out of the Poolery Tax at the rate of 2 Annas per bullock. I remained five years at Siddapoor before the wood trade assumed any magnitude; now when, by the confidence inspired by my having settled in these jungles, and by the fact that this tract lies near the course of the Irrigation Company's works the common wood of these jungles (excluding Teak, Sandal and Black-wood) has become valuable, I am declared to have no claim whatever to derive any benefit from it. When I commenced my experiment, it did not occur to me that it was necessary that I should be put in formal possession of the deserted Zemindari of Siddapoor and Peddacheroo for my ten years; for I saw that this Zemindari was included on the Maps, with tracts marked "impenetrable"—yet, I did feel the fullest confidence that if life was spared me, and I succeeded in my enterprise, I should be allowed to derive all the benefits and profits I could make either by cultivation or by the cutting down and sale of the timber on the land which I was allowed to occupy; and I still trust that on a review of the circumstances of this case, the privilege I have asked, of which the Collector of Kurnool recommends the concession, and which the Board of Revenue consider reasonable, will not be refused me.

I did not specially ask for this privilege on my first settlement, because it appeared one of the natural consequences of my settlement, although not of any immediate value; but I was not making a bargain for future years—at that time all my friends considered I was recklessly throw-

ing away my life on a hopeless experiment,—I however felt no doubt that, as Government approved my design, I might leave my interests in their hands, and I still believe that if I succeed in clearing a large extent of country, and by God's blessing at the end of my lease can point to a large area of cultivated land and to flourishing villages instead of the desolate and fever-stricken tract of country, which was known as the Siddapoor and Peddacheroo Zemindary, the Government will not regret the liberality of terms which will have so essentially contributed to this result. Moreover, if my success becomes known, and if my example inclines other Englishmen to direct natives in reclaiming waste lands, I shall, I believe, have been of some use. Mine was an 'experimentum crucis.' Every thing was against me. I had only an advanced capital of 300£ and my invalid pay to carry out my designs. The spot selected was not favored by a good climate, by a neighbouring town, or a populous District. I can already say I have succeed. Others with capital and in a less difficult country may therefore confidently look forward to success in similar enterprizes.

I trust that I may be forgiven for the earnestness of this application and the constant allusions to myself and what I have done. It is in no egotistical spirit that I have dwelt upon this subject. I am heartily thankful for the blessings that have attended my efforts, and am truly sensible of the uniform aid I have received from Government through its revenue officials. It will be to me a source of deep sorrow, if by a too literal and I may be permitted to say illiberal interpretation of my lease, I am compelled to leave the scene of many years' labor, and to abandon an enterprize in the success of which I have felt so deep an interest. I venture, however, to hope that the Government will, under the circumstances detailed above, agree to the Board's recommendation as contained in Mr. Minchin's letter. I shall be happy to perform such duties of conservancy with regard to Teak, Black-wood and Sandal grown within the limits of Siddapoor and Peddacheroo, as may be considered necessary.

Should it not be considered expedient by the Government to make an entire and full exception in my favor, by allowing me the whole of the profits of the collection on all woods, except Teak, Sandal and Black-wood, felled within the Zemindari of Siddapoor and Peddacheroo, during the term of my lease, on the ground that such a course is unusual, or that it might prove an inconvenient precedent elsewhere, I would respectfully suggest that, having in view the peculiar circumstances of my case, I might be permitted to farm the Tax on all wood cut in the limits on Siddapoor and Peddacheroo Zemindary, on such favorable terms, as would leave me a reasonable profit on a trade of which I may truly state that I have been mainly the originator by establishing myself in that part of the country.

With this object I would suggest that I should pay to the Collector of Kurnool a net sum of 1,000 Rupees per annum on account of the Wood Tax on all timber other than Teak, Sandal-wood and Black-wood—of which the Government claim to be the sole proprietors—and that this advantage should be conceded to me during my present lease, subject to such revision as may seem equitable on the renewal of my lease.

I should remain charged, as are other farmers of Government taxes, with the expenses of collecting the wood tax and it would of course be a prominent interest to me to promote an enlarge the wood trade to the utmost of my ability, consistently with the due preservation of the forests.

MADRAS,
November 1st, 1861. } (Signed) F. NELSON,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 16th August 1860, No. 56:—

SIR,

1. I have considered in Council the letter from your Government No. 58, dated June 4, 1860.

2. I have perused with much interest the account of the operations of Captain Nelson in reclaiming the waste lands granted to him on the Krishna; and whilst I approve of your proceedings in regard to him, I cordially concur with the admiration expressed by you at the strength of will and resolute perseverance with which he has contended against a pestilential climate and the hardships incident to such an undertaking; and I join with you in the hope that Captain Nelson's health may be shortly so recruited as to enable him to return to reap the fruit of his labors.

3. I must add that Captain Nelson's humanity and consideration in dealing with the wild Chenchuwars merits especial commendation.

ORDER THEREON, 28th September 1860, No. 1,658.

Ordered that this Despatch be communicated to the Board of Revenue and to Captain Nelson, and that a copy of it be laid on the Editors' table.

(True Extract.)

J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 216. ORDER THEREON, 11th July 1863, No. 1,258.

1. The foregoing application from Captain Nelson has been reserved for consideration until the forests of Kurnool should be examined by the Conservator and until a decision was arrived at, in respect to the appropriation of waste lands. The Conservator's report has been received and the waste land question settled, the Government are therefore now in a position to deal definitively with Captain Nelson's case.

2. The first point is to ascertain Captain Nelson's actual position towards the Government.

3. In 1854 Captain Nelson sought—

I. Permission to reside at Siddapoor in order "to raze the jungles" and improve the country.

II. Permission to cultivate the land without restriction as to quantity at a nominal rent or rent free for ten years.

III. A grant of 3,000 Rupees to commence clearing and repair the Siddapoor tank.

4. The Government granted the 3,000 Rupees as an advance, and gave Captain Nelson permission "to clear and cultivate free of all assessment for the next ten years, or until the close of the revenue year 1865-66, the waste lands of Siddapoor and Peddacheroovoo," with the proviso that he should not interfere with the rights of any present occupants or ~~paying~~ contractors without making them compensation.

5. In 1856 Captain Nelson represented that settlers in Pegu were allowed far more favorable terms than had been conceded to him. The Government on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue granted an extension of the lease for a second term of ten years at half assessment, the full assessment to be levied thereafter.

6. In 1860 Captain Nelson addressed Government, stating that in consequence of the operations of the Irrigation Company the value of timber and bamboos on his lands was becoming of importance, and that the Collector was about to levy a tax on timber from Siddapoor. He admitted that in his original proposal "the question of timber was entirely overlooked" by him "in consequence of its then comparative worthlessness," but he asked the Government whether notwithstanding this omission, he might not be allowed "the privileges accorded to settlers in "Pegu, the right to all the wood excepting Teak growing on the estate."

7. The Government refused this request. They remarked that the permission given to Captain Nelson was "to clear and cultivate the waste lands of the tract in question," and that "no Manorial or Zamindary rights were conferred on him, or any rights, except in the lands "cleared and cultivated," and that the use of the term estate to signify the whole tract of forest is therefore inappropriate.

8. Captain Nelson admits that "his position is correctly described" in this order "if it is "intended to interpret literally the Cowle granted" to him.

9. Captain Nelson's tenure, then, is this:—He may clear and cultivate as much of the waste as he can, paying no assessment up to July 1866, and half assessment up to July 1876, when full assessment will be payable in perpetuity. He may fell any timber in the *bond fide* prosecution of his enterprise and use it on the spot without any charge, but all that he fells and removes for sale must pay seigniorage to Government.

10. Apart from Captain Nelson's admission it is highly improbable that Government would have granted 10,000 Acres without any counterstipulation whatever.

11. It is this decision of Government which Captain Nelson wishes modified. He urges that the importance of the timber trade is mainly owing to his operations in clearing unhealthy jungle and exercising a civilising influence over the jungle tribes, and he prays that if Government will not cede to him all timber except Teak, Sandal and Black-wood, they will at least make over all other timber for a net annual payment of Rupees 1,000.

12 The Conservator's report on the forests of Kurnool shows that there is still much valuable timber, and he calculates on an annual net revenue of Rupees 7,000, excluding Teak and Red Sanders which, owing to reckless felling, need conservation. The revenue returns already received show an even better result.

13. The Secretary of State has of late pressed strongly on the Government the importance of bringing forest tracts under regular conservancy, and working them by their own Officers in preference to either the renting or licensing system. The Government do not feel themselves at liberty to comply with Captain Nelson's application, it being quite clear that he is exactly in the position in which Government meant to place him, and in which he was understood to be desirous of being placed. The new Waste Lands Rules afford Captain Nelson the means of obtaining a proprietary title, if he desires such, to a moderate extent of land, and the Government will take into consideration any reasonable arrangement of the kind, which he may submit through the Collector, who will furnish him with a copy of the Rules.

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

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir. C. WOOD, Bart, Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 16th August 1860, No. 56:—

SIR,

1. I have considered in Council the letter from your Government No. 58, dated June 4, 1860.

2. I have perused with much interest the account of the operations of Captain Nelson in reclaiming the waste lands granted to him on the Krishna; and whilst I approve of your proceedings in regard to him, I cordially concur with the admiration expressed by you at the strength of will and resolute perseverance with which he has contended against a pestilential climate and the hardships incident to such on undertaking; and I join with you in the hope that Captain Nelson's health may be shortly so recruited as to enable him to return to reap the fruit of his labors.

3. I must add that Captain Nelson's humanity and consideration in dealing with the wild Chenchuvárs merits especial commendation.

ORDER THEREON, 28th *September* 1860, No. 1,658.

Ordered that this Despatch be communicated to the Board of Revenue and to Captain Nelson, and that a copy of it be laid on the Editors' table.

(True Extract.)
J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

MEMORANDUM

ON

CAPTAIN F. NELSON'S

SETTLEMENT

AT

SIDDAPOOR AND PEDDACHEROO.

MADRAS—SCOTTISH PRESS, GRANTS & CO.

Shakspeare to me. But Com-
-quation admits of. Every Settler
Capt. Nelson Stanes est. cannot
-ntry in 1854 to Clear & Culti-
-vate Land at Little Sorrow
his grant, free from Rent or
Assessment - such an
Authority could not however
be held to extend over an
unlimited Area. Though
no limits were specified
because the Country was
Almost unknown
unsurveyed, and because
it was thought advisable
to grant Capt. Nelson the
greatest possible Liberty of
action. yet some Bounds
were by the written Grant

case supplied. I would
now be for Capt. Nelson
to give a sketch of his course
during western which he
pursue to continue
his operations - shewing
approximately the area
over which he wishes his
authority given in 1864
to extend - within that
limit I should not
attempt to interfere with
Capt. Nelson operations
he may be allowed to
cut down every stick
of Timber upon it
he likes - I do not at all
approve of this policy

civilization exercised from
which called conservation
of Timber with his right
a man to cultivate his
own land in his own way.
If however Capt. Nelson
wishes to make money
by cutting & selling Govt
Timber he must be con-
tent to do so subject to
the rules which apply to
all other people trafficking
in that material

9 Nov 64

Rev 2640/14

Left Redcliffe Cottages
Received for consideration
to be read for consideration
until the Fourth
of November when it
is ordered that
the Corporation and
the Conservators and
until a decision
have arrived at, in
relation to the adop-
tion of Waterlow
The Conservators Report
have been received &
the Bradda Head Sanitary
Scheme - the Estimate
thereon in a
pamphlet to hand &
considered & the Clerk
Reported Case -
The final Report in re-
ference Cork Rock
Cottages &c &c

Sec 1861 Capt Beecher
Colonel

I Permission to locate
at Lidlafine in
the "Grazing Re-
serve" & cultivate
the Country -

II Permission to col-
lect & Convert into
Petroleum & Asphaltum
all & every Mineral Coal
or Coals fit for Steam

III Grant of Town
Rs to Commence or Survey
& dispose the Lidla-
from Town Rs -

The first Grant of
the Town Rs are in Ap-
pear and June
then permission "to
Clear & cultivate
free of all Rents -
Rents for the Rest
Lease Years or until

the close of the Next
year 1865 fb, the Next
Lease of Lidlafine
& Redda Observers,
with the proviso that
he should not in-
terfere with the Rights
of any freehold or
Customary or praying
Contractors without
Making them Compen-
-sation -

In 1866 Capt
Beecher despatched
Capt Allen as Resi-
dent at Allen in Repre-
sentation & Grant favorable terms
from had been con-
cluded with - The
first on the Recommend-
ation of the Board of
Port granted an

Extension of the
Canals for a Second
Term of 10 years
at half added -
Rent - The Rate
of Additional Tolls
to cease -

Power. He admitted
that on his original
proposal "the proceeds
of timber were to be
limited over to Real" by
deed "in consequence
of it's then circumstances
being not sufficient"
but he added that upon
further attaining his
majority, & he hoped
he & he allowed
"the principal & calls
& calls over in respect
of right & all the
proceeds excepting rent
growing on the Estate"

The pr. respondent
has agreed - They re-
mitted that the
Decision from Castle-
Eden was to clear
& cultivate the waste
lands of the Estate

in question" & that
no Timber or Tre-
mains dangerous to be
cut down or lopped
or damaged, except
in the due course of
proper cultivation" or
that the costs of the
term Estate should
be raised out of the
Proceeds in respect
appropriate"

Counsel for Petitioner ad-
mits that "his petition
is correctly described
in his order" & that
it is intended to in-
terpret literally the
words granted" & thus

Counsel for Petitioner
reserves this in his -
He may clear &
cultivate as much

annual payment of Rs 1000.

The Secretary of State in Council of Fort St George should then in like manner and to the same amount debit the Revenues of Rs 7000 — Exchequer Bills sold & Rebellion Securities obliterated —

The Revenue claims already accrued should also be taken into account —

Considering that Capt Nelson's letter was not written for the simple declaration of Wants, the most satisfactory mode of dealing with his Code Rules

be as the Govt Fort St Georges Security should be allowed a definite sum of Land in lieu of the indefinite Land which is at his disposal, & the Land claims to be settled by Commissioners to have a fixed title and be free of Proprietors — The first could be as difficult as they please in Separating & the Land and could fix their time for payment of the Purchase Money — Considering the Short Cultivating Season

by the Secy of State
on the instructions
of [illegible] &
his objection even
to the Licensing
System, such a
concession as Capt
Wilson seeks would
not be received with
favor — There seems
therefore to be no
alternative between
leaving matters as
they are — and acting
on the Waste Land
Rules.

Revenue Department

No. 1258

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 11th July 1863

Read the following letter

from Captain F. Nelson.

Submitting a memo: on his settlement at Siddapoor & Bedbecheroo & suggesting that should it be considered inexpedient to allow him the whole of the profits of the collection on all timber other than Teak, Sander & Blackwood, he may at least be allowed to pay a net sum of 1,000 Rs. per annum on account of wood tax.

(Here enter 1st November 1861)

The foregoing application from Captain Nelson has been reserved for consideration until the Forests of Kurnool should be examined by the Conservator and until a decision was arrived at in respect to the appropriation of Waste Lands. The Conservator's report has been received and the Waste Land question settled

settled - the Govt are therefore now in a position to deal definitively with Captn Nelsons case.

The first point is to ascertain Captn Nelsons actual position towards the Govt.

In 1854 Captn Nelson sought.

I Permission to reside at Siddapore in order "to raze the jungles" & improve the Country.

II Permission to cultivate the land without restriction as to quantity at a nominal rent or rent free for 10 years.

III A grant of 3,000 Rs to commence clearing & repair the Siddapoor Tank.

The Govt granted the 3,000 Rs as an advance and gave Captn Nelson permission to clear & cultivate free of all assessment for the next ten years or until the close of the Revenue year 1865/6, the Waste lands of Siddapoor and Kedda Cheroovoo; with the proviso that he should not interfere with the rights of any present occupants or engraging Contractors without making them compensation.

In 1856 Captn Nelson represented that settlers in Pegu were allowed far more favorable terms than had been conceded to him. The Govt on the recommendation of the Bd of Revenue granted an extension of the lease for a second term of 10 years at half assessment - the full assessment to be levied thereafter.

In 1860 Captn Nelson addressed Govt stating that in consequence of the operations of the Irrigation Company the

the value of timber & Bam-
boos on his lands was becoming
of importance and that Mr
Colls was about to levy a
tax on timber from Siddapoor.
He admitted that in his ori-
ginal proposal the question of
timber was entirely overlooked
by him "in consequence of its
then comparative worthlessness."
but he asked the Govt whether
notwithstanding this omission,
he might not be allowed "the
privileges accorded to settlers in
Pegu - the right to all the wood
except Teak growing on the
Estate."

The Government re-
fused this request. They
remarked that the per-
mission given to Captain
Nelson was "to clear
and cultivate the waste
lands of the tract

in

15

question" - and
that "no manorial or
Zamindary rights were
conferred on him, or
any rights, except in
the lands cleared
and cultivated" - and
that the use of the
term Estate to designate
the whole tract
of forest is therefore
inappropriate -

Captain Nelson
admits that "his
position is correctly
described" in this order
"if it is intended to in-
terpret literally the
words granted" to him.

Captain Nelson's
tenure then is this -
He may clear and
cultivate as much
of the waste as he
can paying rent as assess-
ment up to July 1866.
and half assess-
ment up to July 1876 -
when full assessment
will

will be payable in perpetuity – He may fell any timber for the bonâ fide prosecution of his enterprise and use it on the spot without any charge but all that he fells and removes for sale must pay Seigniorage to Govt –

Apart from Captain Nelson's admission it is highly improbable that Govt would have granted 40,000 acres without any counterstipulation whatever –

It is this decision of Govt which Captain Nelson wishes modified – He urges that the importance of the timber trade is mainly owing to his operations in clearing unhealthy jungle and exercising a civilising

civilising influence over the jungle tribes and he prays that if Govt will not see fit to limit all timbers except Teak, Sandal and Blackwood they will at least make over all other timbers for a net annual payment of Rd 1000 –

The Conservator's report on the Forests of Kurnool shows that there is still much valuable timber and he calculates on an annual net revenue of Rupees 7,000 – excluding Teak and Red Sanders which owing to reckless felling need conservation – The revenue returns already received show an even better result –

The Secretary of State has of late pressed strongly on the Govt the importance of

(6)

of bringing forest
tracts under regular
conservancy and work=
=ing them by their e=
own officers in pre=
=ference to either the
existing or licensing sys=
=tem: The Govt do not
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Captain Nelson's appli=
=cation - it being quite
clear that he is exactly
in the position in which
Government meant
to place him and in
which he was under=
=stood to be desirous
of being placed - The
new Waste Lands rules
afford Captain Nelson
the means of obtaining
a proprietary title -
if he desires such - to
a moderate extent of
land - and the Govt
will take into con=
=sideration any e=
reasonable

(7)

reasonable arrange=
=ment of the kind which
he may submit through
the Collector who will e=
furnish him with a
copy of the rules -

14 Copies Letter Post Cost 2s
4 — Conservancy Forests
1 — Colonial Surveyor
1 — Capt. F. Nelson

Revenue 1863 Dep.t
Rec.d from Govt for July

No 1258.

Rec.d from the Madras Govt
dated 11th July 1863.

Rec.d Board of Revenue. May/61
C. 1420.

74.

Captain Nelson's
request to be allowed
to pay a return of
Rupees 1,000 per annum
on account of wood cess
at Veddapoon and
Vedacheroo negatived.

No 215 & 216.