

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

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| Dated    | 17. 9.  | <del>19</del> 18.63 |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
17th September 1863.*

No. 223. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Salem, 12th September 1863, No. 681 :—

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter No. 607 of the 25th of July 1863, and in answer to the Government Order No. 1,460 of the 6th of August last, I have the honor to submit the following report.

2. The forests of this District may be said to be divided into three principle divisions, first the Denkencottah division ; second the Salem and South Arcot ; and third the Javadie hills.

3. The forests of the two latter divisions are very scattered and straggling, and much interspersed with cultivation and villages and with Mootahs held by Natives which contain forest land. If we attempted to mark all the trees systematically in these two divisions we should require a much larger Establishment than the timber revenue can afford. As the outlets are very numerous our present Establishment, which is a large one, is fully occupied in preventing smuggling and in checking licenses as the timber passes the Tannah Stations.

4. With regard to the first division (the Denkencottah side), we might, with a small increase to our present Establishment, be able to mark the trees ; but, as we have an Overseer and Establishment in this District superintending the Sandal-wood operations, I propose attempting to work these forests systematically. If Government, therefore, will sanction this, I will put a stop to the license system except for bamboos and firewood, and order my Assistant to work this District ; this plan might be tried for one year. The demand for licenses is not very great, and the public would not be put to much inconvenience if the granting of these was stopped. Our Department might hold periodical auctions at Dharampuri and Oosoor, the two principal markets : little or no expense would be necessary in plant ; but the purchase of a few pair of buffaloes, and the erection of a few sheds as depôts would be necessary.

5. With regard to our Department working the two latter Districts, I consider there are great obstacles, and the Establishment required would be large. I have mentioned that there are Mootahs held by Natives in these divisions ; the Mootahdars grant licenses to fell timber at mere nominal rates, and much timber is undoubtedly cut on Government land and passed with these licenses, and it would be impossible to thoroughly put a stop to this ; these Mootahdars themselves make very little by their timber, and several of them are willing to lease their Mootahs at a very reasonable price. My Assistant is in communication with the Collector on the subject, and I hope that they may all be persuaded to lease their forest lands ; if so, we should then have the whole timber trade in our hands, and I should not despair of being able eventually to introduce the working system into these Districts. It is more, however, than the Department could undertake all at once, and the public would be put to very great inconvenience if licenses were suddenly put a stop to. If however the system is found to succeed in the Denkencottah division, and we can lease the Mootahs abovementioned, the system might be introduced into the Salem and South Arcot division and ultimately into the third division.

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 17th September 1863, No. 1,711.

The Acting Conservator is authorized to work the Denkencottah forests as proposed. He will report the result of his negotiations with the Mootahdars of the other divisions and meanwhile the present system will be continued.

(True Extract.)

*Secretary to Government.*

To the Conservator of Forests.  
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

to introduce the working system into these districts, it is more however than the department could undertake all at once, and the public would be put to very great inconvenience if licences were suddenly put a stop to, if however the system is found to succeed in the Benhincocks Division, and we can lease the Mootaks above-mentioned, the system might be introduced into the Salem and South West Division and ultimately into the 3<sup>rd</sup> division.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient servant

J. W. Addome Capt.  
Offg. Conservator of Forests

