

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,
18th June 1864.*

No. 234.

Read the following letters :—

From Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Ootacamund, 11th April 1864, No. 878.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Government Order No. 522 of the 30th of March 1864, and to paragraph 4 of No. 576 of the 5th of April, I have the honor to inform you that I have inspected the Lamb's Rock Shola. The Shola is of large extent and contains upwards of a hundred Acres of fine forest, this Shola has been reserved as a supply for firewood for the Barracks at Wellington and the site has consequently been refused for [Coffee planting. There is a fair road to the Shola both from Coonoor and Wellington. It is a considerable distance from either of these places, and there was no object in reserving the Shola except for its firewood. Felling has been carried on in it for several years. The firewood and charcoal Contractor for the Wellington Barracks paid 1,000 Rupees for the right of felling in it for 1863-64, and about 12 or 1,500 bandy-loads of firewood have been removed during this year. Several Acres (perhaps 20) of the upper portion of the Shola is the extent of the felling that has taken place altogether since operations commenced; many trees, however, have been left standing, though in some parts not as many as there ought to have been; no trees have been felled on the banks of the larger stream through the Shola, though a good many have been felled on the banks of a smaller stream (a feeder to the large one), this is strictly against our rules; but it is very difficult to keep the charcoal burners away from the water. Looking down upon the Shola from the hill above it (just over Mr. Mann's Tea plantation) it is difficult to see that any felling has taken place, and I expect that the Collector has reported from hear-say, and not from personal observation, or he could hardly have reported that the Shola was almost destroyed, or the water supply likely to be dried up.

2. I consider that this Shola should be kept as a firewood reserve for the Barracks at Wellington and for Coonoor, much firewood is brought to both of these places from Coffee Plantations and other sources, the present demand therefore is not very large, and in 1864-65 the Australian Plantations will supply about 500 bandy-loads of firewood from thinnings, so that we shall only therefore require about 1,000 bandy-loads of timber from this Shola. I have given orders that a certain number of trees shall be left standing to each Acre, so that the Shola will renew itself, and no trees will on any account be felled on the banks of the streams through the Shola.

3. The large Shola adjoining Mr. Mann's Tea Plantation was felled by the Barracks some years since, a good many trees were left standing to the Acre, and the Shola is now renewing itself rapidly. Some portions of this Shola are very thick and were not felled at all, in other portions dead trees required to be moved; the Shola is still the property of the Barracks, and was not handed over to the Forest Conservancy Department when the rest of the Sholas and the plantation were made over, with a view to its being properly conserved, judiciously thinned, and the dead wood removed, I should recommend that it be at once handed over to the Conservancy Department.

4. I should not recommend that the Lamb's Rock Shola be systematically planted with Australians, it is too far off, and it would be more profitable to extend our plantations near Wellington and Coonoor; it will be better I think to leave a certain number of trees standing to the Acre and the Shola will then renew itself as the Tea Plantation Shola is now doing. A few Australians may from time to time be put down where any permanent gaps occur, its picturesqueness and beauty will then be preserved, which they would not be if it was turned into a regular plantation, there must be still nearly a hundred Acres of untouched forest, and it will be a good many years before the whole of it is even thinned.

5. With regard to the remarks contained in the Government Order No. 576, I am of opinion that we cannot be too strict in enforcing our rules for the preservation of strips of forest

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on the banks of springs and streams, these undoubtedly suffer considerably when exposed to the sun and dry air; Coffee planters seldom give sufficient attention to this important fact, and they grudge the land. I am not however of opinion that any felling that is likely to take place on the Neilgherries will ever seriously affect the rain fall; these mountains always attract a very large amount of rain, and the rule applies more to the plains than to mountains; the rain fall last year was greater both in the Neilgherries and in Wynad than has been known for many years, and the clearings of forest in the latter District have been very extensive during the last two years. The rain fall in the Coimbatore District (as far as the plains are concerned) is always very small, but the reason is that almost all the rain is attracted to the mountains, i. e., the Neilgherries, Coimbatore Hills and the Anamallays.

No. 235. From Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Ootacamund, 12th April 1864, No. 880.

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, I have the honor to forward copies of a report and a letter from the Assistant Conservator of the Neilgherry Sholas in reference to the alleged destruction of the Lamb's Rock Shola.

2. As there is a distinct clause in the Contractor's Agreement prohibiting the felling of any trees on the banks of streams, he will be fined for each tree that has been felled during the past year on the banks of the small stream alluded to, this I trust will prevent a similar occurrence in future.

No. 236. From Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Ootacamund, 20th April 1864, No. 892.

SIR,

With reference to your Official Memorandum No. 60 of the 15th instant, I have the honor to forward you a copy of the Firewood and Charcoal Contracts alluded to.

No. 237. ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1864, No. 1,052.

Forest.

The Conservator will strictly enforce the terms of the Contract, and arrange for frequent and close supervision of the Contractor's proceedings. The Government do not see why the Conservancy cannot have the trees which the Contractor is to fell, previously marked. They look to Captain Beddome to prevent the Shola in question being injured.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rules to be adopted by the purchaser of the right to cut wood in the Sholah granted for that purpose for sale at Coonoor and Wellington.

1. The sale to be for the supply of one year's firewood and charcoal to the Stations and not more than 600 Ready loads of wood and 100 Bags of Charcoal will be permitted to remain in store at the expirations of the Contract.

2. The amount of purchase money shall be paid in 12 monthly instalments, the first of which shall be payable on the 1st May 1863 the remaining ones on the 1st of each month for which they are due. A Deposit of Rupees 200/ Two hundred (to be forfeited in case of breach of Contract) shall be paid down at once and remain as Deposit until the conclusion of the contract.

3. The Contractor shall bind himself to sell wood at the Sholah by the side of the road at not higher than the following Rates.

Rates High.

12. Annas for an ordinary Sandy load of 30 Maunds
2 — D. — D. Kulluk D. of 5 — D.
2 — Rice — D. Booby — of 2 — D.
and Charcoal 10 Annas for bag 1/2. Heaped
Pans delivered at either of the Stations —

14. If purchasers require their bundles
to be loaded an extra charge of one anna
per Maundy shall be permitted.

5 The Apts. Govt. shall have the
power of annulling this contract if the
conditions are not fairly carried out and
the Contractor shall further forfeit his
Deposit of Rupees 200.

6. The Contractor shall sign this
paper as agreeing to all the terms herein contained.

7. The Contractor shall be at liberty
to sell wood from the 1st May 1863 to 30th April 1864.

8. The cutting shall only be in
such parts of the Sholah as are pointed out
to the Contractor, and care shall be taken
not to injure the reserved Trees.

9. Government having directed that the
Trees on the banks of all streams are to be
preserved

preserved, the Contractor must bear in mind
that he is not to cut any Trees in the neigh-
bourhood of water, and should he do so he
will forfeit his Deposit and be liable
to lose his contract.

10. Trees must be felled at not more
than 2 feet from the ground, no topping
of Trees can be allowed unless just pre-
vious to felling the Trees.

11. The sale of poles will not be al-
lowed but building materials such as planks
and rafters may be sold.

12. No monopoly can be allowed.

Attest

6th March 1863.

W. H. R. Morgan Esq.

Chief Magistrate of Kithling Sholah

I agree to the above terms.

W. H. R. Morgan Esq.

W. H. R. Morgan Esq.

March 25th

1863.

Witness

W. H. R. Morgan Esq.

W. H. R. Morgan Esq.

Brought for Rupees 1000 by Rungiah Pillay

Extra Articles.

13. The Sholah road will be repaired at the Government expense.

14. A reduction will be made if the troops are moved before the expiration of the Contract.

W. R. Morgan Major

True Copy

W. R. Morgan Major

In charge of Kelgherry Sholah.

In a letter from the
Officer Commanding of the
dated 20th April 1864. No 923
Rev. 1052/64.

to copy of Sholah and
classical contract
forwarded to the
Officer Commanding of the
by the Officer in charge
of the Kelgherry Sholah

18th June 1864
236

No 98.

Obtained April 9th 1864

From

Major Morgan.
In charge of Kelgherry Sholah

Captain Reddome
In charge of Kelgherry Sholah

to

In reply to the order of Government No
576 of 5th April 1864. I have the honor to report as follows

2. In para 4 Government is under the impression
that Landis Rock Sholah "has been almost destroyed". I
and this Sholah in the 7th instant in company with you, and
you saw that no trees had been felled on the main stream,
and but a few on the southern or smaller stream, in fact,
so far from the Sholah having been almost destroyed,
not one fifth of the Sholah has been cut down, and so
thick does the "Hydnocarpus" tree grow, that the damage
done by felling will soon be repaired, I would here point
out, that it is impossible to fell firewood in a Sholah
without doing some damage, and this Sholah is the only
available one for the supply of Wellington and Coonoor.

3. It appears to me that Colonel Woodfall must
have been the collector's informant, as he has twice applied
for this very Sholah to fell for coffee, and I have twice

raised it.

4. The only "Protection" of Government Forests that I am aware of is committed by Europeans who are continually encroaching upon Sholas, and this I have brought to the Collector's notice, also the fact that the punishment given by the Sub-Magistrate, is quite inadequate, the present charge of Protection of Government Forests is the only specific one that I am aware of, if there have been vague complaints I am not aware of them.

5. With regard to the rainfall of the plains of Coimbatore, being dependent upon the Forests on these hills, I have a few remarks to offer, and trust that my long practical experience of these matters will prove my excuse.

6. Three years ago, water sold by the Whatty in the Polachi district, and Polachi is only twenty miles from the Namallay, and the forests on these hills are exactly in the same state now, as they were a thousand years ago. Any one who knows the dry and arid country of Coimbatore, would see at a glance, that no amount of Forests on these hills could increase the rainfall 30 miles away in the plains. For instance, on the Western face of Kopalasing mountain, there is a rainfall of eighty inches, on the Eastern face near Gondupeti the rainfall is scarce forty inches and yet the distance is not ten miles, and scrub jungle intervening. Again the rainfall in Coorg last year was two hundred and fifty inches, but in the low country

of Mysore much as usual or some forty inches and that at a distance of some 30 miles from the Coorg hills.

7. Nothing can possibly increase the rainfall of the Coimbatore country, but vast sheets of water, each not less than a square mile in extent, in which the water should be carefully preserved, the waters being encouraged to grow to prevent evaporation, and the rear of the trunks heavily planted with coconuts, Tamarinds. ^{By tanks and trees} Popul, ^{By tanks and trees} and other trees, thus combined rainfall is attracted and local moisture kept up.

8. - If it rained here as it does in Coorg, Coimbatore would never receive more than its 20 inches annually, because it does not contain the means of attracting rain within itself.

9. In Malabar 120 inches is considered only an average rain fall, whereas in Coimbatore 20 inches is considered good the simple reason of this difference being, that Malabar receives the South west monsoon, and if the Forests on these hills extended over their length and breadth Coimbatore never then could not receive the South west monsoon, in fact the hills form a barrier to the flat country of Coimbatore receiving the monsoon, the greater the forest here, the less the rain fall at Coimbatore, or in other words, the more the moisture attracting power here, the less will be the moisture left for Coimbatore.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Com. Mos. Robinson
Signed/ H. B. Morgan Mgr.

True copy.

P. B. Beddome Captain

Offy. Conservator of Forests.

Colacumid. April 10th 1862.

To

From

Major H. B. Morgan
In charge of Putgherry Sholas.

Captain Beddome.
Acting Conservator.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you, that
in looking over the Forewood Contractors agreement;
I find that the felling of any trees on the banks of streams
is forbidden under a penalty of 100 rupees of deposit money,
and as the Contractor has felled some trees on the southern
stream of the Sholah I have directed the Officer to com-
pound, and shall levy a fine for every tree felled. Some
of the trees were felled more than three years ago.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours faithfully,

Signed/ H. B. Morgan Mgr.
In charge of Putgherry Sholas.

True copy

P. B. Beddome Captain

Offy. Conservator of Forests.

Reference to.

Dec 29 64/64.

Dear Sir, I have the pleasure
to inform you that the
Government of India has
been decided 12th June 1864

Yours faithfully,
C. W. W.
12th June 1864

Indians ch.

Reverend Mr. B.

In a letter from the
Honorable Secy to the
Treasury to Genl. B. R.
No 850 dated 12th April 1844.

1844
C. B. R.
1844

