M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-8-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1219 Press Mis.

204 205

Dated 12-7- 18 84

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 204. 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 March 1864, No. 15:—

SIR,

1. I have had under my consideration in Council, the letter from your Excellency in Council, numbered 94, and dated the 2nd September last, transmitting the Report of the Acting Conservator of Forests for the year 1862-63, and acknowledging and replying to my Despatch, numbered 14, of the 24th April 1863.

2. Although the actual receipts are only Rupees 6,565-9-0, yet, the value of the timber in hand amounted to Rupees 1,86,808-7-0 more than that left in hand from the previous year, making Rupees 1,93,374 fairly to be ascribed as the profit of the Department for this year. In many of the forests the profit was very considerable. In Goomsur, the amount was small, and there was hardly any excess of actual receipts in Madura; but the former forest has but lately been taken under conservancy, and in the latter there was a good supply of timber in hand

	Excess of Expenditure.	Value of Timber in Depôt.
	Rs.	Rs.
Annamallai	33,764	2,60,571
Wynaad	6,744	18,678
Hoonsoor	1,999	6,454

In the three forests, Annamallai, Wynaad, and Hoonsoor, the deficiency in actual receipts was far more than counterbalanced by the value of timber in hand. This timber, there seems to have been good reason for not throwing upon the market during that season. The Australian Plantations in the Neilgherry Sholas, and the Wellington Plantation, show a deficit, but you anticipate, in future, a profit from the former, and the failure of the latter has been owing, chiefly, to mismanagement, especially in the selection of soil and situation. You have, *I think*, judged wisely in allowing this experiment to be continued, at a small outlay, for another year. I concur with you, also, in your remarks, in paragraph 30 of your Order of the 12th August, that when the existing contract expires, the present mode of dealing with the firewood Plantations must be re-considered; and no system pursued which is repressive of private enterprise. Government should exercise due care in the conservation of the forests, but it is not their business, as you justly remark, to grow firewood, nor should they, by any arrangement, interfere with the prices of timber.

3. You will not fail to have remarked the useful suggestions of General Cotton, in the enclosure to my Despatch of the 16th January, No. 4 of this year, on the mode of conveying firewood, and also of economizing it, given from that Officer's experience in China.

4. The continued success of the Nellumboor Plantations, now under the charge of Mr. Ferguson, is very gratifying.

5. I am glad to see that in the four Districts of Madura, North Arcot, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, mentioned in the report of the previous year as only just taken into conservancy, there is a very fair return, either in money or in timber, or in both. Mr. Spring's Report is, as you observe, creditable to him. It appears that you have asked for further information as to the garden cultivation of Chinna Chellama Reddi. Should it prove as useful and meritorious as has been represented, some notice of it by your Government, as suggested by Mr. Spring, seems to be advisable, as an encouragement to himself and others.

	Excess of Receipts.	Timber in hand.
	Rs.	Rs.
Madura	6	4,421
Cuddapah	7,259	400
North Arcot	1,041	0
Kurnool	5,538	300

6. The lease of the Chenat Nair forest, at a much higher seignorage on the timber, with the reservation of the teak and black-wood, seems an advantageous arrangement.

7. It is gratifying to learn that Coomery [illegible] disappeared. With reference, however, to this mode of cultivation, I forward herewith an extract from a letter received by me from an Indian Officer. The statements which you have forwarded to me from time to time from

Dr. Cleghorn and other persons whose opinions were entitled to weight, are entirely opposed to the opinions expressed in this extract, nevertheless the question is so important that I think it expedient that a further enquiry should be instituted in the forest Districts of your Presidency as to whether there are any good grounds for inferring that the prevention of this practice has increased the prevalence of fever in any instance.

8. I am glad to perceive that you called attention to the girdling of trees in South Canara. On the receipt of the Forest Report of the previous year from Madras, I referred this point to the Government of India for communication to Dr. Brandis, but have not yet received information upon it. You will forward to me the reply to your inquiry.

9. You ultimately allowed Captain Beddome to issue his revised Conservancy Rules. From a letter from the Government of India, I learn that those rules have been under the consideration of Drs. Cleghorn and Brandis, and that their remarks were submitted for your opinion. From your Proceedings of the 12th November last (Nos. 153 and 154), it appears that you have taken steps to obtain opinions upon the rules; and have called for an explanation of their having been sent to Dr. Cleghorn without your knowledge.

10. This report appears to me very satisfactory. The excess of actual receipts over expenditure is not large, but the value of timber unsold is very much in excess of that in the previous year; so that, altogether, the profit of the year falls little below two lacs. But that which seems to me most satisfactory, is the evidence which the reports of the Acting Conservator and of his subordinate Officers afford, that the forests have been put upon a sound footing of conservancy, from which, not only constantly increasing profits may be looked for, but the attainment of the main object, the preservation of the forests in a condition to supply not only the present wants of the Empire, but those of future generations, is secured.

11. I cannot close this review without expressing my obligations to your Excellency in Council for the interest taken by you in this important question, and for the attention paid by you to the suggestions of my Despatch to which you reply. The measures adopted by you seem fully to meet the circumstances on all the points to which your attention was directed. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, I transmit to you a copy of a Despatch which I addressed to the Government of India on the 15th August last (No. 23), by paragraph 3 of which you will perceive that I have informed that Government that the administration of the forests of your Presidency is to be left, as hitherto, entirely to your Government.

12. I take this opportunity of replying to your letter numbered 1, and dated the 11th January in which you ask for my approval of the measures adopted by you to form a small plantation under the superintendence of Mr. McIvor, for the supply of Tea seed to persons desirous of engaging in the cultivation of that plant. This project, I perceive, from the papers on your Proceedings of the 30th November last, which should have been included among the enclosures to this letter, originated in a suggestion of your Government, made in consequence of several applications to the Collector for a supply of seed. The difficulty of obtaining seed sufficiently fresh to germinate, when it has to be brought from the North-Western Provinces, and the fact that the plantations in that quarter are about to be disposed of, make this project very desirable; and I approve of your Proceedings for accomplishing it. Mr. McIvor will of course make regular reports to you of the seed sown, the number of shrubs obtained, and the seed sold, that you may be able to ascertain the exact expenditure and receipts connected with this experiment. Captain Beddome's favourable report (paragraph 79) of the plantations of Captain Mann and Mr. Rae and of the value of the Tea already manufactured on them, justify such an encouragement to the growers of Tea on the Neilgherries. You have called, I observe, for a more detailed report of these plantations from the Collector, which you will, of course, transmit to me when received.

13. The matter relating to the Chinchona plantations will be dealt with in my Public Despatches.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th July 1864.

No. 205.

Forests, No.

ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1864, No. 1,219.

1. Communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Officiating Conservator of Forests, with reference to the Proceedings of Government 4th July and 12th August 1863, Nos. 1,191 and 1,484.

2. Referring to paragraph 3 of this Despatch it is observed that General Cotton's suggestion therein alluded to in respect to the economizing of fuel has been referred* to Dr. Duff for report. On that Officer's further suggestion for the opening of small canals for the conveyance of firewood with the view of reducing the cost of carriage, no special orders are called for at present.

* G. O. 11th March 1864, No. 427, paragraph 5.

3. Chinna Chellama Reddy's garden mentioned in paragraph 5 has formed the subject of the further correspondence marginally noted, and his exertions in connection therewith have been favourably noticed by Government in Proceedings 28th September 1863, No. 1,779.

From Officiating Conservator, 15th September 1863.
G. O. 28th September 1863, No. 1,779.
From Collector of Cuddapah, 30th November 1863.
G. O. 14th December 1863, No. 2,278.

4. The special attention of the Board of Revenue will be called to paragraph 7, and to the Extract from Major Shower's letter therewith forwarded, and they will be requested, in communication with the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to make the necessary enquiries on the point therein referred to, and report the result. They will also communicate with the Principal Inspector General of the Medical Department on the subject.

5. In paragraph 23 of their Proceedings 12th August 1863, No. 1,484, the Government in reference to the circumstance that 1,000 trees were girdled in South Canara during 1862-63, observed that they were under the impression that this practice had been discontinued as injurious to the timber. The Officiating Conservator will be desired to forward such explanation as he may have to offer in reference to this remark, for communication to the Secretary of State, as required in paragraph 8.

6. Adverting to paragraph 9 it is observed that the remarks of this Government on the Notes by Drs. Cleghorn and Brandis on the Forest Rules of this Presidency were communicated to the Government of India in letter dated 3rd February 1864, No. 189.

7. On the point noticed in the last sentence of paragraph 11, the Government have had occasion to address the Government of India in letter of this day's date No. 1,214, copy of which will be forwarded to the Home Government.

8. Paragraphs 12 and 13 will be communicated to Mr. McIvor, with instructions to submit in due course reports of the nature indicated in paragraph 12.

9. With reference to the last sentence of paragraph 12, the Government resolve to call the attention of the Collector of Coimbatore to paragraph 38 of their Proceedings 12th August 1863, No. 1,484, and to request that Officer to expedite the submission of the report on the Tea Plantations of Messrs. Mann and Rae therein required.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
„ the Principal Inspector General Medical Department.
„ Dr. Duff.
„ Mr. McIvor.
„ the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Departments

Fr. 1219.

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 12th July 1864 -

Read the following despatch from the Right Honorable the Secy. of State for India -

Reviewing the Forest Report of this Presidency for 1862/63 - } (Rece. Secr. 24 th March 1864, No 165 -

Communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Offg. Conservator of Forests with reference to the Proceedings of Govt. dated 12th July 1864 No 1191 & 1484 -

Referring to para 3 of the despatch and ordering that Govt. shall suggest in the event of any reduction of the Establishment being effected

× Lr. 11th March 1865 No 427 para 6 - [illegible] for report - On that officer's

officers further suggestion for the opening of small canals for the conveyance of firewood with the view of reducing the cost of carriage, no special orders are called for at present.

3. Should the Bellanca Reddys garden mentioned in para 5 has formed the subject of the further correspondence marginally noted, and his exertions in connection therewith have been favorably noticed by Govt in Govt: 28 September 1863, No 1779.

4. The special attention of the Board of Revenue will be called to para 7, and to the letter from Major Showers herewith forwarded, and they will be requested, in communication with the Conservator of Forests, to make the necessary enquiries on the point thereon

From off Govr 16th Sept 1863.
G.O. 28th Oct No 1779.
From Coll Cuddapah
30th Nov 1863.
G.O. 14th Dec — No 2278.

thereon referred to, and report the result. They will also communicate with the Principal Inspector General of the Medical department on the subject.

5 In para 23 of their Proceedings 12th August 1863 No 1484 the Govt in reference to the circumstance that 1000 trees were girdled in South Canara during 1862/63, observed that they were under the impression that this practice had been discontinued as injurious to the timber. The Conservator will be desired to forward such explanation as he may have to offer in reference to their remark, for communication to the Govt of India, as required in para 5.

6. Adverting to para 9 etc, observe that the remar

remarks of this Govt on the Notes by Mr Fleg-horn and Saunders on the Forests under of this Residency were communicated to the Govt of India in letter dated 3d February 1864 No 189.

7. On the point noticed in the last sentence of para 11, the Govt have had occasion to address the Govt of India in letter of this day's date No 1242, copy of which will be forwarded to the Home Govt.

8. Paras 12 and 13 will be communicated to Mr Mc Ivor, with instructions to submit in due course reports of the nature indicated in para 12.

9. With reference to the last sentence of para 12, the Govt confine to call the attention of the Collector

Collector of Coimbatore to para 38 of this Govt letter dated 12th August 1863 No 1484, and to request that officer to expedite the submission of the report on the Sea Customs of Messrs Mann and Roe therein required.

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4 — Offg Conservator Travancore
3 — Dr Lawder Gard Madras Govt
1 — Dr Duff
1 — Mr Mc Ivor
1 — Collector Coimbatore

1863
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Rec.d Consultation 28th July

Rec.d of Govt for 2 July

Fo 219.

Rec.d of the Madras Govt

of 12th July 64.

From the Govt of Fort St George

Forwarded 24th August 64

Fo 222

Rec.d of Rev.e 28th July 64

Fo 223

Rec.d Board of Rev.e &c. Madras 1864

Fo 231

From the Govt of Coromandel

& Madura 1863-

Passing order on the

Despatch from the Secy.

of State on the Report of the

Conservator of Forests for

1862-63.

Fo 204 & 205.