M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1689 Press ~~Mis.~~

379.380

Dated 21 — 7 — 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

025

No. 379. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp, Coimbatore, 10th June 1865, No. 1,312:—

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government Order No. 215 of the 4th of February, I have the honor to inform you that we have very large Teak plantations at Nellumbur, and that upwards of a lac of trees are now put down annually. Similar Teak plantations, and plantations of Black-wood have now been commenced in Mudumallay and South Canara, and Sandal-wood plantations have been commenced in Seegoor; it does not seem desirable to attempt Teak plantations at present on the Anamallays or in Wynad, though Teak would grow well in both these places, as they are both very inaccessible and very feverish, and labor is procured with difficulty. Large plantations of Australian trees, both firewood and building timber yielding trees, have been commenced on the Neilgherries, and similar operations have been commenced to a small extent on the Pulney Hills (in Madura). In all the above localities planting is comparatively easy, as the rain-fall is considerable, and dry heat not excessive.

2. In our drier Districts of Salem and South Arcot, Cuddapah, and North Arcot, Kurnool, and Gumsoor, little or nothing has as yet been attempted, as planting is attended with great difficulties, and I am of opinion that we must always look to the conservancy of the standing timber and saplings rather than to planting, and that the strictness of the Rules must be regulated in each District according to the condition of the Forests and the demand for timber; the rules for instance should be far stricter in Salem and Cuddapah, where the forests are being denuded, than in Districts like South Canara or Goomsur, where the extent of forest is very great.

3. In Cuddapah a commencement has been made, and plantations of Red Sanders and of Maddi (Terminalia) and wild Mangoe have been formed, and an attempt has been made at planting out the Tumà (Acacia Arabica) as firewood. Planting is not required in Goomsur or Kurnool, as there is an enormous supply of timber in both these Districts which, with ordinary conservancy, must last for many years.

4. In Kurnool the Nallay Mallays contain about 2,000 square miles of forest, large portions of which have never even been penetrated by wood-cutters, and there is a large extent of firewood jungles in the plains. In Cuddapah and Salem, and particularly in the latter, firewood plantation might be formed. I do not think they would answer unless attempted on a considerable scale; and if this is the wish of Government, I think that one or two skilled cultivators (men of the gardener class) should be procured from England or Scotland; our Establishments are small, and our Assistants and Overseers are very fully engaged in forest operations and general conservancy, and very few of them know any thing about planting, and to plant successfully, and at the same time economically, is quite an art. In all our Districts it is only the reserved trees that are conserved, and not allowed to be felled until they attain a certain girth, this is only a list of some 8 or 10 out of 80 or 100 different kinds, all the unreserved sorts being felled, as mere saplings often only an inch or two in diameter, many of these latter yield very fine timber. It is certain, therefore, that hundreds of thousands of saplings are cut annually in each District, as in addition to the jungle-wood licenses, every Ryot is allowed to cut without any payment or license. In Kurnool, for instance, there are five Talooks, and my Assistant estimates that there are 100 villages in each Talook, and that the average number of Ryots to each village is 30, and that each Ryot has two bandies of timber annually without payment, this gives an average of 30,000 bandies of wood every year, and when we know that by far the larger portion are bandy loads of saplings 30 or 40 to a bandy, it is evident that several hundred thousand saplings must be felled annually in the District. These saplings are used chiefly for agricultural

purposes and for house building, and I know that Collectors of Districts would be averse to any restriction being put upon the felling of jungle-wood saplings; stricter conservancy could, however, be introduced in Districts where it is required, and a large expense in planting can hardly be called for where the annual waste is so great. Salem and Cuddapah are the two Districts that have suffered most from the axe, and these have certainly suffered to a considerable extent, people however who have never left a high road or line of rail, often write upon this subject, and I know that the reports are generally exaggerated.

5. In accordance with Government Proceedings No. 410 of the 23rd February, paragraph 9, I have forwarded packets of seed of the three Australian Acacias that flourish so well on the Neilgherries, (A. Melanoxylon, Dealbata, and Loptanta) both to the Collector and the Forest Establishment at Kurnool, for trial on the Nallay Mallays. I do not expect that they will answer, as the highest parts of the range are only the same elevation as Bangalore, and the climate is drier. It would not of course answer to grow fire-wood on the tops of the Nallay Mallays, as there is no demand there, and the expense of bringing it down to the plains would be very great. The supply of firewood besides in the District is, for the present state of the population, quite inexhaustible.

No. 380. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1865, No. 1,689.

Forests, No. 11.

1. The Government consider that the Forest Department should keep steadily in view the *renewal* of timber forests, from felling which a revenue is now derived, and that the attention of the District Superintendents should be directed to the establishment of nurseries of any rare and valuable timber trees peculiar to their respective ranges, but apparently suitable for many other localities, in view to their wider distribution through the agency of the Revenue Department.

2. The Sâl, for instance, might probably be propagated far beyond the limits of its present range, and the same with some of the varieties of Black-wood. Improvements of this kind should be constantly kept in view by the Department.

3. The Government cannot permit any withdrawal of the common rights of villagers in the unreclaimed portions of their villages. Any attempt of the kind would be as impolitic as unjust.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2

Revenue Department.-

No. 1689.

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 21st July 1865.-

Read the following letter from the Offg. Conr. of Forests.-

Forwarding Sacpla-nations called for in G.O. No. 215 of 4th Feby. and 361 of 23d Feby. 1865.-

(Here enter 11th June 1865, No. 1312)

The Govt. consider that the Forest Department should keep steadily in view the renewal of timber forests, from felling which a revenue is now derived, and that the attention of the Superintendents should be directed to the establishment of nurseries of any rare and valuable timber trees peculiar to their respective ranges but apparently suitable for many other localities, in view to their wider distribution through the agency of the Revenue Department.-

Sd

The Sâb, for in-
=stance, might probably
be propagated far beyond
the limits of its present
range, and the same with
some of the varieties of
Black wood.- Improvements
of this kind should be con-
=stantly kept in view by the
Department-

The Govt cannot
permit any withdrawal of
the common rights of villa-
=gers in the unreclaimed
portions of their villages-
Any attempt of the kind would
be as impolitic as unjust-

4 To the Offg Conservator of Forests dtd 22 July
14. the Board of Revs

50
4

Revenue 1865 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt for July
No 1689.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dd 21st July 1865

77-28 of 4-2-65
464-65 of 23-2-65

Directing the Forest
Departt to keep the
subject of speedily
renewing the Timber
Forests in view.

No 379 & 380

2