M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1853 — Press Mis.

1576. 1577

Dated 10. 8. 1805

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 10th August 1865.

No. 156. Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 28th July 1865, No. 91:—

SIR,

1. With reference to my letter, dated 27th February 1865, No. 26, pointing out what lands should be reserved on certain parts of the Neilgherries, I request that I may be supplied with copies of the large survey maps of the hills, which I believe are now being lithographed under the orders of Government. I have several times spoken to Mr. Hannyngton, Special Assistant Collector, regarding the land to be reserved on the Kotagherry side of the hills, with which he is intimately acquainted; but you will observe, from the copy of his letter which I herewith transmit, that he declares his inability to mark out the reserves on a map of so small a scale as that reduced from the late Captain Ouchterlony's large map—indeed, he seems to think that he will be unable to mark them satisfactorily on the large map.

2. In attempting to define the plantation lands on the map, transmitted with my letter of the 27th February 1865, No. 26, I experienced much difficulty in arriving at anything like a correct approximation as to localities, although I was well acquainted with the country: such being the case, I fear that the map would convey a very vague idea of the position of the lands planted to a person unacquainted with the country.

3. The Sholah lands likely to be applied for on the Kotagherry side of the hills are but few, there are with one or two exceptions no large sholahs. The largest sholah is situated near Keel Kotagherry village, about seven miles to the east of Kotagherry; it has for ages past supplied the Koters with wood for domestic and agricultural purposes; and is, in their minds, invested with a thousand associations which should protect it from destruction. The whole of the forest on the east and north-east face of the hills should be reserved for the protection of the water, which during the hot months of the year is even now insufficient to meet the wants of the country below. The swamps on the hills should, I think, be most rigidly protected; they tend much to the perennial flow of water from the hills to the low country. The sholahs adjacent to the swamps should also be reserved. The preservation of the sholahs and swamps is a matter of no small consideration to the numerous herds of buffaloes during the hot weather, without water these animals cannot well exist, for whilst the hill sides, from the effects of frost at night and a burning sun during the day, are brown and afford a most scanty subsistence, they can always obtain green grass in the swamps.

4. The sholahs of any size in the Kodanad country beyond Kotagherry have all been sold. In fact, with the exception of the sholahs on the Koondahs and those in the Thodanad or Thoda country proper, most of the sholahs of note have been purchased or passed into the possession of parties ere the new waste land rules came into operation. In the Thodanad country most of the large sholahs are adjacent to the munds; and each application for them will have to be disposed of on its merits, the claims of the Todars being duly borne in mind.

should be done in corresponding with the
Superintendent of Police regarding the different

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th August 1865.

No. 157. ORDER THEREON, 10th August 1865, No. 1,853.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government observe that a map is now under preparation on a scale four times larger than that of the reduced map referred to by Mr. Grant.

2. The sheets, as ready, will be forwarded to the Collector, in order that reserves and existing holdings may be marked on them as exactly as possible.

3. The orders of the Supreme Government, as to reservation of forest on hill ranges, will be carefully maintained in view.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Recommend Special Book
Collector's of Jeus 15th July 1865

No 121.

Jeus

A. D. Mannington Esqr
Special Asst Collector
&
Recommend

To

D. Grant Esqr
Collector of Coimbatore

Sir,

In your Jeus official of the 8th inst. you ask me to give my opinion as to what Shola's on the Nilgiris should be reserved with a view to such reserves being entered in the maps of the Hills.

Prior to the receipt of your letter I had considered this question, and have come to the conclusion that it is utterly impossible to define such reserves in the reduced maps of the Hills, and nearly impossible to do so in the maps on larger scale.

Although in the course of my surveying operations I may be able to mark out such spots as should be reserved, the doing so would occupy the greatest part of my time, and even with the greatest care possible, errors would be sure to occur owing to the impossibility of precisely defining the different

Sholahs, and also the deffendly of discovering Soda ponds, Burghers rights &c.

As an instance of such deffendly I would call to your remembrance the Case of a piece of land which was sold by Mr. Graves, which I had examined and by the sale of which I was of opinion that no objection existed.

Subsequently when Mr. Graves began to build on this land, the Sodans claimed it as containing one of their most sacred temples.

The temple or idol in question was a rough black stone in no way remarkable and which had not been called to my notice by either Sodans or Burghers at the time when I examined the land, but I believe that they still consider their rights to have been grossly outraged.

I beg respectfully to state that I believe the foregoing to be an up shewing all reserves to be infranchisable and that I consider the proper alternative to be, to publish for general information a Statement shewing generally on what grounds land is to be reserved.

5. 6 That as a general rule all narrow strips of Sholah bordering on heading streams cannot be given.

That forest or pidjo is reserved.

That land adjoining Soda ponds is reserved.

That blocks of forest lying near Considerable Burgher or Colah Settlements are reserved, & &c. and with such notice before them planters will have but little to complain of.

I Know for certain that applications are made without the applicants having seen the land and that in few cases does the applicant take the trouble to make any examination as to its eligibility.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obed Servant
Signed A. C. Baumgartner
Ispl Bath Master
(True copy)
A. Grant
Master

In a letter from
Collr of Customs
28th July 1865 (109
Upon The Stat
of Steamer
The Collector
Cornish
Rec: 2109
Reports on the
Localities to
Reserved on the

D to Augt
13/65 J.S

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Nº 1853

10th Augt/65.

Nº 156 & 157

Revenue.

1853 Govt Observe Proceedings

Nº 2109

The Collector

Coimbatore

The Secretary to

Government.

Dated 28th July 1853

Recd 1st Augt

Nº 91

With one enclosure

Report on the localities to be reserved on the Neilgherry Hills and requesting to be furnished with copies of large scale survey maps of the Hills.

Dated 1853. 10th Augt.

With Order.

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114 Folios Board's Proceedings 11th Augt

1 to the Collector of Coimbatore