M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2375 Press ~~Mis.~~

133.134

Dated 6-9- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th September 1866.

No. 133. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1866, No. 5,949.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th July 1866, No. 145 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 4,558, dated 5th July 1866, requesting a report as to whether there is any probability of private enterprize being sufficient to meet the growing requirements for fuel of the Railways, and the general community; also what aid would be required from Government to assist private speculation, and if private enterprize will not meet the case, what measures are practicable in the way of forming and conserving plantations for fuel and timber by Government agency; also whether a higher tax on forest timber is advisable to check waste.

2. I do not think that there is any probability of a demand for timber or fuel being supplied by this District, unless some means are found of irrigating it. A District almost denuded of trees, noted for aridity, and which has a rain-fall of ten to fifteen inches per annum, is not adapted by nature for plantations. Young trees may be planted, but they will not grow without water; and as the only sure source of water is in wells, and great expense is requisite both to construct the well and to raise water from it, the scheme of raising enclosed plantations by such means is not one that would recommend itself to any one in search of profit.

3. In a former letter on the subject connected with this District, I advocated ten acre grants of unprofitable waste land, in perpetuity, to any one who would undertake plantations; but I doubt if even this would hold out a sufficient inducement in this District.

4. The true way of maintaining a timber and fuel supply is to conserve those jungles which exist on the hills in some parts of India, and not to give grants of timber land for coffee planting, which is equivalent to a wholesale destruction of the forest, so handed over, which can never be re-placed, except perhaps in some of the more humid tracts of the Western Coast.

5. There are no natural jungles to conserve in this District; there is a total want of timber. There are two churches standing half-built for the last year and more, for the want of timber, which has to be supplied from Rangoon and Mysore, to roof them in.

6. The most feasible plan that suggests itself to me is to encourage the villagers to plant the beds of their tanks with Babul or black-thorn trees, which is almost the only indigenous tree. I have seen in a part of the Kurnool District several small tanks so planted; the tree is not destroyed by standing for a few months in water. It probably also retards evaporation, and thus confers a double benefit.

Acacia Arabica.

7. I can propose no plan of Government plantations, the result of which would be at all commensurate with the expense. It is easy enough to propose a staff of gardeners and coolies; but the cost of their wages and of bullocks to raise water, at the end of ten years, before which any return could not be expected,

would be out of proportion to the value of the produce. It would be dearer than coal.

8. If a canal from the Toombadra were made to pass through the centre of this province at a cost of somewhat under a million sterling, the climate would be much altered and adapted for the growth of timber, as well as of other agricultural produce; trees might be raised on its banks, and a better rain-fall obtained; till then, plantations either by Government agency, or by private enterprize, or by a combination of both, are not, in my opinion, a feasible project.

Submitted for the consideration of Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 20th June 1866, No. 1,510, Revenue Department.

No. 134. ORDER THEREON, 6th September 1866, No. 2,375.

Forests, No. 4. Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Rd. S. T. Augustin.

Rec. 20th June 1866 no 1148-1149.

Rev. 1866. Department.
Proc. of Govt. for September

No 2774.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 21st *August* 1866.

No. 5,949.

Submitting for consideration letter from Collector of Bellary reporting as to whether private enterprise will be sufficient to meet growing requirements for fuel of Railways and general community.

A. 134 & 134

RECORDED.

60. Sept. 66.