

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,
6th January 1868.*

No. 55. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 26th October 1867, No. 348:—

1. I have the honor to submit, for the consideration and orders of Government, the papers noted below :—

1. Letter from Collector of Tinnevely, No. 1,719, dated 30th July 1867.
2. Do. do. No. 2,156, dated 30th September 1867.
3. Notice regarding water supply.
4. Captain Beddome's Report on the Tinnevely Forests, dated 18th August 1867.

These relate to the present state and proposed management of the Tinnevely ghaut forests, and are deeply interesting in connection with the papers transmitted by the Government of India on the alleged effects of clearing at the headwaters of the Cauvery, and the Minutes by the Members of Government relating to the future conservancy of the Neilgherry woods.

2. It appears, both from the Collector and Captain Beddome's reports, that much forest has been destroyed within the last few years in connection with the extension of agriculture, both permanent coffee grants and temporary Kumari cultivation. Mr. Puckle's report contains matter for serious consideration as regards the diminished water-supply of the irrigation channels. This subject was discussed by me on the spot with Mr. Clements Markham and Mr. McGregor, the Sub-Collector, two years ago, when we attributed the present state of the channels more to diminished expenditure on works of irrigation than to the deforesting of the ridges and spurs running down to the plains: but there can be no doubt that it is needful to consider the whole matter in relation to both the alleged causes of diminished fertility.

3. During the past year conservancy has been initiated in this district, and no more forest land will be granted on the eastern slope, and the practice of Kumari clearing has been prohibited. I agree with Mr. Puckle that it is necessary to stop felling in some talooks, except for the occasional removal of trees past their prime, and such needful thinnings as may be carried out under the direction of the Forest Officer, who will be instructed always to consult the Collector on these points.

4. The sanctioned extension of the Great South Indian Railway will greatly augment the demand for wood and fuel, and it is needful to make prospective arrangements before the heavy pressure is felt in the district.

Wartrap and Vasudavanullur.

Wartrap and Vasudavanullur.

5. At present the forests north of Courtallum (named in the margin) are under the Forest Department, and are to some extent supervised by the Overseer of the Madura Range. The Collector and Captain Beddome correctly state that the united range is much too extended, and that a separate Officer is required for Tinnevely. In this opinion I concur, and provision has been made in the Budget of 1868-69 for a first class Overseer for Tinnevely on 130 Rupees.*

* Salary	...	...	...	...	100
Travelling allowance	...	...	...	...	30
					130

						RS.
* Salary		...	...	...	...	100
Travelling allowance	...	...	...	...	...	30
						130

† Viz., Alwarcurchi, Paupanasum, Kalakad.

6. Under this proposal, I would request the sanction of Government for placing the forests† south of Courtallam

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under the special department, when the forests of the Eastern Ghauts from Wartrap to Cape Comorin will form one well defined range. The southern forests were placed under the Sub-Collector, Mr.

* G. O., 2nd May 1866, No. 1,033, Revenue Department.

McGregor, who possessed special knowledge, and took great interest in the

work; but he has been removed to another district, and, in a separate letter, I have suggested the transfer of Lieutenant Fullerton from Wynad after the demarcation of Teak forests is completed.

7. In the Memorandum accompanying the Budget for 1868-69, I stated that it is under consideration whether a skilled officer of standing should not be appointed to the united range of Madura and Tinnevely, and with the important work of demarcating reserves in prospect. I am strongly of this opinion. If this cannot be arranged, I would place the Overseer under the Collector.

8. It will be difficult to introduce departmental work all at once, as proposed to the Collector by the Tahsildar of Sankaraninarkovil. Depots may, however, be established, and departmental working gradually brought into use, as has been done in other districts. The Forest Department will also mark the reserved trees when cut on license. There is no export trade, and the district requirements are not large.

9. *Grazing.*—The Collector appears to have made judicious arrangements for limiting the herds of cattle to certain tracts. The horned cattle and the drivers do a great deal of mischief, and some measure of this kind is absolutely necessary all along the ghauts. If a small fee was charged for their being allowed to enter the Government reserves and the forest produce collected, a sufficient income would be realized to warrant the entertainment of a superior officer.

10. It is pleasing to observe that the people are fully alive to the wisdom of preserving the forests, which are of so great value to them in many ways.

11. The last paper under notice is Captain Beddome's report upon this important tract. His tour yielded a number of interesting plants, and some trees not hitherto observed. He has forwarded seeds of the rarer plants to Kew Gardens, and a set of Herbarium specimens has been deposited in the Madras Museum, which will elucidate the flora of this portion of the Western Ghauts.

From the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Conservator of Forests, dated Tenkasi, 30th July 1867, No. 1,719.

1. I have lately seen Captain Beddome, and agree with him that the management of the forests south of Courtallum might advantageously be handed over to the Special Department. The Sub-Collector, in whose talooks these forests lie, has not time or opportunity to supervise Forest Conservancy, and the Tahsildars have already quite enough to do, the management of the forests is, consequently, in the hands of a Duffadar and Peons who require strict supervision.

2. I am about to address the Board of Revenue on the subject of forest tracts claimed by the Zemindars.

From the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Conservator of Forests, dated Tippanampatti, 30th September 1867, No. 2,156.

1. I have the honor to furnish the information called for in your letter No. 223, dated 18th ultimo, and I take this opportunity of offering some remarks on a subject that has occupied very much of my attention of late.

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2. The prosperity of the river-irrigated section of Tinnevely, extending through five talooks, from the Western Ghauts to the sea, is dependent on a continuous flow of water in the rivers that rise on the Western Ghauts. Now this continuous flow has notably decreased of late years, and the decrease commenced with the destruction of much of the forest that formerly clothed the ghauts and protected the heads of the streams; the rich sholah land in the ravines down which the streams descend attracted Coffee planters who destroyed the magnificent timber, and thus let in the wind which has extended the mischief done by the axe. Thousands of trees lie prostrate, and the Coffee gardens, as might be expected, are mostly wind-blown and useless. Where the ground was once moist continuously it is now parched and dry, and the courses of the numerous little rivulets that once fed the larger streams are now mere rocky nullahs, without a drop of water in them. The mischief, however, is done so far, and cannot now be repaired, but what we can do is to conserve the remaining forest most carefully, and see if we cannot increase the volume of water in the streams. Almost all the streams descend the ghauts in the Tenkasi and Ambasamudram Talooks between Courtallum and Kalladakurichi. The area to conserve is thus very limited, and in the Tenkasi Talook I have visited every village, and have made most careful arrangements. The people themselves are unanimous in their wish for conservancy, as even at the foot of the hills they now begin to suffer, and lower down the streams there is always an outcry for water. The Government have just sanctioned an additional anicut on the Tambrapurni, at a cost of seven lacs of Rupees, and it behoves us to do all we can to increase the water-supply. My arrangements for Tenkasi are as under:—

(1.) The issue of licenses to cut timber has been stopped for the present at all events.

(2.) All cultivation on the hills (except Coffee) has been prohibited with the ryots' consent.

(3.) All charcoal burning and firing the grass on the hills has been prohibited.

(4.) Cattle-grazing and firewood-cutting have been restricted to certain limits defined for each separate village (*vide* notice enclosed), and five watching peons have been appointed, one to the course of each stream, to see these conditions observed.

3. The effect of this conservancy is already most marked in some places; bushes are growing on bare hill sides, trees stunted and pollarded are now throwing out fresh limbs, and with perseverance there is every prospect of the hill sides being covered with trees in the course of the next two years.

4. What I have done for Tenkasi I propose to do for Ambasamudram, with the modification of granting licenses to cut timber in the Alwarcoorchy forests.

5. It must not be supposed that the people suffer by these arrangements. On the contrary, the villagers concerned are perfectly satisfied, and the public of the Tenkasi Talook can draw an unlimited supply of timber from the Travancore depôt at Puleyarai, and from the Chokampatti Zemindary.

6. In Ambasamudram enormous tracts of forest, claimed by the Singampatti Zemindar, are open for felling (pending reference to the Board), and the Alwarcoorchy forest alone is capable of yielding almost any amount.

7. The possible forest revenue to be derived from the forests on our side of the Western Ghauts is as nothing compared with a single year's remission for withered crops occasioned by want of water, and I think we cannot protect the interests of Government better than by strictly conserving these forest tracts along the course of the streams, for some years at all events, without an attempt to draw revenue of any description from them. If you concur in my views, and are willing to forego any revenue from Tenkasi, and restrict felling in Ambasamudram to the Alwarcoorchy limits only, I shall be glad to hand over charge of the forests entirely; but should you deem it necessary to draw revenue from the forests everywhere without regard to locality, as a set off against expenditure, I think it would be better if I retained charge of the southern forests, and made my own arrangements to guard them.

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8. The Sankaraninarkovil Tahsildar has just written to set forth the necessity of some such arrangements in his talook, and he strongly urges the advisability of having all timber felled by the Forest Department, and drawn to convenient depôts, there to be sold by auction. He states that immense mischief is done by tree after tree being cut down till the right tree is got; by trees being half cut through and left; by only portions of trees being dressed and brought down as timber; and by the Forest Peons being evaded or bought over to pass unlicensed timber. The people there also are greatly in need of water, as the streams have almost failed them, and pending your further instructions, I have ordered him to issue no more licenses, and to make arrangements for grazing and firewood cutting in Puliyangudi, Vasadevanallur, and Sintamani, similar to those I have made in Tenkasi.

9. The Setur Sivagherri and Chokampatti Zemindars possess almost unlimited forests in the Sankaraninarkovil Talook, so there will be no scarcity of timber in the market by the temporary restriction imposed.

NOTICE.

Water Supply.

1. The permanency of the water-supply in the Agapat division of the district is a matter of great importance to a very large body of landholders; it is said that the freshes are fewer, and the volume of water less continuous now than formerly; this is attributed by the ryots to timber felling on the mountains and along the course of the streams. No doubt the forest tends to retard evaporation, and by keeping the ground moist to yield a gentle water-supply for many days after rain; while, on the other hand, rain will rush down a bare hill side in a violent fresh, which subsides almost immediately.

2. To conserve the forest systematically with due regard to the interest of the villagers, who have been accustomed to graze cattle and cut wood on the mountains, is of the greatest importance, and the following arrangements have now been made in Tenkasi to conserve the forest on either side of the Anumanadi and Sitranadi, two rivers on which all Tenkasi and part of Tinnevely depend for water.

3. These rivers take their rise on the high mountains above the villages of Vadakarai and Casmajorpuram, respectively, and in these and the neighbouring villages certain terais or low hills have been assigned to the villagers, on which they are at liberty to graze cattle and cut firewood under the supervision of the Village Munsiffs, who will prevent all cattle-grazing and wood-cutting, except in the limits assigned below. No licenses will be granted for cutting timber in any of the Ayan villages of Tenkasi till further notice, and persons wanting timber must seek permission to cut in the Zemin or Travancore Rajah's hills.

4. **VADAGARI.**—The Nelliuttucavutari (நெல்லுத்துகாவூர்தி), which is situated east of the Coffee gardens, south of the Chokampatti Zemin and Kadayannallur Hills, north of Porasanpattupunjai, and west of the Travancore territory.

5. The Issantery, which is situated to the east of the Odei bounding the Travancore territory, west of the Koppanpunjai, north of the Kanakapillaivalasai hills, and south of the Travancore territory.

6. **KANAKAPILLAIVALASAI.**—The Tekkanteri situated to the north and east of the Travancore territory, west of the Kanakapillaivalasai Punjai, and south of the Odei, dividing it from the Issantery.

7. **ILANJI.**—The Teri west of the Kuttartope, north of the Kaludeiyurutti Sarivu, east of the Varattar Odei below the Tenkal, and south of Venna Madei.

8. **CASMAJORPURAM.**—East of the Kuttartope, north of the Katadimuttu and Musalparai, south of the Aindalaruvi road, and west of the new path up the Peringi Patamparei Melagaram. The Teri east of Panjadangi fall.

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9. Excepting Coffee gardens, the scattered patches of punjai on the hills have all been given up, and the land there resigned has now been entered as Peramboke; firing the grass has been strictly prohibited, and charcoal must be burnt at the foot of the hill, and not on the hill side. No cutting will be allowed within 100 yards of a stream, and villagers seeking firewood must collect only dry sticks and branches. Green wood is only to be cut without license for agricultural implements or house-building, and then under the Munsiff's direction. By these means it is hoped that the water-supply in the Anumanadi and Sitranadi may be increased, and similar measures will be shortly adopted to conserve the forests at the head of the Tambrapurni, in the Ambasamudram Talook.

From the Deputy Conservator of Forests, to the Conservator of Forests, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 18th August 1867.

1. I have the honor to forward my report upon the Tinnevely Range.

2. **Forests north of Courtallum.**—On the 3rd of July I crossed over from the Madura District by the Nallytannypara Pass near Waisanad, and descended into the Tinnevely District through the Wartrap forests. From Wartrap I proceeded to Rajahpolliam, and inspected the hill forests of that talook; there is much small coppice teak at the base of these mountains and

on the lower slopes, and the same is to be met with more or less down the whole range; the largest and finest tract being at Calcad, and this will be separately alluded to below; it has been cut over year by year by the ryots, and used for all agricultural purposes, &c., but when conservancy was introduced two years ago, all felling of teak was put a stop to, and the young trees now make some show; they are nearly all coppice, and as they are much damaged by cattle and fire, the growth is very poor. The tree grows also on the mountain slopes to an elevation of about a thousand feet, but it is very difficult to find a good sized tree of fair growth; the girth is often considerable, but there is no length of boll, and the tree is generally much stunted; higher up on the mountains, where all other trees are met with of fine growth, the teak quite disappears, and there is not a single tree even to be found. Cultivation is gradually coming up to the very base of the hills, and I am not of opinion that this coppice teak at the foot is of value enough to be allowed to stand in the way of permanent cultivation; some few tracts might perhaps be reserved, and the one at Calcad should certainly be selected for this purpose, but of this I shall report fully further on.

3. From Rajahpolliam I proceeded to Shevagherri, and as the Collector of the district, Mr. Puckle, was expected here, I waited for him and took the opportunity of visiting the hill forests of the Shevagherri Zemindary. The ryots of this Zemindary sent in a petition, stating that the Zemindar did not allow them to cut timber free for agricultural purposes, but that all timber was taxed, and requesting that the forests of their Zemindary might be taken over by Government, and that they might be allowed the same privileges as ryots living in Sircar villages; this petition I handed over to the Collector. Care must be taken that the ryots in this and other Zemindaries do not enter our forests, as it cannot be the intention of Government that the inhabitants of Zemindary tracts, rich in forests, should be allowed timber free from the Government forests outside their Zemindaries. I spent a day with the Collector, and we discussed forest matters. He recommended a site near Courtallum for a teak plantation, in the event of our undertaking one. If an Overseer is put in sole charge of this range, I would recommend that a teak nursery and small experimental plantation should be formed. I would not advise operations on a large scale, or any great expenditure, as the teak is decidedly of inferior growth on this eastern side of the chain of ghauts, and the market would be very distant.

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4. From Shevagherry I proceeded to Vasadevanallur, and spent two days up in these hill forests, which are about the most valuable north of Courtallum.

5. From Vasadevanallur I proceeded to Kuddenelloor, where I met the Sub-Collector, Mr. Pennington, in camp. The forests, south of Courtallum, have lately been under him, and he proposed to accompany me over some of them, and returned with me to Courtallum.

6. Mr. Turnbull, the Forest Overseer, accompanied me throughout my tour as far as Courtallum, and always went with me into the forests; he seems to take great interest in his work, and the Collector reported on him very favorably. I examined his records and books, which are well kept, and his establishment is in good order; the Duffalars are in some cases too old for much hill and jungle work, but they are respectable, honest men; neither the Overseer nor any of his establishment are quite as much in the forests as I consider they ought to be, and I gave full instructions on this point, and the Overseer is in future to forward a copy of his diary monthly, which will shew his operations in detail day by day; his Appendix A. will, therefore, be only for his establishment in future. In my inspections through the forests day by day, I saw very much of the felling that was going on, and I always found the axe-men provided with vouchers and licenses and acting up to our rules, and I did not detect a single case of attempt to smuggle. Smuggling of timber undoubtedly does occur where our forests adjoin Zemindary tracts, and, until lately, Zemindary timber was allowed to be brought through our forests, which was of course a great encouragement to smuggling; timber might be felled in our forests, and if we only caught the parties in the act of bringing it out, and not in the act of felling, we could not stop it, if they said it was brought from Zemindary tracts; this has now, I am glad to say, been put a stop to by the Collector allowing our Overseer to levy seigniorage on any timber being brought through our forests at the same rate as if it had been cut in the forests; it is an excellent rule, as there is no occasion that it should ever come through our forests, and it was, in fact, only an excuse for smuggling, and where one log might really be cut in the Zemindary tracts, ten would perhaps be felled in ours. I consulted with the Collector on the subject of placing the forests south of Courtallum under our department, and he approves of this arrangement, acknowledging that the Sub-Collector, in whose charge they now are, has not time to go into the forests, or to give them the attention that is necessary; he promised to address you on the subject. In the event of these forests being handed over to our department, I would recommend that Mr. Turnbull should be put in sole charge of this range, and that another Overseer be placed in charge of the Madura District. There is a good pukka-built bungalow at Wartrap, just vacated by the Sub-Magistrate's Cutcherry, which office has now been removed to another part of the district, and the Collector has offered the use of this to our department, and it might be taken over, and would serve as an office and store and house for the Overseer; and as the Wartrap forests are the nearest to Madura, and timber is sent from them to the Madura market, our department might, with advantage, open a small depôt at this place, and gradually introduce departmental working to a certain extent, as I have lately caused to be done in Salem, Cuddapah, Kurnool, and other districts, worked under the License and Voucher System. Wartrap is at the extreme north of the range, and the Overseer should not be allowed to remain there for any lengthened periods, but he should make visits of one or two months' duration to Vasadevanallur, Kuddenelloor, Courtallum, Paupanassum, and Calcad, and go thoroughly through the forests and supervise operations at each of these places. At Courtallum and at Paupanassum very good Chuttrums are always available. Considering the time that Mr. Turnbull has been in the department, I would recommend that his salary be increased to Rupees 100 per mensem, or the pay of a first Class Overseer.

7. *Revenue.*—The revenue of the forests north of Courtallum is very satisfactory, particularly when it is considered that there are very large tracts of Zemindary forest, and that, with the exception of a small amount of timber that goes from the northern parts of the district to Madura, there is no export, and the market is entirely a local one.

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8. *Distractions to forests by cattle and fire.*—The destruction committed by cattle in the Government forests is enormous, and the annual fires which do incalculable mischief, are all said to be caused by the cattle drivers. Almost all the villages along the foot of the hills are huge cattle pens, thousands of cattle being brought from all parts of the district to have the advantage of grazing over the Government forests; there is no attempt to provide forage below, and even the manure is in no way utilized.

9. *Grazing dues.*—There are no grazing dues, and our department has no control over the cattle drivers. I would suggest that small dues should be levied, and that the right to graze should be confined to certain tracts, and that the sums collected should be laid out in small extra establishments to see that the graziers confine themselves to the tracts allotted to them, and that no more mischief is committed than is absolutely necessary (saplings and young trees are often cut down entirely, when only the leaves and young branches are required); and that the grass and jungles are not set fire to. The very fact of these men knowing that they were in a measure under our control, and had to conform to certain rules, would make them less reckless than they are at present, and I do not think that we should often have fires in tracts that they were not allowed to visit. It has been sometimes alleged that a prohibition against forest fires and against Kumeri cultivation will increase the inroads of wild beasts, and tend also to increase fever; this view of the case has been urged as a plea for these practices by many of the ryots and others in this district interested in their continuance—practice does not prove these allegations to be correct where the grass is not burnt. I have always observed that it grows to the same height as where it has been set fire to, and the only difference is that when burnt the young green grass makes its appearance about a fortnight or three weeks earlier, and this is the only reason why the cattle drivers set fire to it, and many have acknowledged the same to me; these fires often sweep for miles through light forest country, and the damage to young saplings and fallen seed, &c., may be easier conceived than expressed. In Kumeri ground the virgin forest is superseded by a dense rank thorny, almost impenetrable vegetation, which must be more unhealthy than the original forest, and is certainly a more likely cover for tigers and wild beasts.

10. *Forest Resources.*—The forests north of Courtallum are rich in valuable jungle timbers; but those most sought after are the Vengay, the Cong, and Nang. The Cong (which I procured during this tour for the first time in flower), turns out to be a new species of *Hopea*, nearly allied to *Hopea parviflora* (the Kiral Boghi of South Canara); the wood is very similar to that species, and is a very valuable timber; the name of Nang is given to two or three species of *Mesua*, very abundant in all the forests of this district; the timber is exceedingly hard and heavy, and is very durable under ground; it is the iron wood of Ceylon, where it is much appreciated for engineering purposes. I may mention that these *Mesuas* are common in most of our western forests, but the timber is generally but little used, or quite unknown; in fact I have seldom been able to get a native name for the tree. Axe-men say that they dislike felling it, as the wood is so hard that it injures their axes, and in coffee estates many dead trees of it are often to be found standing. There are several kinds of very useful jungle timbers in this district which are unknown to the natives, and, consequently, but seldom felled. I was fortunate enough to discover two quite new trees, which, like the Cong, do not appear to grow to the north of this. The Kat Jura, a new species of *Adenochlæna* and the Vellay Toveray, a new species of *Diospyros* with a calyx, which enlarges round the fruit, the wood of both these is used for various purposes. I have preserved specimens of these trees and of the Cong, and hope shortly to have them figured.

11. I have previously explored the forests of this range north of Courtallum, and do not therefore enter more fully into the capabilities, &c., of the different tracts severally. The Zemindary tracts of Sheathoor, Shevagherry, and Chokampatti, are a great drawback to conservancy, and if Government could at any time purchase any of them outright, or obtain long leases, it would be very advantageous; it is difficult to understand how these Zemindars ever came to have any legal right to such large tracts of hill forests, and it would certainly be advisable to have them roughly

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demarcated, and boundary marks put up, if possible. The following are the principal timber trees found in these forests:—

NATIVE NAME.	BOTANICAL NAME.
Tek (or the Teak)	<i>Tectona grandis.</i>
Trodagatti (Blackwood)	<i>Dalbergia latifolia.</i>
Vengay	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium.</i>
Shem (red Cedar)	<i>Soymida febrifuga.</i>
Cong	<i>Hopea sp. nov.</i>
Nang	<i>Mesua speciosa.</i>
Nir Nang... ..	<i>Mesua Coromandeliana and a variety of this species.</i>
Aynee	} <i>Artocarpus hirsuta.</i>
Aynee-pillao	
Angelli	} <i>Artocarpus integrifolia.</i>
Panas	
Malledu	<i>Vitex altissima.</i>
Maile	<i>Vitex alata.</i>
Kadambi	<i>Nauclea cordifolia.</i>
Do.	<i>Do. parvifolia.</i>
Agal	<i>Chickrassia tabularis.</i>
Sandane Vembu (the white Cedar)	<i>Cedrela toona.</i>
Malle Kone (pink Cedar)	<i>Acrocarpus fraxinifolius.</i>
Shembaga Pala	<i>Litsea sp.</i>
Karangalli	<i>Acacia sp.</i>
Madagari Vembu... ..	<i>Bischofia stoeperianus.</i>
Vekali	<i>Conocarpus latifolius.</i>
Veveyla	<i>Lagerstræmia microcarpa.</i>
Poombadri	<i>Bignonia suaveolens.</i>
Devadarum (Bastard Sandal)	<i>Erythroxylon Indicum.</i>
Vace Mara (Satinwood)	<i>Chloroxylon swietenia.</i>
Vellay Thoveray	<i>Diospyros sp. nov.</i>
Pulikumalee	<i>Gmelina arborea.</i>
Trelaypala and Vadarasee	<i>Alstonia scholaris.</i>
Nedda Naratty	<i>Guatteria cerasoides.</i>
Maravetti	<i>Hydnocarpus inebrians.</i>
Oona	<i>Grewia tilicefolia.</i>
Poomara or Pulachi	<i>Schleichera triguga.</i>
Pine (Poon spar)... ..	<i>Calophyllum elatum.</i>
Maa (wild mangoe)	<i>Mungifera Indica.</i>
Marada	} <i>Terminalia glabra.</i>
Nawal*	
Nawar	} <i>Eugenia jambolana.</i>
Kanupala	
Milla Chirian	<i>Mimusops Roxburghiana.</i>
Ippi or Illupi	<i>Elæocarpus glandulifera.</i>
Pale	<i>Bassia latifolia.</i>
Nelle	<i>Bassia elliptica.</i>
Mulla Vengay	<i>Emblia officinalis.</i>
	<i>Briedelia sp.</i>

In addition to the above, there are many jungle timbers of considerable value.

12. *Forests south of Courtallum.*—Mr. Pennington, the Sub-Collector, who is at present in charge of the forests south of Courtallum, accompanied me in my tour south as far as Shingampatty, and visited some of the forests with me, and I am much indebted to him for information and assistance during my tour.

13. *Courtallum Forests.*—From Courtallum I ascended into the hill forests to the south and spent two days in exploring them. A considerable quantity of teak grows near the foot and on the lower slopes, but it is not of fine growth, and is besides much damaged by cattle and fire; the felling of this was put a stop to about two or three years ago, and with conservancy and care a small amount of this timber may be made available for future years. Blackwood and Vengay are also met with in the same localities; ascending to an elevation of 2,000 to 2,500 feet, all traces of Teak

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disappear, but the forest is of superb growth. Kong, Nang Angilli, Maile, Shembajipala *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius* and *Lagersheimia microcarpa* (the Vevayla of this district) grow to an enormous size, and I saw trees of *Acrocarpus* considerably above twenty feet in girth and of immense height; the forests also abound with many other valuable jungle timbers, and the growth of all the trees is very fine. The best part of these forests has been given up for Coffee, and there would be considerable difficulty in getting out the timber (unless sawn up in the forests) from the tracts now remaining; they should however be reserved. The forest in which some of the native Coffee estates have been opened has been given on the condition that the trees were left standing; the result is that neither Coffee or forests are of much value; the forest trees have been considerably thinned out, and what remain could not be felled without the destruction of the Coffee, and the Coffee trees give a miserably small crop under the shade of large forest trees.

14. The Sub-Collector has stopped all felling for firewood within two miles of the station of Courtallum, and this order should be carefully kept in force.

Chinchona and Forests on the Chinna Kalyraty.

15. Returning to Courtallum I proceeded to the source of the Varna river, which runs down to Alwarcoorchy to the Chinna Kalyraty, where there is a small Government Chinchona garden at an elevation of from 3,000 to 4,000 feet; a small plot of less than half an acre has been cleared in the forest, and the few plants of Chinchona Succirubra planted are growing very luxuriantly. There are also several plants of *C. Officinalis*; these, however, did not exhibit a good growth, as the elevation is not sufficient for this species, and some have died. I spent a day examining the forests up the ravines on these mountains; they are rather inaccessible, and not of any great extent, as much forest land here also has been cleared for Coffee, but they contain much good timber. The next day I had intended to proceed direct to the Ayen Coil Pass, in the Alwarcoorchy forests; heavy rain, however, had caused all the rivers to rise, and this route became impracticable, and it was with considerable difficulty that I got back to Courtallum.

16. *Alwarcoorchy Forests.*—The day after my return from the Chinchona garden I proceeded via Kaddyam, and encamped in the Shevanshalum valley, near the foot of the hills, due west of Alwarcoorchy, from this I explored the Alwarcoorchy forests. I ascended by the old Pass, which leads through these forests past Ayen Coil into the Travancore country. Just above Ayen Coil, at the entrance of the heavy forest, and at no great elevation (about 800 or 1,000 feet), there is a small native Coffee estate of about twenty acres, and the Coffee is growing very luxuriantly, and has a heavy crop under the shade of plantain trees; beyond this it is all heavy forest in every direction, and there are no clearings whatever; the ascent is very gradual, and the head of the Pass can hardly be much more than 2,000 feet above the plains; the mountains on each side rise to a great elevation, and their slopes are densely wooded; the head of the Pass is about five or six miles beyond Ayen Coil, and then the descent down the western slopes is gradual; the British frontier is said to extend down these slopes into the plains, but the frontier lines are not clearly defined or laid down. Mr. MacGregor, the late Sub-Collector, in alluding to this subject in his report upon these forests, writes as follows:—"The demarcation and survey of the British and Travancore frontier has not been attempted, nor is it, I understand, contemplated, but these forests afford one of the many instances of the necessity for such an undertaking; in all probability the demarcation might now be effected without dispute, but twenty years hence a question might arise involving thousands of acres, and the evidence now available will have disappeared."

17. Demarcation should not be delayed. In future years when railroads may enter both territories, these forests will become of great value. The forests east of the crest can be worked with comparative ease, but west of the crest the timber would have to go down the Travancore side. As the Travancore boundary in several instances comes down into the plains on the eastern side, and, in other instances, the British boundary extends over the crest and down to the plains on the western side, it would be an admirable arrangement if some exchanges of these forest tracts could be effected when demarcation takes place. Mr. MacGregor in his report states that these forests contrast unfavorably with those of Paupanassum, where all the largest trees are of the valuable kinds, Cong, Nang, and Maile. I found, however, abundance of these trees in this

of running at the headwaters of the
Lanvay

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forest, though many of the two former, especially the Cong, had been cut in the immediate vicinity of the Pass; almost all the trees enumerated in my list of the timber trees, north of Courtallam, are to be found in these forests, and their growth is very fine. I may here mention that all the ghaut forests of this district are very similar, and nearly the same trees are found in each forest. Descending again by the same route, I made detours through the forest and returned to the Sheransholum Valley. I next ascended the forests up the Garna river, which runs from the W. S. W. into the valley, and crossing a ridge I descended through the hill forests to Paupanassum.

18. *Paupanassum Forests*.—From Paupanassum I explored the forests due west of that place, and on the left bank of the Tambrapurny river. There are belts of Teak in the forests of the plains, but it is of very poor growth. Vengay and Blackwood are also found in the same localities, and sometimes of fair growth. Following up the ravines and tributaries of the Tambrapurny river to some elevation, immense tracts of superb forest are entered. Here all the more valuable timbers grow magnificently, with the exception of Teak which disappears. This is certainly the most valuable tract of forest in this district, and should be strictly reserved. Land has been applied for here for Coffee, but it was refused. Many parts of these forests can be worked without much difficulty.

19. *Shingampatty Zemindary*.—The Tambrapurny river is the boundary between the Government forests and the forests of the Shingampatty Zemindar; the hill forests of this Zemindary are of very great extent, and of great value. Returning to Paupanassum I went up the right bank of the Tambrapurny past Shoramoorthyam Coil, and encamped at the foot of the mountains to the W. S. W. of that place. There is a considerable tract of forest here, called the Kattlaymullay, which belongs to a pagoda; it is bounded north and south by two tributaries of the Tambrapurny. From

Chinchona.

this I ascended the hills to the Government Chinchona Garden, which is at an elevation of about 3,000 feet, or a little more above the sea; an acre of ground has been cleared in the midst of a large tract of fine forest, and there are eighty to ninety plants of *C. Succirubra* growing very luxuriantly, and about thirty plants of *C. Officinalis* also looking healthy. There can be no doubt that the *Chinchona Succirubra* will grow very well on these mountains, and it is advisable that these small experimental plantations should be taken care of, to ascertain to what size the tree will grow in these parts. They are, however, in very inaccessible places, and it is very difficult and expensive to get any one to look after them. I would not, therefore, recommend any extension of the experiment at present. On these mountains there is an immense extent of fine heavy forest containing most valuable timbers; it stretches away north as far as the Ayen Coil Pass, and all the tract left blank in the Survey Map is dense forest. To the west it extends to the ridges over the Travancore plains; British territory extending here to the edge of the western crest. Near the Chinchona Garden very large tracts of forest, and generally those portions most accessible have been destroyed for the hillmen's cultivation (called Punjai in this district). I found here, for the first time, the Redwood called Shenkurani, mentioned to you by Mr. MacGregor as growing on these hills. The name Shenkurani was sometimes given north of Courtallam to the *Synidi febrifuga* or Red Cedar; and only means, I believe, Redwood. The tree known here by this name is of the order *Anacardiaceæ*, and appears to be something quite new, probably a species of *Holigarna*, but I could not find it in flower. A black juice issues from the bark, when wounded. It is most abundant, and grows to a girth of twenty feet, and to a great height. It will be a valuable furniture and fancywood. From the

Extent of Forest.

Government Forest extend to western crest.

Destruction of Forest by Kumeri.

A valuable new timber.

Government Forest extend to western crest. just below the Aghusteer peak. The Resident of Travancore has a small bungalow here, which, however, was quite deserted. It is Government forest all the way to the ridge about eight or nine miles from the Chinchona. The country is tolerably level to within two miles of the bungalow,

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and it is all dense heavy forest. Beyond this there is a considerable ascent through tracts of reed, and what forest there is becomes more stunted.

20. In returning the next day to the Chinchona, I ascended a grass hill, called the Kallay Vellay, from which I obtained a fine view of all the Government forests. During this trip I found two groves of the *Bentinckia* palm, and I secured a small quantity of the seed, which I have forwarded to you, together with many other valuable seeds collected on these ranges, for transmission to Kew.

21. The natives here divide the forest trees into two classes, viz., the Kolamarams and the Pallezade.

22. The following fifteen trees only come under the first Class:—

Tek	<i>Tectona grandis.</i>
Thodajetti	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>
Ayni	<i>Artocarpus hirsuta.</i>
Vengay	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium.</i>
Cong	<i>Hopea sp. nov.</i>
Nang	<i>Mesua speciosa.</i>
Shem	<i>Soymdia febrifuga.</i>
Maddageri Vembu	<i>Bischofia Ro.</i>
Karagalli	<i>Acacia.</i>
Devadarum	<i>Erythroxylum Indicum.</i>
Maile	<i>Vitex alata.</i>
Kadambu	<i>Nauclea cordifolia.</i>
Agal	<i>Chickrassia tabularis.</i>
Poombadri	<i>Bignonia suaveolens.</i>
Shembaja Pala	<i>Litsea sp.</i>

All other trees belong to the class Pallezade, but I need hardly mention that there are very valuable sorts amongst these latter.

23. *Calcad Forests*.—From the Chinchona plantation I proceeded via Shingampatty to

Teak.

Calcad. There is a very large block of teak at the base of the mountains near this, and it extends a mile or two up the hill slopes. There must be several thousand acres, and as it grows almost to the exclusion of every other kind of tree, it has more the appearance of a plantation than a natural forest; it has been all cut over periodically, until the last two or three years when all felling was stopped, and almost all the young trees are from coppice stools. When the stool is young there is often a fine straight healthy coppice, but from older stools the growth is not so good, and much pruning is necessary, particularly where there are several coppice shoots from one stool. The whole of this should, I think, be strictly preserved, and it will become a valuable tract if properly pruned and cared for. If we take charge of the forest south of Courtallam this must receive much attention from the Overseer, and a small permanent establishment might be sanctioned for it.

Hill Forests.

24. I ascended the hills and encamped for two days in the forests; these are not of such value as those at Paupanassum; much of the heavy forest has been given up for Coffee, though a good deal still remains, but it is very inaccessible. The dry forest at a lower elevation contains a good deal of valuable timber, but the growth is not very fine. I here met with two new timber trees—the Padangalli, a tree well known to the natives and planters, yielding a very hard heavy redwood, a new species of *Pociloneuron*; this tree only grows in the heavy forest and on the banks of streams it is very abundant; and the Mallay Mangadde, a new species of *Ormosia* (*Ligumimosæ*), yielding a valuable hard wood. I procured flowering specimens of both these trees, and hope to have them figured shortly.

Kumeri.

25. *Kumeri or Punjai*.—This destructive cultivation formerly carried on by the hill tribes was put a stop to in this district about two or three years ago. Care must be taken that it

of running at the headwaters of the
Ganvay

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is not again reverted to. It is most important now to reserve all the forest that remains on the eastern side of the ghauts.

26. *Coffee*.—No more forest should be given up in this district for Coffee. There is abundance of fine land better adapted for it on the Travancore side of the range.

Bamboos.

27. *Bamboos*.—There is a very great scarcity of bamboos throughout the district. They are, in fact, only met with in one or two localities, and, where found, are very sparse. These patches should be conserved, and their extension by seed might be attempted. The bamboo dies down when it seeds; by whole clumps when all the culms seed together, which is generally the case, or culm by culm if the culms seed at different times, which sometimes occurs. In localities where the article is as scarce as it is in this district, it stands a chance of being entirely exterminated if cut down without any restriction before it seeds.

Revenue and Establishment.

28. The present sanctioned establishment for these forests, south of Courtallum, amounts to Rupees 180 per mensem, or 2,160 per annum, of this Rupees 90 is for Paupanassum, 50 for Alwarcoorchy, and 40 for Calcad. The revenue from July 1866 to June 1867 amounted to Rupees 3,110-9-9 for the whole range, of which 1,442-8-0 were collections under the head of Timber, and Rupees 1,668-1-9 under Firewood, &c. The amount sanctioned for establishment is sufficient, though, if we take over the forests, some alterations in its distribution, &c., will be necessary. With close supervision from a good Overseer, the receipts will probably be considerably raised. The present establishment is not as it should be. Smuggling is rife, and there is little or no supervision.

Map.

29. *Forest Map*.—I have roughly sketched in the forests, Zemindary tracts, &c., into the Survey Map, and it was my intention to have forwarded a Forest Sketch Map with this report. This would, however, delay the report, and I think it important to send it at once, but I will have the Map sketched and filled in when the services of the Artist are available.

Forest Produce.

30. *Gums, Resins, Cardamoms, &c.*
The black dammer (*the Camarum strictum*) and the gamboge are abundant in the forests of this district, and many other resins and gums are common. I never once met with any one collecting any of them. Cardamoms abound in several forests. I found Travancore people collecting them in our Government forests on the Alwarcoorchy hills. The Travancore Government make about a lac of Rupees annually by their Cardamoms, (their last sales were at the rate of Rupees 3 per pound). We make nothing.

31. *Botanical Specimens*.—As I was through many tracts as yet very little explored, I was able to collect a considerable quantity of new and rare plants for the Herbarium at the Museum, which will be forwarded shortly. My means were limited, and as it was the height of the monsoon, I had great difficulty in drying my specimens, or in keeping them dry, and some were destroyed.

32. *Travancore Forests*.—From Trickingoody I ascended the Myendragherry, and explored the forests both of the ghauts and plains on the Travancore side for twenty miles north of that mountain as far as the Pachymullay. I was quite astonished at the fine Teak found in the forests at the foot of these hills. I descended from the Pachymullay to Colashageram and thence into Trevandrum; it is perfectly lamentable to see the immense destruction of forests on the Travancore side from the Kumeri cultivation. At Trevandrum, I saw the 1st Dewan, Sir Madaya Rao, and had a long talk with him about the forests of the Travancore territory, and pointed out the great damage annually occurring from the destructive cultivation of the hill tribes. There will be a great outcry against this in future years, and no one will understand how it could ever have been allowed. I also met Mr. Vernede, the Travancore Conservator of Forests. He informed me that there are enormous tracts of untouched Teak forest in the territory, and that if a market could be found, he could supply annually, for many years, some 10,000 logs of Teak. They are at present very badly off for forest roads and communications. During the last decade the average amount of Teak sent to

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depôt has been 3,787 candies annually; during the last year 2,814 logs of Teak containing 6,610 candies were brought down to the Coast depôt, but only 4,375 candies were sold.

33. *Coffee under shade*.—Much has been written lately about the practicability of growing Coffee under shade, with a view to lessen the ravages of the Borer. During my late tours through the Madura, Tinnevely, and Travancore ghauts, I have seen estates, both European and Native, at different elevations under shade; some under the shade of the indigenous forest trees, others under the artificial shade of the Jack, the *Eriodendron anfrastuosum* (or white flowering cotton tree), the Plantain, and the Castor-oil plant. The following observations may, therefore, be of some interest: All the estates that I have seen under the shade of large forest trees, though these latter were generally considerably thinned out, bear a most miserably small crop, though the plant often grows very luxuriantly. In estates under the Jack the plant grows with very great luxuriance as to leaf, but the crop is always small, and the Jack tree grows too large, and the foliage is too thick to admit sufficient light and air, and the drip is probably injurious to the blossom. Some estates under the Plantain and the Castor-oil plant were yielding very fine crops, but these estates were generally at no great elevation. I am inclined to think that the shade of the Plantain tree can be used to great advantage in estates below an elevation of 2,500 or 3,000 feet, or in estates in a dry climate, or in localities subject to long droughts. There can be no doubt, however, that the Plantain takes considerable nourishment out of the soil, and it is a question how long estates planted with it will continue to give heavy crops without considerable outlays in manure. The Plantain tree would never be attacked by the Borer, but the Jack is. I was much struck by the estates on the Myendragherry and Pachymullay at the extreme south of the western chain of ghauts. In the best kept estates in Wynaad one always sees a considerable quantity of weeds, and most estates are overgrown with them. Here, however, there was not a vestige of a weed of any description on any of the estates. The weeding is done by contract, eight Annas per acre monthly being paid from the commencement. In estates kept like these, we shall not probably hear much of the Borer, the Bug, or any other insects.

No. 56. ORDER THEREON, 6th January 1868, No. 29.

Forests, No. 3.

1. The Government have perused with much interest the above reports, and entirely concur in opinion with Dr. Cleghorn that the present and prospective requirements of the Southern Districts render it eminently desirable that a skilled officer of standing should be appointed to the united range of the Madura and Tinnevely forests, and they approve the proposal to transfer Lieutenant Fullerton from Wynaad to this charge, so soon as the demarcation of the Wynaad Teak forests is completed. A first class Overseer will then be placed in charge of the Wynaad operations, as proposed in Dr. Cleghorn's letter, No. 349, dated 26th October 1867; and the Officiating Conservator will consider and report whether this latter range may not be placed under the general supervision of Major Morgan, who has the Sigur and Mudumallay charge, felling operations in the Wynaad being stopped temporarily, as proposed by Dr. Cleghorn in the letter above cited, the depôts being full, the line of carriage to the coast interrupted, and a large supply of timber available in Mysore to meet the requirements of the general market. The question of relieving Major Morgan of the charge of the operations on the Nilgiri plateau is discussed by Dr. Cleghorn in a separate report at the desire of Government.

2. Captain Beddome's detailed report of his tour through the Tinnevely forest, indicates an immense field for forest operations, and the Government will look with much interest for Lieutenant Fullerton's future reports of progress made in introducing conservancy and developing the valuable resources of these tracts.

*of running at the headwaters of the
Ganary.*

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6th January 1868.*

3. Copy of the Order recently passed regarding the demarcation and survey of the Travancore boundary will be communicated to the Officiating Conservator; and should any question of exchange of territory come under discussion, the Conservator will have an opportunity of offering any remarks that he may wish to submit on the subject as affecting tracts under his department.

4. The Board of Revenue will submit, for the information of Government, any correspondence with the Collector that may have passed on the subject of the forest tracts claimed by the Zemindars.

5. The questions of grazing fees in reserved tracts and of the collection of forest produce, the Government have already stated that they are prepared to consider on their general merits when brought forward by the Forest Department in communication with the Revenue Board.

6. The Government are glad to perceive that the Revenue Officers of the district are in favor of the proposal for entrusting the forests to the special department, and that the people are fully alive to the necessity for adopting strict measures of conservancy.

7. Mr. Puckle's preliminary arrangements seem to have been suitable, judicious, and effective; and the Government rely on his hearty cooperation with the special department, to secure those objects in view which are of such vast moment to the future of the district under his charge.

8. The Forest Map prepared by Captain Beddome had better be made over to the Survey Department to be lithographed.

9. The Collector should give his attention to the demarcation of all forest tracts admitted to belong to Zemindars.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

N^o 348

From

Office of Conservator of Forests
Madras 26th October 1867.

8c

H. Cleghorn Esqre M. L.
Conservator of Forests

To

W. Hudleston Esqre
Secretary to Govt.
R. L.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for
the consideration and orders of Government
the papers noted below.

1. Collector of Tinnevely N^o 1719 dated 23rd Aug 1867.

2. Memo on water supply.

3. Collector of Tinnevely N^o 2186. dated 30th Sept 1867.

4. Captain Beddome's Report on the
Tinnevely Forests dated 15 Aug 1867.

These relate to the present state and proposed
management of the Tinnevely Shab Forests
and are deeply interesting in connection
with the papers transmitted by the
Government of India on the alleged effects
of clearing at the headwaters of the
Cauvery

Survey and the Minutes by the Members of Government relating to the future Conservancy of ^{the} Nilgerry woods.

2. It appears both from the Collector and Captain Beddome's Reports that much forest has been destroyed within the last few years in connection with the extension of agriculture, both permanent coffee grants and temporary Kumari Cultivation.

Mr. Puckle's Report contains matter for serious consideration as regards the diminished water supply of the irrigation channels. This subject was discussed by me on the spot with Mr. Clements Markham and Mr. Mc Gregor the Sub Collector two years ago, when we attributed the present state of the channels more to diminished expenditure on works of irrigation than to the deforesting of

* L.C. 2nd May 1868
N^o 1033 R.D.

Custatium, under the special Department, when the Forests of the Eastern Ghats from Wartrap to Cape Comorin will form one well defined range. The Southern

forests were placed under the Sub Collector. Mr. Mc Gregor who possessed special knowledge and took great interest in the work; but he has been removed to another District and in a separate letter I have suggested the transfer of Lieutenant Fullerton from Wynad after the demarcation of Peak Forest is completed.

7. In the Memo accompanying the Budget ¹⁸⁶⁸⁻⁶⁹ I stated that it is under consideration whether a skilled Officer of standing should not be appointed to the united range of Madura and Tinnevely, and with the important work of demarcating reserves in prospect I am strongly of this opinion. If this cannot be arranged, I would place

Overseen

overer under the collector.

8. It will be difficult to introduce
in the future the same large
Departmental work all at once as proposed
to the collector by the Tahsildar of
Pankaramanah Kovil. Depots may
however be established and Departmental
working gradually brought into use
as has been done in other Districts. The
Forest Department will also mark the
reserved trees when cut on license. There
is no export trade and no extensive
requirements are not large.

9. Grazing. The collector appears to
have made judicious arrangements
for limiting the herds of cattle to certain
tracts. The horned cattle and the drivers
do a great deal of mischief and some measure
of this kind is absolutely necessary all
along the Ghats. If a small fee was
charged for their being allowed to enter the
Government

Revenue Department

29 W. 29.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 6th Dec^r 1867.

Read the follow-
ing letter from the Conservator
of Forests:-

Submitting 2 letters
Puckle with Captain
's report on Cinnivelly

(These letters 26th Oct^r
No 348/-

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united charge of the Madras
and Cinnivelly forests. &
they approve the proposal to
transfer Lt. Fullerton from
Wynad to this charge as soon
as the demarcation of the Wynad
Teak forests is com-
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as proposed in Mr. Alghorn
letter No 349 dated 26th Oct^r
1867 and the off^r Conservator

N.

work

CPK

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3 Copy of the order recently passed regarding the demarcation and survey of the Vancouver boundary will be communicated to the officiating Conservator and should any question of exchange of territory come

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[Signature]

13 Copies Table of Forests of the Survey
14 ———— of the Forests of the Survey
10 ———— of the Forests of the Survey

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[Signature]

