

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	482	Press ~~Mis.~~
431-32. Dated	20-2-	1868..

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th February 1868.*

No. 431. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 21st December 1867, No. 439 :—

1. Adverting to the Government Order No. 1,173, of the 17th of May 1866, I have the honor to forward copy of Lieutenant Walker's final report upon the Javady and Yellaghiry hills, together with a Sketch Map of the small tract of Teak on the latter hills (mentioned in paragraph 30 of his former report), which has now been demarcated, and is found to contain 1,213 acres.

2. Lieutenant Walker is also preparing a Forest Chart of these hills, on which all the reserves will be laid down when they have been sanctioned by Government, and demarcation carried out.

3. The arrangements made for reserves on the Javady hills seem judicious, and very important as the hills are so near the line of railway; it is proposed to reserve eight tracts, containing in all an area of about 90 square-miles. If Government sanction these reserves, the Deputy Conservator can at once commence the demarcation; this will of course be carried out in communication with the Collector of the District.

4. The small tracts alluded to as worth reserving on the Yellaghiry hill, but in which patches of cultivation intervene, should not be demarcated so as to include the cultivation, unless it can be bought up or exchanged for land elsewhere. The Collector should be consulted on this point.

5. The Makul Mallay hill, near Cotapatty, will be a valuable reserve, as it is not far distant from the railway.

6. On the Javady hills each ryot holds a large extent of what is termed Podugal land; he only pays a tax for what he cultivates, which may be a very small portion. Are all the Sandal-wood trees on the Podugal to be considered his property?

7. Forest reserves are now receiving much attention from our department, and large sums of money are being sanctioned by Government for carrying out these arrangements; the ultimate benefit will be greatly curtailed unless the Forest Act is made law, and our Forest rules strictly upheld. The rules have been drawn up in each district with the full concurrence of the Civil authorities, and the greatest attention paid to the rights and privileges of the inhabitants, so that there is no reason why they should not be strictly enforced. At present the Civil authorities in some districts state that they have no power to punish even for forest theft, and the natives are well aware that our rules are not upheld; the object of forest reserves will be in a great way frustrated unless forest trespass is punishable. If real conservancy is to be carried out, the collection of forest products, and the right of grazing, &c., must be in a measure under the control of our officers. In my tours through our forests I am daily impressed with this fact.

Report on the Forests of the Javady and Yellaghiry hills, Tripatore Range, Salem District, by Lieutenant C. S. Walker, Deputy Conservator of Forests.

1. These hills were visited and reported on in 1865, and the measures then proposed, with the concurrence of the Collector, met with the approval of Government. Strict orders were issued by the Land Revenue authorities for the prevention and restriction of Kumri cultivation, and I think this has done good in

preventing the destruction of the forests, although the practice is still more or less continued, and it is doubtless difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate it altogether. Measures were also taken to secure, for villages situated within the tracts to be reserved for forest purposes, adequate patches of jungle for the supply of firewood, &c., and the Acting Head Assistant furnished me on this occasion with a list prepared by the Tahsildar of Tripatore, shewing the approximate population, and extent of village reserve required, based on the statements and requests of the hill-people themselves. I consider that the extent asked for is moderate, and shall issue instructions, when the actual demarcation commences, to accede, wherever practicable, to the villagers' requests as to the position of these village jungles. Patches adjoining the villages are generally available, but where such is not the case, some portion of the Government reserve in the vicinity will be marked off and handed over for the villagers' own use.

2. Since my last visit, every endeavour has been made by this department to conserve the Sandal-wood and timber remaining on these hills, and our efforts have not been altogether fruitless, though doubtless much yet remains to be done.

3. The greatest difficulty arises from the habit of clearing land for cultivation prior to application, and from the number of cattle which come, even from the low country, to graze on the hills, and whose drivers do incalculable mischief, not only pulling down branches of timber and bamboos when other fodder is scarce, but hacking the trees with their bill-hooks without any object. I noticed many fine young Sandal and other saplings completely severed in this manner. I detected two cases of clearing ground for cultivation, and subsequently prosecuted the parties before the Sub-Magistrate of Tripatore, who convicted both cases, and punished the accused, which I hope will have a good effect in deterring others. It is difficult to detect or prove a case against the cow-drivers, as they run away immediately any one resembling a peon approaches, being well aware that they are committing an offence. I ordered repeated proclamation to be made in each village regarding this matter, but the village head-men say, with much truth, that they are powerless to prevent it, as most of the damage is done by the cow-drivers from the plains.

4. Since my last visit 3,305 Sandal-wood trees have been cleared of creepers and brushwood, which impeded their growth. Of this number 259 trees were over three feet in circumference. Upwards of 1,000 maunds of prepared billets were removed to Tripatore dépôt and sold in 1866, realizing Rupees 4 per maund of 28 lbs., which is a good average price. About 1,200 maunds are ready for sale this year, fully half of which consist of first and second class billets, the remainder being mixed. A considerable number of ripe trees have also been felled this year, and will be prepared for sale in 1868, great care is taken to fell only those trees which have reached maturity. The digging of roots is also going on, although labor is difficult to obtain for this work, as it is troublesome and severe. I have now ordered the trees to be taken up at once by the roots instead of being felled, and the roots afterwards dug up, and I trust this plan will result in a saving of expense and time. I have, however, been informed by the Officiating Conservator of Forests, Mysore, that a similar plan was tried there and given up as being unprofitable.

5. I beg here to submit an important question for decision. Under the recent orders regarding Sandal-wood, that which grows on puttah lands belongs

to the Puttahdars. On these hills, payment is made by the plough or hoe, and a ryot holds in many cases a large extent of *Podugal* land, only a small portion of which he cultivates and pays for yearly, viz., so much as he can cultivate with his one or more ploughs or hoes, as the case may be. In such cases are all the Sandal-wood trees growing on the Podugal lands, which are considered by mutual consent of the villagers as in the possession of one individual, his property, or if not, how many? seeing that he cultivates and pays for only a portion each year and leaves the rest waste, though he calls it all his puttah land.

6. I now proceed to define more accurately the tracts which I propose to reserve.

I. On the southerly side, and indeed as far as the village of *Chittoor* (proceeding north), there is no timber which would justify a reserve being formed, save two small portions about 13 square-miles each, on the summits of *Tripatore* and *Senjivirayen Sawmy Mullay*, which will be demarcated, although there is little danger of any timber being felled in either as they form topes surrounding temples.

I do not propose that these trees should ever be felled, which would be inexpedient, and cause annoyance to the people, but simply reserve them for climatic consideration.

II. East from *Chittoor* the slopes towards South Arcot should be reserved, a considerable area eight square-miles, as they contain much *Neemai* (*Conocarpus latifolia*), *Ja* (*Eugenia Jambolana*), and other timbers useful for house-building purposes, for which there is a great demand in the South Arcot District.

III. North-east from *Wullundulpett*, and about one mile east from the village of *Coopum*, (*vide* my former report, paragraphs 4 and 27,) is a fine patch of *Teak*. Extending about two miles down the ravine in a northerly direction, directly south of *Wullundulpett*, the Overseer (Mr. Hodgson) found another patch of some extent. Both of these portions, the area of which will be about nine square-miles, should be reserved. The northern boundary is well known and clearly defined by a peculiar rock known as *Kamukull*, and the rising ground on the south is known as *Jendagoody*.

IV.—Proceeding in a north-westerly direction past the villages of *Cotanoor*, *Towree Coopum* to *Polipolium* and *Cumbagoody*, I would indicate a tract of considerable extent, probably about 20 square-miles (the length is six miles, but I do not state positively the breadth), stretching from near the village of *Wullundulpett* to *Towree Coopum*, and including the rising grounds known as *Munjampillai* and *Droogum Mullay*, and the southern slopes of the ravine (which runs nearly across the hills from *Peroomendoor* in South Arcot) which lie between the villages of *Killatoor* and *Bandram*. Patches of *Teak* occur frequently in the above. A considerable proportion are stump shoots from trees formerly felled, many of which must have been of large size. The remainder are saplings, of which many are straight and healthy. I measured several from two feet six inches to three feet in circumference, and could in several places count as many as twenty or thirty young trees from where I stood. On the slopes betwixt *Killatoor* and *Bandram* there is *Atcha* (*Hardwickia Binata*), which is rare in these forests, and much sought after; *Neemai* and *Kadukai* (*Terminalia Chebula*) are plentiful.

V.—Proceeding north and north-east from *Cumbagoody*, the hill known as *Pandoor Mullay*, and the slopes towards the north, east, and west, comprising about

Type

pages

1

h

6

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th February 1868.

sixteen square-miles, and containing Teak and Atcha, should be reserved. We are now felling a few trees in the tract for the supply of our experimental depôt at Tripatore. North from *Cumbagoody* are the large villages of *Vashindapooram*, *Nayakanoor*, *Temmulay*, and *Vecraga*, *Vulsay*, *Beemakollum*, and *Redyoor*, round which there is no forest of value. Thence I proceeded south-east, along the northern slopes of the ravine already mentioned (paragraph IV) by *Belamurtoor* (six miles from *Beemakollum*) to lower and upper *Celumbuddy* (four miles from *Belamurtoor*), I found nothing in this part which would warrant a reserve being formed.

VI.—About half a mile north-east of *Melcelunbuddy* is a small hill, known as *Kumbakull Mullay*, where I found Teak extending to the small village of *Cootanerry*, which I propose to reserve, probably about two square-miles.

VII. South from *Melcelunbuddy* are the villages of *Pillyoor* (five miles) and *Talloor* (seven miles). South of *Talloor* is *Temmulay* (misprinted *Terunamulay* in last report, paragraphs 6 and 27), the whole of which, probably about 16 square-miles, should, I think, be reserved.

VIII.—Proceeding south-west of *Melcelunbuddy*, by the villages of *Kelvelamuchin* and *Tutyapett*, is *Attimurtoor*, distant about nine miles from *Melcelunbuddy*, and to the south-west and south and south-east of this village lie the finest tracts of forest I have yet seen in the Tripatore range; the extent is, roughly speaking, 20 square-miles. Teak is abundant, and there seems no reason from its appearance and the nature of the soil why it should not attain to a considerable size. The Overseer measured some forty-two inches in circumference, and we found the stumps of many trees of large size. *Naga*, *Kudukai*, and *Neemai* are also plentiful.

This portion of the hills adjoins the Polur talook of the North Arcot District, and I am informed that much clandestine felling is carried on by villagers from that talook, to put a stop to which will require the active co-operation of the Forest Officer and Village Revenue authorities in North Arcot.

North-west from *Attimurtoor* are the villages of *Padry*, *Attiputt*, *Perugad*, and *Veerapanoor* (this last distant about sixteen miles from *Attimurtoor*), round which and on this part of the hills generally (the northern end) the forest is not such as would justify a reserve.

IX.—On the Yellaghiry hill I demarcated the patch of Teak near the village of *Kootoor* noticed in my last report, paragraph 30, which I found to be of much larger extent than had been reported. Demarcation stones are now being erected in accordance with Circular No. 18 of the Conservator of Forests. I enclose a sketch shewing the area enclosed, which is 1,213 acres. The Overseer reports that there are other small patches on this hill worth reserving. I have, therefore, directed him to do so, as I had not time to visit them all myself. Small patches of cultivation sometimes intervene in running the lines, and I request sanction in such cases to include those in the reserve; the cultivator retaining the year's crop, or, should he prefer, getting remission of assessment, and, if necessary, a piece of equal extent being afterwards assigned to him outside the forest reserve.

7. It will be seen from the foregoing that it is proposed to reserve for forest purposes eight tracts on the Javadies, with an area of about 90 square-miles. One on the Yellaghiry hill (already demarcated) of about two square-miles, and probably two or three patches of smaller extent. I also request permission to demarcate and reserve a hill near *Cotaputty*, in *Utengherry* talook, known as

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th February 1868.

Makul Mullay, where there is Teak and other timber. The extent of this reserve would probably be about ten square-miles. The existence of Teak in some quantity was first brought to my notice twelve months ago by the late Acting Head Assistant Collector, and the forest has since been carefully inspected by the Overseer and myself. These will form the reserves of the Tripatore range, and I do not think that their extent will be considered too great, when it is remembered that they form, as it were, the sole source of local supply for two districts. Abundance of waste land is left for cultivation, and every care shall be taken in fixing the actual boundaries not to inconvenience the villagers.

8. The Acting Head Assistant informs me that he is to do the *Jummabundy* on the *Javadis* in January next. If orders are passed on this report previous to that month, I shall direct my Overseer, in my unavoidable absence in another part of the forests, to accompany him, point out the tracts exactly, and proceed with the demarcation whilst he is on the hills, so that any questions as to right of way, &c., may at once be referred and settled, which is very desirable.

9. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government Order, No. 1,173, on my former report, I propose, for a few months at first, to exclude all cattle from these reserved tracts, which restriction I shall gradually relax in favor of the villagers under certain conditions, viz., their being answerable for the care of trees. With regard to the unreserved tracts, I have informed the Mullialies that they may continue to take up any portion of the *Podugal* lands, which are of large extent, without previous application, as they contain no timber of value; but if they wish to acquire *Ponahad* land, they must, prior to clearing, make a *Durkhast* to the *Tahsildar*, through whom it will be referred to this department, and if there is found to be any valuable timber on it, reserved: on the contrary, should there be nothing of value, or but little, it will be given over to the applicant; the trees in the latter case, such as *Sandal*, *Teak*, &c., being numbered and marked and entered in the *puttah* as reserved. I trust that Government will approve of these orders, which are, I think, fair to all.

10. I think that the present system of allowing the forest products to be collected indiscriminately, tends to damage being done to the forests, as no care is taken in collection, and the branches are often torn down, and the tree damaged. I do not advocate a return to the principle of *farming out* these products, a practice discontinued by Government Order, No. 1,525, dated 22nd August 1864, but consider that no harm would ensue from employing the hill-men to collect them for Government under the supervision of the departmental peons. We would thus cause no loss to the collectors, who would rather work for us than for merchants, and would secure the forest from damage, whilst Government would obtain such products as "*Kupli Poddi*" (*Rottlera tinctoria*), for which there is great demand, from their own forests, and not be subjected to the extortion of the merchants, from whom it is now purchased.

11. A Forest Map or Chart of these hills is in course of preparation, on which the reserves will be marked off, if approved of by Government.

12. The submission of this report has been unavoidably delayed from time to time by press of other work.

(Signed) C. S. WALKER, Lieutenant,
Deputy Conservator of Forests.

CAMP DENKINCOTTAH,
26th November 1867.

6

ORDER THEREON, 20th February 1868, No. 482.

Forests, No. 12.

1. The Government approve and sanction Lieutenant Walker's proposals regarding reserves, and the timber on land newly sought for cultivation.

2. They desire to receive the Collector's opinion on the questions raised as to the nominal occupant's right to the Sandal trees in Podugal land, and the cultivated plots in the limits of the reserves.

3. The Board of Revenue will be requested to submit their views on the questions of the introduction of the Forest Act, and the collection of forest produce, both which questions press for decision.

4. Lieutenant Walker deserves much credit for the zealous and intelligent manner in which he administers his charge.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,

Under Secretary to Government.

11
Till here

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
 „ the Board of Revenue.
 „ the Department Public Works.
 „ the Collector of Salem.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

8. 482.

The for: appear
sanction L. Walker's proposals
regarding reserves. & the timber
on land newly sought for
cultivation. They desire to receive
the for: opinion on the question raised
as to the nominal occupants right
to the land. This is in regard to land
and the cult: plots in the limits of the reserves.
The for: of Mr. W. to be
requested to submit his views on
the questions of the introduction of
the Inst. Act. & the collection of
Inst. produce. & the L. questions
press for decision. L. Walker deserves
much credit for the zealous intelligence
shown in W. he administers his ex

13 Charles St. New York
 14 Wm. A. Smith
 21 ————
 20 July 1868.
 Wm. A. Smith
 Wm. A. Smith

6
Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department
20th February 1868.

No. 432.

ORDER THEREON, 20th February 1868, No. 482

Forests, No. 12.

1. The Government appropriation
Lieutenant Walker's

Pro. No. 305-306
17/5/66
422-23
21-7-65