M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1792 Press Mis.

527-529

Dated 24th June 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th June 1869.

Read the following :—

No. 527. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th April 1869, No. 2,275.

Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 13th March 1869, No. 31.

On the 11th January 1864 Mr Herklots purchased, at Public Auction, a block of forest-land in the Neeraly Valley, estimated to contain 300 acres, and paid down Rupees 2,250.

2. Up to the present date no Title-deed has been granted ; the land is one of the early cases entered in my List of arrears, already submitted to Government.

3. In his letter of 19th March 1868, addressed to the Collector of Coimbatore, Mr. Herklots applied to be permitted to exchange his purchase of 300 acres forest for a similar extent of grass-land in or about Coonoor. Seeing no objection to the exchange, I placed the Deputy Tahsildar of Coonoor at Mr. Herklots' service, and directed him to point out to that gentleman all available Government land in and around Coonoor.

4. On the 7th October 1868, Mr. Herklots wrote that no suitable grass-land seemed available near Coonoor, and asked for the return of the purchase-money, on the ground that no title had been furnished him, and he had been led into difficulties in consequence. Further correspondence passed under hopes of getting him some suitable land in exchange, but without success.

5. On the 6th ultimo, Mr. Herklots again wrote to say that his search for suitable land had proved ineffectual, and that he was prepared to abandon his purchase, and would rather the survey was not undertaken. He also again applied for a refund of his purchase-money.

6. Looking as much as I fairly can on his side, in consideration of his losses and the inconvenience caused by the non-possession of Title-deeds, I feel myself unable to support his application for a refund.

7. Mr. Herklots has felled a part of the forest he purchased, and no assessment has been paid on the land all the time it has been in his possession.

8. I would recommend that he be allowed to relinquish the land, and that the arrears of assessment, which have accrued thereon, be written off to profit and loss.

9. The site is in an out-of-the-way place, south-west of Hooticul Droog, and if put up to auction now would realise nothing.

The Board desire to know how much Mr. Herklots has felled, and whether the value of the block has been materially depreciated by his operations.

No. 528. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th June 1869, No. 3,981.

Read the following papers:—

Board's Proceedings, 5th April 1869, No. 2,275.

From the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 13th April 1869, No. 45.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, 5th instant, regarding Mr. Herklots' land in the Neeraly Valley, I beg to forward copy of Mr. Forest Overseer Newman's report on the present condition of the land.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Mr. NEWMAN, Overseer of the Neilgherries, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, dated Wellington, 9th April 1869, No. 77.

In compliance with your orders, I beg to inform you that I proceeded yesterday to the Neeraly Valley to inspect and report on Mr. Herklots' property at that place.

2. There is from twelve to fifteen acres of the shola land cleared, and a small portion of this clearing planted with Coffee, but the trees for want of care are growing wild.

3. If I may judge from the appearance of the trees in the vicinity of the portion which has been cleared, the trees felled were useless for timber, and only fit for firewood which could not be disposed of in this remote place.

4. Under these circumstances, the property alluded to has not, in my opinion, suffered, nor is the value of it depreciated.

Resolved that the above papers be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. It appears that in the month of January 1864, Mr. Herklots purchased, at Public Auction, 300 acres of forest-land for Rupees 2,250 which was paid at the time, but no Title-deed has been as yet granted for the land, nor has the land been surveyed.

3. In 1868, Mr. Herklots expressed a wish, by letter, to be allowed to exchange this land for an equal extent of grass-land in or about Coonoor, and the Collector acceded to the request.

4. Mr. Herklots has, however, although assisted by the Deputy Tahsildar of Coonoor, been unable to find any suitable land, and he desires to relinquish his purchase and receive back the money already paid.

5. In the Forest Overseer's report forwarded by the Commissioner, it is stated that from twelve to fifteen acres of the block in question have been cleared and planted to a small extent with Coffee trees which, from neglect, are growing wild, and that the trees cut down, which are only fit for firewood, are useless to Mr. Herklots in the absence of any reasonable means of deportation.

6. The Commissioner does not recommend a refund of the purchase-money, but a remission of the arrears of assessment which have accrued on the land, and the resumption of the land itself by Government.

7. The Board would not only adopt the Commissioner's suggestion but also refund the purchase-money, inasmuch as the block has not been depreciated in value by Mr. Herklots' operations, is absolutely valueless to him, and the Government have been put to no expense on account of it.

No. 529. Order thereon, 24th June 1869, No. 1,792.

Land Revenue.

The Government sanction the Commissioner's proposal, which appears to them to be sufficiently liberal, that Mr. Herklots be allowed to relinquish the land, and that the arrears of quit-rent due be remitted.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of (1869) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 1869.

Read.

G. O., 28th June 1869, No. 1502.

JUNE.

Nos. 827–828.

Forest-land on the Neilgherries purchased by Mr. Herklots in 1861.—Relinquishment of the land by Mr. Herklots, and remission of the arrears of quit-rent due, sanctioned.

N° 1792.
24 June/69

Lieut Governor

The Govt sanction the Commissioners proposal, which appears to them sufficiently liberal, that Mr Hacklots be allowed to relinquish the land and that the arrears of quit rent due be remitted