M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1879 Press
~~Mis.~~

702-703

Dated 30 th June ~~19~~ 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No. 702. Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 31st May 1869, No. 24:—

PARAGRAPHS* 1 and 2 of Major Beddome's letter of the 8th May 1869, No. 1,364, were referred to me for observations.

*(1.) Suggesting extended conservancy operations in the forests of the Coimbatore slopes of the Neilgherries to supply demand likely to arise for fuel and building-timber when the Railway to Kullar is made.
(2.) That care should be taken that none of these forest-tracts be alienated, as there will be doubtless many applications for land, only for the sale of timber.
(3.) That many of the tracts are admirably adapted for the growth of locomotive fuel.

2. The tract of country pointed out by Major Beddome is rather a large one. I enclose a Map showing the positions of Bolumputty and Suttiamungalum with reference to Kullar, Metapolliem, and the slopes of the Neilgherries. Both Bolumputty and Suttiamungalum, and all the east of the Bhowany, are in the Coimbatore District.

3. With regard to the first point raised by Major Beddome, I have to mention that Mr. Overseer Newman is in charge of the slopes of the Hills round about Coonoor;† and in my letter to the Board, dated 14th May, I have recommended that the Conservancy Establishment under him should be as follows:—

† In reply to Proceedings of Government, dated 11th March 1869, No 653.

	Pay per month.	Station.
1 Gumastah, ...	28	Metapolliem.
1 Peon, ...	10	Do.
1 Peon, ...	10	Burliar.
2 Peons, ...	20	Coonoor.
1 Peon, ...	10	Kotagherry.

For the present and until the demand which Major Beddome expects, actually arises, the above establishment it appears to me is a sufficient Conservancy Establishment for the forest-tract west of the Bhowany River.

4. On the second point alluded to by Major Beddome, I may say that I am already precluded‡ from even entertaining applications for wood-lands on either side of the Coonoor ravine, within sight of the old or new ghaut-road. I shall be careful in dealing with applications for forest-lands in any other localities handy to Kullar or Metapolliem, and all such applications have to be reported§ to Government for sanction.

‡ Procs. of Govt., dated 30th Jan. 1868, No. 259.

§ Procs. of Govt., dated 30th Jan. 1868, No. 259.

5. With regard to the third point, I beg to forward copy of paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6, (with a note) of my letter to the Board of the 14th instant.

6. In prospect of the great demand likely to be created by the Railway, with Major Beddome's opinion as to the suitability of the Neilgherry slopes for the purpose of growing Railway-fuel, I think the question of planting on a large scale is one well worthy the attention of Government. The timber and fuel that the existing forests on the eastern slopes of the Neilgherries can supply, will be found to be very inadequate, even if nothing was reserved; but I apprehend that

large tracts could not be cleared in this direction, without the risk of affecting the climate injuriously.

7. The Government are aware of the marked difference observable, as you travel on the Railway between Coimbatore and Malabar: the latter, within the influence of the south-west monsoons, is green and dense, with tropical vegetation; the former, by comparison, is a desert. The desert begins where the monsoon ends, and it is the opinion of many that the monsoon does not penetrate so far into Coimbatore as it formerly did, and the sterility of the Coimbatore District is extending westward towards Paulghaut. If this, on inquiry, be found to be the case, it would be very undesirable to make a great clearance in the neighbouring tract of country, mentioned by Major Beddome in his letter under reference, unless planting is carried on at least to an equal extent.

No. 703. ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1869, No. 1,879.

Forests, No. 23.

THE Government await the submission, by the Board, of the Commissioner's letter, dated 14th May 1869.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Commissioner of the Neilgherries

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

3. Lastly I should like to be informed if the Government have any other objects in these Plantations than that of the supply of firewood; if not it seems to me that the present mode of pitting, sowing, and fencing in Nurseries at a cost of Rs 250 per annum, a host of these Australian Acacias which when once they have got into a place cannot be got out of it and grow from seed and suckers in every sort of ground is a needless expense. There is hardly a residence in Ootacamund that is not overrun with the acacias. The Municipal Commissioners are constantly serving notices on owners to clean their grounds of them and owners as often grumble and say it is a hopeless task. While this is going on in Cantonments, a few miles out the Forest Overseers have good Nurseries and Maistries for the

Same

same plants as if they were native.

4- Hundreds have from Major Beddome that several of various foreign trees have been raised in the Ootacamund nurseries and he would even to one a large parcel of Himalayan seed for the same purpose. Hitherto however that all such experiments had fallen through the Agri-Horticultural Society and Botanical gardens have thus had seed sufficiently to succeed in the hands of the Society, and the Gardens, than with Overseers and Matties in charge of the Forest Nurseries. If Government agree with me, I contemplate doing away with these nurseries, which so have at any rate given to me a needless expense, inasmuch as they are not needed for future plantations and otherwise they do indifferently what the Government Gardens and Collectors will.

5- For the present year as the Budget amount has been sanctioned and a certain expense in the way of putting tracking and preparations has been incurred. I propose when the season for planting out arrives to complete what has been begun in the usual way and spend a portion of the sanctioned amount. And for the future I propose to limit the expense of planting to Rs 500 — a year feeling satisfied that the Australian seed may be made to grow to any extent by simply making a furrow with a plough or a mamoty and putting the seed into the furrow.

6- If the Government desire to make timber plantations of the Australian Eucalyptus* which grow speedily and have it would be worth while to select a locality in such a place as the Ghats on either side of the Pykara Koondah River to the west of the old Sandapatty Haut.

There

* See Notes sur l'Eucalyptus et subsidiairement sur la necessité du reboisement de l'Algerie par M. Trottier an account is given of the marvellous growth and durability of some of the Eucalyptus Communicum of the Paris and London Exhibitions have upon long experience of the wood as very suitable from its hardness and durability for various purposes especially naval & civil such that attacks of marine insects. So this species would appear to give a cheap and Mr Trottier adds that like superior to the latter in density. The Committee of the French Exhibition

Exhibition of 1862 report on the Blue Gum Species as very valuable for Sleepers and Dr Trotter's Calculations that this will be large enough for the Railway in Spain, with the age they attain a size equable that of Jarrah Even 70 years old.

Captain Daniell in a recent publication on Eucalyptus Resinifera observes that the Timber is Brittle in seasoning and in exposure it splits and cracks, forming Excellent Fuel and Plantations of Small or Rails for Fences.

"Supposing that Sleepers of Blue Gum could be used the number required for laying a single line over the 3600 miles of Railway in Spain at 1760 Sleepers per mile is 6,336,000 and the renewals annually are assumed" "therefore that a little number would be required for Repairs or Extraordinary Consumption Assuming that Spanish Railways for the first 10 years will require 1/10 of the whole number of Sleepers, 633,600 Sleepers would be required annually for renewals. To be Branded in the Government Forests of Spain, from three to five Sleepers can be cut from one tree, 3 to 4 million of timber trees would be required" "at every fifth year. But as both" "and Railroads take a longer duration" "estimated at from 20 to 30 years to arrive" "at maturity, and as but few trees" "would be found as Sleepers as soon as" "at all adjacent to the Railroads, the immense difficulty or rather impossibility" "of procuring an adequate number of Sleepers" "from the Forests of Spain alone will be" "evident."

There is now lying in Cotacamund of the Blue Gum Sleepers & Rubbers, planted in 1852 which measure in girth at

one foot from the ground	—	19½ feet
2 feet " "	—	16 "
3 " " "	—	13½ "
6 " " "	—	11½ "

There would be a considerable saving of Timber and the Land would thereby be benefited if Sleepers were brought from the Planted in Blocks into the Bowany and thence to Mettapollium. Of the Government Land which the Honorable Colo Morgan and Captain Morrison, Brigade made an examination of the first-from Salem to Mettapollium should be the first re-planted with Eucalyptus Plantations on the Hills, not with the nearly Exhausted Land of the Jungle Cultivation of Bowany Lands that as an independent undertaking to take the place of the Eucalyptus are found to be Equally if not more Expensive.

(Signed) Maxwell

Commissioner

1879 5

The Govt await the submission by the Board, of the Comrs letter dated 14th May 1869.

30th June 69

1st Mr Bly Dy Secy to Govt
3 — Comrs of the Neilgherries

forthwith Govt no. 1473 Proceedings under date the 25th Instant. Mr Baker

Revenue 1869 Vol.

From H. 1824

The Commissioner
of Fisheries

To, The Secretary
Board of Revenue
Madras

Dated 31st May 1869

Rec'd 22nd June 1869

No 24
No 879-30 pupé
Enclosures No 2

Offer observations
on paras 1 and 2
of Major Beddome's
letter of the 8th May
1869 No 1364 called
for by Govt in their
Proceedings No 1473
under date the 25th
Instant.

Wm Oakes

Rec'd 30 June 1868 At 525-9
11 March 69 - 281-5
25 May — 599-602.