M.R.O. 1—50,000—16-10-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2850. Press

170-71

Dated 16th September 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th September 1869.

No. 170. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1869, No. 4,818 :—

Read the following letter from J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 14th May 1869, No. 86.

As directed in Government order, dated 11th March 1869, No. 653, I have taken over charge of the Neilgherry forests and plantations. By paragraph 13 of the order it is evident that the Government are not satisfied that the necessities of the case justify the employment of an experienced Military officer for the forests on the Hills. Paragraph 14 directs me to propose such modifications of, or additions to, the existing forest establishment here as I may consider necessary, bearing in mind that, as a rule, the annual cost must not exceed the annual receipts.

2. I find the permanent establishment at present sanctioned by Government, to be as follows:—

	Monthly. Pay	Monthly. Travelling allowance	Head-quarters.	Charge
	RS.	RS.		
Overseer Newman	100	50	Wellington.	All forests east of Dodabet with the slopes of the Hills to Mettapolliem and the Wellington Australian Plantation. All forests west of Dodabet and three Australian Plantations near Ootacamund.
Goomastah	20	8	Mettapolliem.	
Head Peon	9		Do.	
2nd do.	7		Burliar.	
3rd do.	7		Coonoor.	
Overseer Taylor	50	30	Ootacamund.	
1st Peon	[illegible]		Do.	
2nd do.	7		Do.	
3rd do.	7			
4th do.	7		Vacant.	
Office Peon	[illegible]		Ootacamund.	
	229 / 68	68		
	297 × 12 = 3,564 annually			

3. [illegible] to the above actual expenditure [illegible]

5. For the present year, as the Budget amount has been sanctioned, and a certain expense in the way of pitting, trenching, and preparation has been incurred, I propose, when the season for planting out arrives, to complete what has been begun in the usual way, and to spend a portion of the sanctioned amount. But, for the future, I propose to limit the expense of firewood planting to Rupees 500 a-year, feeling satisfied that the Australian Acacias can be made to grow to any extent by running a furrow with a plough or a mamooty, and putting the seed into the furrow.

6. If the Government desire to make timber plantations of the Australian Eucalypti* which grow splendidly here, it would be worth while to select a locality in such a place as the slopes on either sides of the Redkoonda river to the west of the old Lundapatty Ghaut. There is plenty of desirable land waste there, and the timber when cut might, I should be floated in flood into the Poonamallee and thence to Metropolitan. If the Government think it desirable, Colonel Morgan and I, after the monsoon, might make an examination of the river from below Kellavoondoo to Metropolitan. Should the river be found practicable, plantations on the banks might be taken in hand, not with the speedy multiplier of the Acacia Cincta, Sesbania Grandiflora, &c., as auxiliaries, but with a view to make the place of Teak to which certain species of the Eucalypti are found to be equal, if not superior.

7. As regards Teak Conservancy, I cannot agree to do away with the present Establishment. The Forest Department does not pay, but it is a necessary evil. Without it, the Forests would be destroyed by the people. Even with it, the Forests are not properly protected. The Forest Guards are not to be trusted. They are in league with the people, and connive at their depredations. Without a Forest Establishment, the Forests would be destroyed in a few years. The Forest Department is a necessary evil, and must be maintained. Even with it, the Forests are not properly protected. The Forest Guards are not to be trusted. They are in league with the people, and connive at their depredations. Without a Forest Establishment, the Forests would be destroyed in a few years. The Forest Department is a necessary evil, and must be maintained.

* *In Notes sur l'Eucalyptus et substitution sur la necessité du reboisement au Telegraphe*, by Mr. Trottier, an account is given of the marvellous growth and durability of some of the Eucalypti. Commissioners of the Paris and London Exhibitions have reported in high terms of the wood as very suitable, from its hardness and durability, for various purposes, especially naval, as it resists the attack of marine insects. In this respect, it would appear to rival Teak; and Mr. Trottier adds that it is superior to that latter in density. The Committee of the French Exhibition of 1862 reported the *Blue gum* supplies as very suitable for Railway sleepers, and Mr. Trottier calculates that trees will be large enough for this purpose in eight years at which age he says they attain a size equal to that of an Oak ever seventy years old. Captain Davidson, lately published Report on Indian Railways, shows that the demand for sleepers is enormously in excess of the supply that can be permanently obtained from any existing forests and plantations of Sal or Teak. He says "supposing that sleepers of Indian woods could be used, the number of sleepers required would be a staggering one, and the renewals annually would be enormous. Take a line 500 miles long, and suppose that sleepers are required at the rate of 2,000 per mile, and that they last on an average ten years, then 100,000 sleepers would be required annually for renewals alone, and this supposes that every sleeper put down is of the best description, and that no sleepers are required for repairs, or for the construction of sidings, &c. Even if the Government determine to use iron sleepers, the number of wooden sleepers required would be enormous. Does Mr. Trottier's Report on the Eucalypti apply to the Australian Acacias which grow so rapidly here?

reply, I propose the following additions to the present permanent establishment :—

Present Establishment.			Proposed Establishment.		
Overseer Newman	120	Wellington	120		Wellington.
Goondah h.	28	Metupolliem	28		Metupolliem.
2nd Peon	6	Do.	10		Do.
2nd Do.	7	Burliar	10		Burliar.
3rd Do.	7	Coonoor	10	3	Coonoor.
4th Do.			10		
5th Do.			10		Kotagherry.
	141×12=2,472		308×12=3,696		
Overseer Taylor	30	Ootacamund	80		Ootacamund.
2nd Peon	7	Do.	10		Do.
3rd Do.	7	Do.	10		Do.
4th Do.	7	Do.	10		Do.
5th Do.	7	Do.	10		Do.
6th Do.	7	Do.	10		Do.
	165×12=1,980		180×12=2,160		
	2,472		3,696		
	4,452		5,856		
	3,456		4,896		
Additional pay to 4 Overseers at Rs. 20 each per mensem			20×12=	240	
Contingencies for fuel, &c.				720	
	7,908			7,896	

This shows a total increase of Rupees 732 per annum.

9. I also anticipate that the first step of all is to prevent the illicit felling and destruction which goes on in the most systematic and organized way. I have accordingly addressed the Police Department on the subject, and I am about to build three Police stations at a total cost of Rupees 620, on three sites on the Hills surveyed by Captain Ford. With my own establishment and the Police, and with a better system of patrol, I hope to be able to put a stop to the wholesale destruction of young trees by fire, and to secure to Government the timber which is now stolen. I do not anticipate success with the agency now at my disposal.

2. With reference to Government order, dated 29th March 1860, No. 393, passed upon a letter from the Conservator of Forests, dated 21st December 1859, No. 1093, that Department's duties in the case are as follow :—The Forest Officer, provided with Orders of Government, proceeds to the spot, and, after personally inspecting the trees, &c., reports to the Collector. The Collector, if he approves, issues a notice under Section 34 of the Penal Code. The Joint Magistrate appointed by the Collector to try the case, after hearing the evidence for the prosecution and for the defence, records his opinion on the point whether the offence has been committed or not, and passes such order as he thinks proper. In appeal, the Collector or Sessions Judge has the power to alter the finding and sentence of the Joint Magistrate, and to direct the further examination of witnesses, &c.

The Forest Officer's duties are confined to the collection of such evidence as may be necessary to enable the Collector to form an opinion as to whether the offence has been committed or not, and to the production of that evidence before the Joint Magistrate. He has no power to punish, and his opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused is not required. He is not a party to the case, and has no right of appeal against the decision of the Joint Magistrate. He is merely a witness for the prosecution, and his duties are confined to those of a witness. The Joint Magistrate is the judge of the case, and his decision is final, except in so far as it may be altered by the Collector or Sessions Judge on appeal. The Forest Officer has no power to punish, and his opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused is not required. He is not a party to the case, and has no right of appeal against the decision of the Joint Magistrate. He is merely a witness for the prosecution, and his duties are confined to those of a witness. The Joint Magistrate is the judge of the case, and his decision is final, except in so far as it may be altered by the Collector or Sessions Judge on appeal.

wilful omission on the part of the herdsman to take care of the cattle was just as much a cause of the mischief as if he had driven the cattle into the Government plantation.

10. In conclusion, I can only say that I am prepared to give the existing forest establishment (with the additions I have proposed in paragraph 7, if approved,) a fair trial; but I cannot withhold an expression of regret that the service of a Covenanted Officer of some grade or other cannot be made available to help me. I was in hopes that at least an officer of the Wellington Depôt might be temporarily lent to me on the condition that he got his pay (to be debited to the Military Department) and Rupees 80 a month horse allowance to be debited to the Jungle Conservancy Fund. Under such an arrangement I would dispense with the services of the Ootacamund Overseer, so that no additional expense to the State would be incurred, while the establishment would be rendered efficient in the point in which it is now weak, namely, trustworthy personal supervision.

11. Regarding the Overseers Newman and Taylor, having known them for so short a time, I do not wish to say anything further than that I am glad to find that Major Beddome gives Newman a very high character. As regards Overseers generally, I can only refer to paragraph 7 of my letter* to the Board, dated 22nd September 1868, No. 28. Practically the present transfer of the Nellgherry forests to me has really the effect of leaving the Overseers under my little more control than they were before. Their duties are of such a nature as to demand, above everything else, honesty. Temptations are numerous, and without some more direct control than I and my Assistant can give, I am afraid that, from evasion on the one hand and collusion on the other, there will be little more effective conservancy than heretofore. Under this view of the case, I submit that the result would be more satisfactory to Government if some such arrangement as I have explained in paragraph 10 could be carried out at once.

*Embodied in Proceedings of Government, dated 11th March 1869.

Submitted for the information and orders of Government, with reference to their orders, dated and numbered, respectively, 11th March 1869, No. 653, and 24th March, No. 838.

2. In reply to the first of the above-named Proceedings of Government the Commissioner reports on the forest establishment and working of the Government plantations on the Hills.

3. The annual cost of establishment, including the Ranger's allowance, for working the plantations is Rupees 7,064, and the average receipts for the last three years, Rupees 4,321, showing a deficit of Rupees 2,743.

4. The Commissioner proposes to reduce the existing establishment on the Government sandalwood plantations, reducing it to Rupees 500 per annum, and to submit a revised scheme for a permanent establishment for Rupees 6,000.

per annum. This amount exceeds the cost of the present establishment by Rupees 732; but as the working expenses will be reduced to Rupees 500, a saving on the total expenditure will be effected, amounting to Rupees 2,268, as shown in the margin.

	Rs.
Total present expenditure	7,064
Revised establishment	4,296
Working expenses	500
	4,796
Saving	2,268

3. The enhancement of cost of the establishment consists in the indispensible increase in the pay and numbers of the Peons or Under-Foresters, and in an allowance of Rupees 10 per mensem to the two Revenue Inspectors, whose supervision and responsibility will prove most useful in the conservancy of the woods.

6. The Board recommend that the proposed establishment, and also the changes to be effected in the management and working of the firewood plantations, be sanctioned by Government as a temporary measure. They also approve of Mr. Brooks's proposal to transfer to the Horticultural Gardens all experiments with seed from other parts of India and elsewhere.

7. The Commissioner states that the Conservator of Forests has reported favourably of the Overseers; but it appears to the Board that admitted results go far to qualify this view, and Mr. Brooks will be requested to inform each servant on the establishment that they will be judged by results alone, and that unless during the next year sufficient there is an improvement in this respect other arrangements will become advisable.

8. The Board highly approve of the suggestion contained in paragraph 9 of Mr. Brooks's letter regarding the cultivation of Acacia Leucophlæa, and recommend that he be authorized to carry out his proposal.

9. The Board also support the proposal to discontinue the reserve for the reclamation of land [illegible]

10. In paragraph 10 the Commissioner again brings forward the subject of [illegible] in the Proceedings of Government, dated March 11, 1869, in which [illegible] the opinion of the Board that the appointment of the Conservator [illegible] Mr. Brooks's letter, dated 14th May 1869, the Commissioner of the Neilgherries while reporting generally on the forest tracts and Government plantations on the Hills, proposes several important changes in working them.

2. He recommends an increase of Rupees 732 per annum in the cost of the permanent establishment hitherto sanctioned for conservancy. The additional expenditure will be caused by an enhanced rate of pay to the Peons maintained by the establishment, by the employment of two fresh hands, and by the allowance of extra pay to two Revenue Inspectors. Considering the arduous and responsible duties which devolve upon the subordinate officials engaged in conservancy on the Hills, the Government resolve to sanction the permanent establishment proposed by Mr. Brooks, the annual cost of which is Rupees 4,296.

3. To counterbalance the increased expenditure thus incurred, the Commissioner advocates a reduction in the amount included in the Conservator's annual Budget for forming plantations, from Rupees 3,500 to Rupees 500. He points out the needlessness of growing artificially, and at a great expense, trees of the nature of the Acacia, which spreads spontaneously in the neighbourhood of Ootacamund. The Government agree with Mr. Brooks in this respect, and sanction his recommendation, presuming that he has provided for the cost of maintaining the Eucalyptus plantations, the importance of which has been strongly urged by Major Beddome. The arrangement now authorised will result, as pointed out by the Board, in a yearly saving of Rupees 2,268.

4. The Commissioner's plan for conducting all experiments with fresh seeds at Ootacamund, either in the Botanical Gardens or through the medium of the Agri-Horticultural Society is approved.

5. The Government are fully sensible of the advantages attaching to the extended formation of Eucalyptus plantations, and will be prepared to consider any scheme which Mr. Brooks, after examination of the site, may submit for occupying the slopes on the banks of the Koilkoonda river with this tree. It is suggested that experiments should be made with the view of ascertaining whether the Eucalyptus can be propagated from seeds.

6. With reference to paragraph 9 of his letter, the Government suggest that the Commissioner should bring the definition of "Mischief," as laid down in the Penal Code, to the notice of the Joint Magistrate. It however appears doubtful whether the charge can be effectually sustained, unless some degree of *animus* be proved.

No. 171. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1869, No. 2,550.

Forests, No. 5.

In his letter, dated 14th May 1869,

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th September 1869.

7. The Government approve and sanction the proposal made in paragraph 10 of the Commissioner's letter, and supported by the Board in paragraph 10 of their Proceedings. The temporary arrangement must, however, of course, be carried out by the Commissioner in communication with the Military authorities.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Received 11th September 1869.

Rec.d March 1869 Nos 281-283
- 24 - - 683-684
- 30 June - - 702-703
- 6 November 68 - 119-120

17-12-68

Revenue 1869. Vol.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

P. 2297.

PROCEEDINGS, 6TH JULY 1869, No. 4,818.

Rec.d 8th July 1869 Encl.
Received 9th "

JULY.
No. 4,818.

Establishment for conservancy of Firewood Plantations—on Nilgherries,—Recommendation to Government to sanction revised scheme of, proposed by Commissioner, at annual cost of Rupees 4,296, to approve proposed change in management and working of these Plantations, and to encourage cultivation of Australian Eucalypti, and discontinuance of Nurseries for propagation of Australian Acacia.

Secl 1258-10 Feb.y 69

R.C. 27½ Aug.t 67 P. 317
P 17 July 69 R.C.S Aug.t 69 P. 2418

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Proceedings of the Madras Governm
10th September

7. The Government [illegible]
of the
Proce
by the

Lieut. F. R. Rutherford.

Revenue Letter No 14

Minute for Order
on No 2297

See para 14 of the
Order of Govt of dated 11th
May ult. 1859, the 3 maniveirs
to of the Melgherries could
also be undertaken from Ootacamund
for all such troops
as may be in the Nilgherries
by the 15th of the Month,
from which time on the
1st of April last, as the
Regulations
Sheriff the Revenue
before Court the Division
Darkwar after from the
Commissioner Canara
of the proposed Route
Darkwar

and that the Sheriff of
Dharwar & Collector Canara
each of the Revenue
as a Station be placed
of them of the Revenue

the Secretary Commander-
-in-Chief with Duke-
-ries only, can do no-
-thing & hope that
the Services of an offi-
-cer not the Wellington
so fortunate may be given
to the Cause that
-he has so much at heart
-for & His Country has
-honored by so highly a
mark of confidence
-ye Commander of the
Army & Secretary of
State for War will
-ye Commander-in-Chief
with Duke-
-ries only, can do no-
-thing & hope that
the Services of an offi-
-cer not the Wellington
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-ries only, can do no-
-thing & hope that
the Services of an offi-
-cer not the Wellington
so fortunate may be given
to the Cause that
-he has so much at heart
-for & His Country has
-honored by so highly a
mark of confidence
-ye Commander of the
Army & Secretary of
State for War will

all probability the
Military can be united
will gladly give the
Command of the Veteran Gen
officer and a Temporary
Increase

It is submitted
that the Duke Commander
in Chief may be
informed verbally that
that his request for the
Services of Sir Wellington
Beresford be
favored to the Duke
Wellington
that Sir
receive instructions as
regard the Pensioner
of the present Secretary
Commander-in-Chief
for orders as for the
Secretary of State for

Plans
Establishment Grounds
Reserve of Trees
Plans for the Park
Flowers

I concur generally in the views expressed
by the Board of Revenue in their order on
the communication of W. Weeks.
I would advise of the modified
establishment proposed by the Commissioners
and of the changes projected in the
arrangement of the Plantations of the
Australian Acacia for the purposes
of fireworks. This tree might be conducted
& be propagated here - seed sown after
a nursery garden but alone in the
forest ground care being taken however
to preserve the young trees in the market
from the aggression of cattle and
wild animals either by fencing or
watering. once well rooted and
started they will maintain themselves
unaided. It seems reasonable that
all seeds transmitted to the Forest
Department in the Red Cherries should
be transferred for preservation and
refreshment to the Horticultural
gardens but in forming Plantations

It would be desirable that experiments should also be made by the Forest Dept. on a small scale ~~with the~~ to grow the various sorts of Trees from seed deposited at once in the Forest ground prepared for that purpose by ploughing or trenching the pickaxe of the Blacks to make a large plantation of the Australian Eucalypti is an excellent one for commencing. A portion of the ground should be planted with seed the greater part might be filled with young plants. Thus very little of the Eucalypti may be destroyed by sowing as well as the Acacia. They are very fine grained & will in time, & Redwood timber as the other.

I do not agree with the suggestion that a subaltern officer should be sent for the Dept. at Wellington

for the general supervision of the plantations & natural woods on the Rivers & Ranges. The officers at Wellington are of two categories they are either specially employed in connection with the Establishment or they are invalids doing some amount of duty. The former could not of course be available for the work in question. The latter in indifferent health and without special knowledge would not be fit for it. The direction of thinning, pruning, planting, draining, fencing cannot be profitably undertaken by a gentleman without previous experience. It might be so fortunate as to find an invalided officer, or an officer attached at Wellington, with competent knowledge in these matters, but I doubt it. The appointment would probably become a matter of favor & convenience. If Brooks does begin at once & his services at £3 £ per month for such an agent & to apply the sum in question in providing those allowances

for the officers who undertake that care his
advancement + the duty of
reward. I don't think the experiment
would be successful. If the establishment
here suggested by Mr Brooke does not
work well + if a superintending
officer of superior intelligence +
more than ordinary + authoritative character
is required I would select any of the
young Englishmen who can come out.
for planting Plantations + men in
the full vigour of health + strength
with some knowledge of the country and
give him the first reward + the
Plantations with authority over the
others on salary of Rs. 200 or
Rs. 250. per mensem holding out
to him the hope of subsequent promotion
at the end of a few years in the
Forest Dept. I know of no one in the
Service of the kind who would
probably accept such a position.

Revenue Department
No. 2550

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 18th Sept. 69
Read the following
Extract of the Proceedings of Govt. dated 18th Sept. 69

Recommending the
adoption revised scheme of establish-
ment for conservancy of Forests + Planta-
tions on Malabar Coast proposed by Conserv.
at an annual cost of Rs. 29,6. in
place proposed change in annual grant
+ working of these Plantations, + to make
a large cultivation of Australian Eucalypti
+ discontinuance of Enquiries for use
+ importation of Australian Acacia

(Rs. 6 October 1869)

In this letter dated
the 18th ult. the Commissioner of
Malabar recommends the
appointment of two Assistant Conservators
of Forests for the Forest Division
and of one Assistant
Conservator for the Wynaad
Plantations and the Nilgiri Forests