

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2741	Press M.S.
<u>81-82</u>	
Dated 7 th October 1918.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MS

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th October 1869.*

No. 81. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Camp at Coimbatore, 31st August 1869, No. 1,675:—

AGREEABLY to paragraph 5 of the Government Order, No. 2,333 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to forward the accompanying Statement, showing the number of days passed by me on the Neilgherry plateau, and the number spent on tour in the different forest ranges during the two first quarters of the present year, and with reference to the same order I request that you will bring the following to the notice of Government.

2. I have hitherto made Ootacamund my travelling head-quarters with the full knowledge of Government; it is situated in the centre of all our most important forest ranges, any of which can be reached in a few days by my camp (marching) from Ootacamund. I have generally remained on the hills for the months of April and May, as they are most unhealthy in all our forest ranges, and I am fully occupied at that time of the year in the preparation of my annual report which entails a thorough examination of all the reports and accounts of the year; during the rest of the year I have always made frequent tours to all our ranges, generally visiting Ootacamund between each tour; on an average of the whole year I am about six months or more travelling, and nearly six months in office on the hills; but my camp is absent a longer period, as it generally starts sometime before me and returns after me. My work takes me to all the most unhealthy parts of our Presidency, and generally to forests and mountains where there are no roads nor the means of travelling with any comfort. I have, on several occasions, taken writers with me, but I have found by experience that I could not do much office work during my tours, the writers have always got sick and become incapacitated for work and could seldom keep up with me, and the nature of my duties are such as to necessitate my being out in the forests the whole day, I, therefore, as a rule, allow my office to remain at Ootacamund, and I do most of my office work between my tours. The period I spend on the hills is not more than sufficient for this, the correspondence with our twenty different ranges is very voluminous; besides which I have a very considerable correspondence with Government, the Board of Revenue, the Engineer's Department, the Railway and other Officials, and also a considerable botanical and demi-official correspondence with Kew, Ceylon, the Mauritius Government, the botanical gardens in Australia, and different botanical gardens in India; and, to show Government that I am not idle when on the hills, I have published forty-two numbers of "the Ferns of Southern India" and "the Ferns of British India," three numbers of the *Icones Plantarum*, (a 4th in the press,) and one number of the *Flora Sylvatica*, (second and third in the press,) and I have lately devoted four to six hours daily, beyond office hours, to these works. During my tours I have always collected largely botanically, the collections have to be sorted and arranged between my tours, this work has been almost entirely at my own expense. One set is forwarded to the Madras Herbarium now in the museum, one to the Ceylon Government, and one to Kew. The Ceylon Government are in return forwarding a very complete collection of the plants of that Island, (most interesting and instructive in connection with our Flora) which are deposited in the Madras Herbarium, now in the museum, and the Kew Herbarium have also sent valuable

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additions from time to time. My visits to Ootacamund are very necessary to refit my camp, and also most important on the score of health both for myself and my camp, I have suffered much from jungle fever at different times, and it is only from the benefit of the climate that I have been enabled to enjoy between my tours that I have been enabled to shake off these fevers, and I could, if necessary, furnish medical certificates to this effect. The preparation of the Flora Sylvatica and the Icones depends upon a very large private Herbarium at my office at Ootacamund which I have prepared during the last few years with special reference to these works, and on a very large botanical Library, neither of which could possibly be moved about the country with me. On the above explanations I trust that Government will reconsider their order, and allow me (at least till the publication of the works in question are concluded) to visit the hills between my tours, as heretofore, for a period in the aggregate of from five to six months, the remainder of the year being spent in travelling; a quarterly return of the tours, etc., being sent in as directed.

Statement showing how the Officiating Conservator was employed from the 1st of January to 30th June 1869.

		Number of days on tour.	Number of days at office on the Neilgherries.
1869.			
January...	1st at Coonoor. 2nd to 17th on tour and at Central office at Madras ... 18th at Coonoor. 19th to 31st on tour, Tinnevely range		
February.	1st to 18th do. 19th to 23rd at Ootacamund office work 24th to 28th on tour Madras	29	2
March ...	1st to 23rd on tour Mysore depots, Wynaad; crossed over Neilgherries, remaining there three days, 2nd to 4th... 24th to 31st at Ootacamund	23	5
April ...	1st to 30th do. Routine office work, preparing annual report of the department, engaged on the Flora Sylvatica and Icones Plantarum.	20	11
May ...	1st to 21st do.	...	30
Do. ...	22nd to 31st on tour Wynaad	10	21
June ...	1st to 30th on tour Wynaad and Nellumbur plantations	30	...
	Total...	112	69

OOTACAMUND,
25th August 1869.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Major,
Officiating Conservator of Forests.

No. 82.

ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1869, No. 2,741.

Forests, No. 7.

ON reconsideration, the Government will accede to the request made at the conclusion of the Acting Conserva-

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tor's letter recorded above, and permit him to visit the Neilgherry Hills between his tours, for a period not exceeding in the aggregate from five to six months in the year.

2. The Acting Conservator should forward to Government in October of each year, a programme of his proposed tours during the following calendar year, and any deviation from this plan which may be rendered unavoidably necessary, should be explained in the quarterly returns called for in the G. O., under date 14th August 1869, No. 2,333. The Acting Conservator should remain in each range visited a sufficiently long time to enable him to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the working of the department in every branch, and should invariably make a searching examination of the books and accounts.

3. The programme of intended tours should be submitted to Government confidentially, as it is desirable that the Acting Conservator's visits to each range should be unexpected.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3025

From

Off^r Com^r of Forests

Dated 31st August 1869.

FOR ORDERS.

I do not consider that
the order of Gov^t should be
modified. There has been
a sad deficiency of personal
supervision, and as long as
Major McDougal is permitted
to remain, as he does, on the
Kells, that deficiency will
not be remedied.

WDM

Sept 1869

his European Officer in India
has lived for 9 months out
of his house, spending much
of his time in forest jungle
without serious injury to health
and consequently to efficiency.
The work of an officer entrusted
with the inspection of the forests
of an entire Province requires
another long journey which
for the worst part must be
performed at night with the
attribution of sleep and
fatigue. I cannot think
that the order of the 14th August

was judicious or that it ought
to be adhered to. I would
again begin Beddome's
ground work before 6 months
of his year is passed. I would
his change and to submit to
for a usually a programme
of his time for the morning
year, reporting in such cases
any alteration but never
before. and perhaps in some
of the year. R. D.

I agree I would prescribe six months
for tours. I expect that Mr.
Beddome should spend the

remainder of his time on the hills. I don't think it is unreasonable to place him in the headquarters of any Dept. yet there are arguments for permitting him to be the Headquarter of the Forest Dept. which don't apply to the Post on the hills. He performs the duty, not for the sake of the Forest ranger and offering a compensation for the fatigues & dangers incident to Forest Inspection.

[Signature]
 C. S. C. 1/10/1875
 C. S. C.

C. S. C. 1/10/1875

No. 2741.

Revenue Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 7th Oct. 1875

Read the following.

following letter
 from the Offg. Secy. of
 Forests. —

Requesting to reconsider
 Order directing him to
 travel nine months out
 of the twelve. —

N. E. 3rd Aug 1875

On reconsideration
 the Govt. will ac-
 cede to the request
 made at the conclu-
 sion of the Off. Secy.
 letter recorded above
 and permit him
 to visit the Nilgerry
 Hills between his
 tours for a period
 not exceeding in
 the aggregate from

5 to 6 months in the year.

2. The Acting Comd. should forward to Govt. in Oct. of each year, a programme of his proposed tours during the following calendar year, and any deviation from this plan which may be rendered unavoidable, necessary should be explained in the Quarterly Returns called for in the L.O. under date 14th Aug/94 #2333.

The

The Acting Comd. should remain in each range visited a sufficiently long time to enable him to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the working of the Department in every branch, and should invariably make a searching examination of the books and accounts.

3. The programme of intended tours should be submitted to Govt. confidentially, as it is desirable that the Acting Comd. visit

visits each ramp
should be inspec-
ted —

13 Little Office Corner of Trusts Dept 8
11 — 107 of Rev. 1

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Ed. Hall