M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3203 Press Mis.

252-254

Dated 17 December 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th December 1869.

Read the following letters:—

No. 252. From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated camp at Ootacamund, 22nd October 1869, No. 1,764.

ADVERTING to the Government Order, No. 2,742, of the 7th instant, reviewing the Annual Report of my department, I have the honour to inform you that the Annual Reports of the Range Officers, forming the Appendices of the Report, were forwarded by me to the Government Press on the 2nd of August 1869. Finding that the printing of both the Report and Appendices was considerably delayed, I and my Assistant at Madras addressed the Superintendent several times on the subject, and my Assistant personally saw the Foreman more than once, but more urgent work appears to have caused the delay.

2. With reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Order alluded to, I must inform you that I am fully alive to the importance of greatly extended planting-operations being at once commenced in all districts through which the Railway is running, or about to be constructed. Reports on this subject are now before Government, and I trust that considerable funds may be allotted for the purpose. I am sorry to perceive that Government are under the impression that our planting-operations during the year have proved a failure. Our means have been small, and the year was one of exceptional drought; and though we had failures the general results were, I think, all that could have been expected for the small outlay incurred. The Casuarina Plantations in North Arcot and the Red Sanders Plantations in Cuddapah have been a great success, and the general plantations in both these districts and the Sandal-wood Plantations in Coimbatore have been almost as successful as we could expect. The plantations in the Salem District have not proved quite as favourable, but a considerable amount of Babul has been raised, and the amount expended has, in all cases, been something very small. The failure of teak-planting on the Nallaymallays was to be expected; it was, however, a very small experiment at a very trifling cost, and the same may be said of our experiments to plant the different species of Sal and other moist forest-timbers of the Carcoor Ghaut in the plains at Nellumbur; the trees of these Shola-forests will not apparently thrive in the open plains. I am shortly submitting a regular report upon our different plantations, and, in connection with the proposed new re-organization of the department, I have already urged upon Government the necessity of extra Assistant Conservators for the ranges of Tinnevelly, South Arcot, North Arcot, Nellore, and Railway fuel-reserves; and if planting is to be vigorously undertaken, it is most important that we should have a school for Overseers, and that each hand should undergo some training before being appointed regularly to the department. Proposals on this head are also before Government.

3. In the ranges of South Arcot and Tinnevelly planting will, I think, be necessary, but I could not advocate any planting in Gumsur, Wynaad, or the Annamallays. In the two former districts the area of the forests is very large, but the market very small; and the demand for timber is very far below the spontaneous annual re-production. In the latter forest teak-planting would long ago have been regularly organized if it had not been for the extreme unhealthiness of the forests

for six months in the year. A small plantation was commenced some nine or ten years ago, but it had to be given up.

4. I have called upon Lieutenant Walker for a report upon the concluding portion of paragraph 6 of the Order in question.

5. With reference to paragraph 4 I must bring to your notice that it is scarcely fair to the department, in considering the profit of the year, to deduct any deficit in the stock of timber, as in former years when there was a surplus in the stock, it was not taken into account as a profit, nor have our valuation lists in former years been drawn up sufficiently accurate to enable a fair estimate of the profits of the year to be arrived at in this manner: timber has often been entered in the lists at its supposed selling-price in the market, though its carriage to market was still an expense to be borne.

6. Our receipts for the last year were Rupees 3,91,179 against an expenditure of Rupees 2,69,700, showing a profit of Rupees 1,21,479. Our receipts may be roughly estimated for the next eight or ten years at Rupees 1,00,000 above the expenditure; and I think that Rupees 60,000 or 70,000 should be spent annually for that period on plantations, in addition to what has hitherto been our expenditure on planting.

No. 253. From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated camp at Ootacamund, 23rd October 1869, No. 1,769.

WITH reference to the concluding portion of paragraph 6 of the Government Order, No. 2,742, of the 17th instant, I have the honour to forward a Report from Lieutenant Walker.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant C. J. WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Forests, to the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated Ootacamund, 23rd October 1869.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 1,765, dated 22nd instant, I have the honour to report that the reasons for departmental working not having proved popular in South Arcot are those which are generally experienced on its introduction, namely:—

1st,—The disinclination of the people to pay cash for felling, carting, etc., which they have formerly performed, in a great measure, themselves or by their own servants and cattle;

2nd,—The stop which departmental working puts to fraud, and therefore gain by felling in excess of the quantity stated in the license, and smuggling out the surplus, or bribing the Peons to let it pass;

3rd,—The loss to the village Moniagars and head men who enjoyed, I may say, a monopoly of the timber-trade in villages situated at the base of the hill-forests.

This was particularly the case in South Arcot; and I know that these men in several instances dissuaded the people from purchasing from our depôts, in hopes that we would be obliged to revert to the license and voucher-system.

2. The remarks on this subject in my Annual Administration Report were not intended to convey the idea that the departmental system was more unpopular in Trinomallay than elsewhere on *its first introduction*. It was equally, if not more so, at Denkenkotta and Penagara; but in the former place at least the people have now become accustomed to it, and like it, with the exception, of course, of those interested in the continuance of the former system.

3. Every means are adopted to prevent the close-system pressing hardly on the people living near the forests and requiring timber for house-building, etc.; and to those licenses are still issued on special application, so that they may not be obliged to go out of their way for what they require.

4 I have no reason to suppose that the unpopularity is more than temporary, and will not cease as elsewhere when those interested see that we are determined to abide by the system.

5. There are considerable imports of timber by sea to Pondicherry, which partly accounts for the small demand on our depôts.

No. 254. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1869, No. 3,203.

Forests, No. 7.

ADVERTING to paragraph 1 of Major Beddome's letter, dated 22nd October 1869, No. 1,764, the Government observe that in future the Forest Report should be submitted in a complete form not later than July 1. Certain statements in connection with the Report of last year were not received at the Government Press till October 7.

2. The Officiating Conservator states that he is "sorry to perceive that "Government are under the impression that planting-operations during the year "have proved a failure." That this, with the exception of the Neilgherry Hills, has been generally the case is apparent from a glance at the Administration Report. But the remarks referred to by Major Beddome were intended rather to convey an injunction for the future than a reflection on the past; for the Government are fully aware of the difficulties which the exceptional drought of the last two years has placed in the way of re-production. They note with satisfaction that the Officiating Conservator shares their opinion on the necessity of extending planting-operations, as is shown by the general tenor of his letter, and especially by its concluding sentence. His letter, dated 28th August 1869, No. 1,666, regarding a fuel-reserve on the banks of the Cauvery has been forwarded to the Collector for inquiry on a material point, and his promised report in connection with the same subject, which is to embrace the whole Presidency, will be read with much interest. In it the propagation of the Sandal-wood tree will doubtless receive due consideration from Major Beddome.

3. The Government hold that no forest range should be without a small plantation, not only on account of the direct beneficial results afforded by increased production of timber, but also in order that the servants of the department may, one and all, be trained to an acquaintance with the science of planting and a sense of the necessity of keeping pace with the unavoidable diminution of stock occasioned by felling-operations. Major Beddome mentions that the extreme unhealthiness of the Annamallay Range has proved an obstacle to re-production. The Government suggest that an effort should be made to enlist the services of the hill-tribes, with the view of forming a plantation. Good management and the co-operation of the Revenue authorities might secure this end. Near* Paupanassum in the Tinnevelly District a Cinchona Plantation has been kept in order for three years entirely through the agency of hill-men.

* Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 23rd August 1869, No. 2,396.

4. The question of increased supervision for the ranges of Tinnevelly, North and South Arcot, and Nellore, cannot be settled until a reply has been received from the Board to the G. O., under date 14th October 1869, No. 2,795.

5. Lieutenant Walker submits an explicit statement of the grounds of dissatisfaction with departmental working in the Salem Range, which will be forwarded to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Assistant

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE OFFICIATING CONSERVATOR

OF FORESTS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 17th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 17th December 1869, No. 3,203.

DECIDED

Nos. 252—254.

Forest Administration Report for 1868-69.—Forest Conservator's letters on the G. O. reviewing the report, with orders thereon.

Assistant personally saw the forman more than once, but more urgent work appears to have caused the delay.-

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had failures, the general results were I think all that could have been expected for the small outlay incurred; the Casuarina plantations in North Arcot and the Red Sanders plantations in Cuddapah have been a great success and the general plantations in both these districts and the Sandal wood plantations in Coimbatore have been almost as successful as one could expect; the plantations in the Salem district have not proved quite as favorable but a considerable amount of Babul has been raised and the amount expended has in all cases been something small. The failures of Teak planting on the Nallay Mallays was to be expected, it was however a very small experiment at a very trifling cost, and the same may be

said

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 7th December 1869.

Read the following letters from the Offg Conservator of Forests.

Replying to G.O. № 2742 dated 7th Octr 1869 reviewing Forest Administration Report for 1868-69.	No. 22 dated 20th Octr 1869, № 1761.
Forwarding Lt. Walker's report upon the reasons for discontinuing working not having proved popular in South Arcot.	" 23 " " 1769.

Advertising to Major Beddome's letter dated 22nd October 1869, the Govt observe that in future the Forest report should be submitted in a complete form not later than Jany 1st. Certain statements

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Statements in connection with the report of last year were not received at the Govt Press till October 4th

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for the future than a reflection on the past, for the Govt are fully aware of the difficulties which the exceptional drought of the last two years has placed in the way of reproduction. They note with satisfaction that the Offg Conservator shares their opinion on the necessity of extending planting operations, as is shown by the general tenor of his letter, and especially by its concluding sentence. His letter dated 28th Augt 1869, No 1866 regarding a fuel reserve on the banks of the Cauvery has been forwarded to the Collector for enquiry on a material

material point, and his promised report in connection with the same subject, which is to embrace the whole Presidency, will be read with much interest.

3. The Govt hold that no Forest range should be without a small plantation, not only on account of the direct beneficial results afforded by increased production of timber and fuel, but also in order that the servants of the department may, one and all, be trained to an acquaintance with the science of planting and a sense of the necessity of keeping pace with the unavoidable diminution

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diminution of stock occasioned by felling operations. Major Beddome mentions that the extreme unhealthiness of the Annamallay range has proved an obstacle to reproduction. The Govt suggest that an effort should be made to enlist the services of the Hill tribes, with the view of forming a plantation. Good management and the co-operation of the Revenue authorities might attain this end. Near Pampanassum in the Tinnevelly District a Chinchona plantation has been kept

* Proc: of Govt Pg 23 Aug 1869 No 2396

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entire through the agency
of Mill men.

4. The question of
increased supervision
for the ranges of Tim-
ber, North & South
Brest & Sallore cannot
be settled until the Govt
shall have decided on
their policy (on which
a change in contemplated)
with reference to the
Depot. This subject is
at present before the
Board.

5. Lieut. Walker
submits an application
& statement of the grounds
of dissatisfaction with
Departmental working
in

& Resp[t] has been
received from the
Board to the L.O
under date 16th Oct[r] 1795

in the Salem range,
which will be forwarded
to the Board of Treasury
&c

17th Dec[r] 69

13 Illus Off[s] Comm[g] Forests Dec[br] 18
14 — B of T Rec[d]

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To
Alderman The Common
Council Court
of Town Clerk
Jurat &c