M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-89.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 653 Press Mis.

281-285

Dated 11th March 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

653 MM

Read the following papers:—

No. 281. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st September 1868, No. 6,708.

Read again Government Order, in the Revenue Department, dated 30th January 1868, No. 259.

Read also the following letter from the Acting Commissioner for the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 14th August 1868, No. 9:—

1. Government Order, dated 6th August 1868, No. 2,107, calls for my views regarding Dr. Cleghorn's proposal to place the three Overseers of the Forest Department, who are to have charge of the Neilgherry Plateau and Coonoor Ghaut Forests under the general control of the Special Assistant Collector, who would receive from the Overseers the periodical Returns, and countersign the monthly Abstracts; the Conservator issuing special instructions in all technical matters, and being responsible for the progress of planting and conservancy.

2. The Acting Conservator of Forests, in paragraph 2 of his letter to Government of the 15th February 1868, No. 559, seems to disapprove of Dr. Cleghorn's proposal, on the ground that the Special Assistant Collector was liable to be changed, and was not likely to take an interest in the matter even if he had time to spare. He further added, that the Conservator was necessarily very much on the Hills, and could give the range his constant attention and supervision.

3. Supposing Dr. Cleghorn's proposal was meant to place the Overseers under the general control of the Head Revenue Officer on the Hills, there can be no doubt but, that, that Officer possesses through his subordinates, the Monigar, the Kanakans, and Revenue Inspectors, special opportunities of exercising the general control contemplated.

4. Without any instructions having been issued to the Revenue subordinates, as far as I know, one instance of felling trees, without authority, has been brought by them to my notice in the few days I have been here. I am now inquiring into the matter, in order to inform the Conservator if there be any irregularity. The Revenue Officers, Covenanted and Uncovenanted, as they move about the district, cannot but possess opportunities of discovering irregularities, which opportunities the Conservator perhaps may not always have.

5. The desirability, or otherwise, of Dr. Cleghorn's proposal, seems to me to rest altogether on the means the Conservator really has of exercising the personal supervision and attention, alluded to in paragraph 2 of his letter before-mentioned.

The Overseers ought to be under the efficient control of somebody.

6. As the Conservator seems to dislike the interposition of another Department, if he thinks that he will be often enough here to exercise the necessary control, I am disposed to recommend that he be left to manage the matter in his own way. I could always inform him of any irregularities that come to my notice.

7. If, however, the Government agree with Dr. Cleghorn, and think that the Revenue Department had better exercise the general control alluded to, I would suggest that the Conservator be requested to draw up precise instructions defining the nature and amount of control he would like us to exercise, in order that we may not unnecessarily interfere. In the spirit of such instructions, I could

issue orders to the Village authorities, and my subordinates generally, as to the matters with which they are to keep me periodically acquainted.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board are decidedly of opinion that the entire general control of the Neilgherry woods, and the scrutiny of the periodical Returns of the Overseers, should be vested exclusively in the Commissioner. Dr. Cleghorn acquiesced in the proposal to place this authority in the hands of the Revenue Department, and his practical knowledge of the subject entitles his opinion to the highest consideration.

3. The subsequent appointment of a Revenue Commissioner for the Hills, strengthens the arguments that were then available in support of the proposal.

No. 282. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th December 1868, No. 8,619.

Read the following letters:—

From the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 22nd September 1868, No. 28.

1. I have had occasion to give further consideration to the subject of my letter of 14th August last, No. 9, regarding the conservancy of the sholahs on the plateau and slopes of the Neilgherries. I have made inquiry and consulted with others, and the preservation of the sholahs here seems to me now of more importance than I was at first disposed to think, and I accordingly submit some further remarks which, in my opinion, point more strongly than I represented in my former letter to the desirability of especial supervision.

2. On the 12th instant, on my way to the Hill Grove Estate, near Burliar, I met strings of coolies, all with axes, carrying loads of wood. They said they were allowed by the Forest Department to get dead wood from the sholahs there. I saw here and there plenty of stumps of young trees that should never have been cut down.

3. On the 14th, the Tahsildar reported that the Monigar of Ootacamund had come across fourteen men with head-loads of wood, and that eleven of them had thrown down their loads and run away. Mr. Taylor, the Forest Overseer, has been informed of this.

4. I regret to have to say that the present system of conservancy is condemned, as altogether ineffectual by those with whom I have spoken. Men, who have a permanent interest in these hills, deplore the unauthorized felling that takes place, especially round about the European settlements. They look with some alarm at what may be the result a few years hence, if the present system continues. A large proportion of the Native squatters up here, possess but an indifferent character, and whether in employ or not, seem to care little, so long as they can repair to a neighbouring sholah, and bring in firewood for sale.

5. The present Establishment on the Neilgherries for Forest conservancy, and the annual receipts and charges are as per enclosed List A. The *modus operandi* is explained by Major Beddome in B.

6. The Board have called for a Report upon the swamps on the hills, and are aware of Dr. Bidie's opinion* of the result that may be expected to follow the destruction of forests near the sources of streams. That the water-supply here has not been so copious in late as in former years, all are agreed. It is not so clear that the scanty monsoons are owing to the felling of forests, and I hope that this and following years will show that, on an average, as much rain falls now, as heretofore. I think, however, that there can be no doubt but that the existence of forests prevents the water running rapidly off the surface to waste, especially in a hilly country like this. This being so, the isolated position of the sholahs here, their limited area, and the fact that in most instances they form the reservoir and birth-place of streams which feed the swamps below them, render necessary some especial measures for their preservation.

* Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, 26th June 1868, No. 4,717.

7. And I cannot avoid remarking that it seems to me almost useless, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, to put such a charge as the conservancy of the sholahs here, into the hands of men of the class of Overseers. Such Conservators cannot be expected to feel much interest in, or to see the necessity for the preservation of a few trees, either on the score of beauty or utility. I will say nothing about the temptation to such men to permit unauthorized felling, which, as the Board are aware, is little susceptible of check under any system, nor need I mention that the wishes and orders of a Military Officer of some standing would have more weight with the European community here than anything that an Overseer could say.

8. The result of inquiry and consideration, therefore, leads me to modify my letter of the 14th ultimo, and I am strongly of opinion that if we are to preserve the peculiar character and value of these hills, and to look for any results either in the shape of forest revenue or conservancy, we ought to put the sholahs and swamps under the control of an Officer experienced in forestry, whose sole duty it would be, with the help of a small out-door establishment, and in conjunction with the Revenue and Village Officers, to organize and carry out a well considered system of conservancy operations.

9. I beg to forward, herewith, my Assistant's Report† upon the swamps called for, in Government Order, dated 30th January 1868, No. 19. If the swamps were reserved and put under the charge of an efficient Officer, I think the bund-system, alluded to in paragraph 8 of my Assistant's Report, would not be necessary.

† Enclosure C.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Assistant Commissioner, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, dated Ootacamund, 21st September 1868, No. 92.

1. With advertence to paragraphs 8 and 9 of Orders of Government, Revenue Department, (Forests No. 19,) dated 30th January 1868, I have the honor to submit the following circumstances for your consideration.

2. The Revenue Survey Department are at present undertaking the Demarcation and Survey, as Government Reserves, of such bogs and swamps yielding peat as still belong to Government, within the survey station limits of Ootacamund, Coonoor, and Kotagherry. When these are completed, the swamps at Wellington will at once be taken in hand.

3. The terms of paragraph 8 above alluded to, are comprehensive, embracing *every* Government swamp upon the Neilgherries that they can be carried out after some little period, labor, and expense. The report, therefore, called for in paragraph 9, cannot be furnished for some time to come, if it is to shew the extent ascertained by survey of each of the bogs.

4. It seems clear that the cause and the chief preserver of a swamp are its position and its natural surface-level; its position being such that the drainage, (whether surface or under-ground,) of the adjacent land converges to its side, while the level of the side is, in a state of nature, such that water once there received can with difficulty escape, and that only by two means, or in other words, either by rising above the level of retention, or by descending under-ground to lower levels. It may, I apprehend, be assumed that peat-bogs are the natural results, after long time, of the steady permanent conflux of waters to such sites as those abovementioned; and in these bogs are found further preservers of the swamp-waters. The peat-soil like a sponge, imbibes, and like a sponge, retains, if not meddled with the waters it receives, while the long thick grass, peculiar to such soil, goes far towards preventing the evaporation of the surface moisture during the heat of the day. Moreover, ordinarily in a state of nature, such water as leaves the swamp is only the excess supply beyond what the swamp can conveniently hold, and the surplus water flows away gently in a stream, the volume of which is approximately indicative of the supply at the time received into the swamp from its various feeders on the higher levels. In the case of heavy rains, there is, of course, frequently a rush of water from swamps, but this consists of the surface-drainage of rain-water only, and in no way affects the perennial supply, the swamps after the down-flow of the surface rain-water being left in the same position as before.

5. Such are the main features of peat-swamps, some of which are situate in open land, while others are fringed with belts of trees and smaller classes of vegetation. It would seem indisputable that the indigenous sholah of the Neilgherries, with its deep shadow, the quantity of moss, lichen, and moist decayed leaves at its foot, (all aids in preventing the down-flow of rain-water, and in its soaking into the soil on the spot), and its tendency to keep the surface of the ground cool and damp, must operate advantageously in shielding from the sun's rays the surface below which trickle the streamlets which feed a swamp. Nay, it may not improbably operate so far as to cause in some cases, extension of swamp. In a similar direction must be the effect of any kind of vegetation, which must act more or less powerfully as a preventive to evaporation, and as a cause and retainer of moisture according to the depth of its shade.

6. Such being the causes and the condition of peat-swamps in their primeval state, it would seem that naturally they are not likely to be impaired, except under peculiar circumstances, such as deficiency of water-supply, or any other similar and unforeseen event. As the injury to swamps is shewn in their ceasing to act as permanent receptacles of water, so the cause of this must be looked for in whatever may conduce to let off their waters. In several swamps (Government and private) within station limits, this cause at once forces itself upon the inquirer. The effect of channels cut through a swamp, whether in view to cultivating the swamp (when drained) with potatoes, or the excavation of the drained peat-soil for brick-making, or for the express purpose of feeding a water-channel, is always to get rid of the water-supply as quickly as it is acquired, and by degrees to obliterate the original swamp.

7. It has been observed that some swamps, which were formerly impassable, can now be traversed on foot without difficulty, and this circumstance has been attributed to the frequent trampling of cattle. I am unable, from personal knowledge, to speak to the change in the character of these swamps, or its cause, but can readily conceive that where the trampling of cattle was such as to form a track in any way adapted as a channel for water, and leading out of and below the swamp, the cause assigned is the true one.

8. Since then, swamps are injured, and by degrees obliterated by the artificial diversion of their waters, the object and tendency of any remedial measures should be primarily the retention of those waters. In this view, I would beg leave to suggest that, except where there may be strong reasons to the contrary, all channels which have hitherto been cut in Government swamps be at

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once filled up with the soil originally excavated therefrom; that no channels be in future, without special reasons, cut in any Government swamp; and that all swamps, whose condition may appear to require such a precaution, be dammed up at the base with a bund, supplied at each end with a surplus channel, to allow of the easy escape of storm waters. This bund-system would further have the advantage of counteracting any probable damage to swamps by the trespass of cattle.

9. I have already adverted to the utility of trees and other kinds of vegetation as swamp preservers. A conversation with Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan has led me to the opinion that the object in view will be amply obtained by the bunding system merely, and that the plantation of belts of trees could only be effected at a cost quite out of proportion to the advantages to be therefrom derived.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Mode of operations in the Neilgherry Sholahs and Australian Plantation at Wellington.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

ABSTRACT.—Scale of existing establishment of the Neilgherry Sholahs.

From the same Officer, dated Ootacamund, 2nd October 1868, No. 36.

1. In forwarding my Assistant's Report upon the Forest and Jungle Conservancy Rules, I need only add that, when writing my letter of the 22nd September 1868, No. 28, I overlooked the fact that he was also making inquiries upon the same subject, and I cannot, therefore, avoid pressing upon the attention of the Board the conclusion that he has independently arrived at regarding the unauthorized felling that goes on round about the settlements and the loss to Government involved.

2. Day by day I feel more satisfied that unless conservancy is taken in hand, and organized on some efficient footing, under the control of an experienced Officer, the destruction of the surrounding sholahs is but a question of time.

3. Colonel Hadfield, with whom many of the Board must be acquainted, has assured me that he never beats, what he calls the "Home Sholahs," without hearing the wood-cutter's axe in full play.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Assistant Commissioner, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, dated Ootacamund, 30th September 1868, No. 63.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 3,438, dated 9th May 1868, calling for report as to how the Forest and Jungle Conservancy Rules are operating in this district as regards the interests of agriculturists in the following respects, namely:—

Firstly.—As regards the supply of fuel and firewood for domestic purposes;

Secondly.—Of wood required for the erection of dwelling-houses, cattle-sheds, &c.;

Thirdly.—Of wood required for ploughs and other agricultural implements.

I have the honor to submit for your information as follows:—

2. I would premise that, in consequence of the peculiar circumstances of the Neilgherries, I have considered the question raised by the Board in a somewhat general way, and not with reference merely to one particular class of people.

3. *The supply of firewood.*—The supply of firewood for the station of Ootacamund is derived (so far as the Government are concerned) from two sources, that is, from the firewood Contractor, Mr. Frend, and from the Forest Department. Mr. Frend's contract is confined to a single sholah near the head of the Seegoor Ghaut, from which firewood, dry or green, is obtainable by

both private and public applicants. A Maistry, stationed at the sholah, issues the required passes. The value of a pass for a bandy-load of fuel is 8 Annas, while from 6 Pies to 9 Pies (according to the size of the bundle) are charged for each head-load. These rates are specially mentioned in the Agreement executed by Mr. Frend. Dead firewood can be taken on a pass issued by the Forest Department out of any sholah other than the contract sholah. During the continuance of the contract, the Forest Department cannot sell any green wood as firewood.

There is also a Contractor for Coonoor, where similar rules to those abovementioned obtain, but no such person is to be found at Kotagherry.

No restriction is placed in the way of villagers, resident outside the limits of Ootacamund and Coonoor, in obtaining such fuel as they may require for themselves free of charge. They are not, however, permitted to sell fuel within the above station limits, except with the sanction of the Forest Department or of the Contractor.

4. *The supply of wood for building purposes.*—Applicants can procure wood for building purposes upon a pass granted by either the Forest Department or the Contractor, whose contract embraces every description of wood for whatever purpose required. Upon payment of Rupees 2, a pass may be issued to cut sufficient wood to build an ordinary native hut, and wood enough for repairing such a hut may be cut upon payment of 1 Rupee. No tree may be felled on this account which is less than one foot in circumference.

Large building-wood, such as teak, is brought by the Forest Department to Ootacamund, Coonoor, and Wellington, from distant points, such as Seegoor and Mudumalai, and sold to Government as well as to private applicants. A few private individuals have timber stacked for sale. The charge per cubic foot of Teakwood is from Rupees 1-4-0 to Rupees 2, according to the length of the log.

In the case of the smaller building-wood treated of above, the rules in force in stations are equally applicable to outside villagers, wherever residing, who are allowed to obtain what they may require upon payment for a pass of Rupees 2 or Rupee 1, as the case may be. These orders, as may be expected, are too frequently set at nought, and cutting without a pass is of common occurrence.

5. *The supply of wood required for agricultural implements.*—Such villagers as reside beyond station limits are permitted to cut wood for agricultural implements free of charge, but only after obtaining a pass on this account. Cantonment residents must pay for any such wood, whether procured from the Contractor or from the Forest Department. In their case, the wood required is chiefly for handles for Mamoties, Pick-axes, &c., is charged for at 4 Annas per bundle.

6. As shown above, in paragraph 3, fuel is procurable from Government or from the Contractor at the low rates of from 6 Pies to 8 Pies per head-load, and 8 Annas per bandy-load. The market values, however, of such quantities are respectively from 3½ Annas to 4 Annas, and from 3½ Rupees to 4 Rupees. The true cause of the rates being so considerably enhanced when the fuel is brought into the public market, is traceable to the circumstance, that the sources of the supply are so distant from the scene of sale, that the actual cost, or estimated value of *carriage*, forms the chief item in the value of the fuel when exposed for sale within station limits. Very restrictive orders have been issued by Government against interference in any way with wood in forests situate within certain prescribed radii at Ootacamund and Coonoor. The contract sholah is in each case several miles distant from the station to be supplied. To start from the station, obtain the supply applied for (whether head-load or bandy-load), and to bring it into the station, occupies the greater part, if not the whole, of a day: to say nothing of the toil involved in the undertaking. The demand for labor of all classes is so great, and labor is accordingly so highly remunerated—many of the commonest coolies earn from 6 Annas to 8 Annas a day—that it seems matter of wonder that the charge for fuel is not higher than it is. If only one head-load or bandy-load is procurable by one person daily, that person naturally prices his load at such a sum as will suffice to reimburse him, taking into consideration the labor incurred and the time devoted thereto. A whole day is given to obtaining the load and bringing it to the station, and the value of a whole

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day's cooly, or cart-hire for the distance traversed, is therefore set upon the load. This value, as at present fixed, certainly does not bear favorable comparison with the wages derivable from many other descriptions of labor. On these grounds, Colonel Morgan expressed his astonishment that the current rates for fuel within stations were so low. In this opinion, I think that any one acquainted with the facts, will readily coincide.

7. The two other descriptions of wood adverted to in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, can be purchased, where purchase is necessary, at such reasonable rates, that in this respect no alteration in the existing Rules would appear advisable.

8. It will be perceived, therefore, that the interests of agriculturists, and indeed of all classes, are at present amply protected under the Forest and Jungle Conservancy Rules. There is, however, another aspect under which it would seem desirable that these Rules should be considered, and thus I would now propose briefly to review them.

9. The most striking feature in the character of the present system under the charge of the Forest Department is the marked paucity of the Establishment servants, and the consequent inability properly to supervise the working of the Rules. This, Colonel Morgan admits, must conduce, and does daily conduce, to the evasion of the restrictions upon obtaining wood, for whatever purpose required, without payment of the prescribed fees. In fact, there can be no room to doubt that Government are at present heavy losers: much wood being abstracted without any corresponding return. The remedy for such state of things is manifest. A far greater number of persons than heretofore must be employed to exercise supervision, if the interests and rights of Government are to be at all effectively maintained. The readiest and most obvious way of accomplishing this object is to enlist the services of the Talook and Village officials, and to transfer the working of this branch of the Forest Rules to the Revenue Department, as already determined upon by Government.

10. I should mention, that other sources of fuel and wood-supply, besides those above particularized, are to be found in sholahs within easy reach of stations, and which are now the property of private individuals. This, however, does not in any way affect the question of the loss daily accruing within tracts still under Government control.

11. This loss arises, in some cases, by the removal, unknown to any others than the parties concerned, of wood for which a pass is required, and for which no pass has been obtained; and in other cases by the tacit connivance of the Forest Peons, who find means thereby of turning such irregularities to their own no small advantage, while the chances of detection are so feeble, that guilt can in hardly any instance be brought home to the offenders.

12. In conclusion, I would beg leave to offer a few remarks upon the probable loss to Government under the present system for obtaining fuel. As stated above, Colonel Morgan is quite convinced that much wood is now taken, for which no account is rendered. The Tahsildar has recently brought to notice that upon the Neilgherries there is a total population of, in round numbers, 40,000 souls. Of these, the hill tribes number about 20,000. As the latter are allowed to take firewood for their own consumption, free of charge, they may be left out of the present calculation. Of the remaining 20,000 people, a fair proportion (say one-half) can procure firewood without purchase, for instance, Planters, Superintendents of Estates, their Establishment, &c. It would seem, then, that there are at least 10,000 people to whom fuel should be supplied on a pass, and that were the present incomplete system placed on an efficient footing, Government might look to realize, on account of fuel alone, a very much larger sum than is now brought to credit.

13. The aggregate loss also in connection with the small building-wood required by Natives generally, from absence of supervision during the cutting, is probably far from insignificant. The amount of this, there is, however, at present no adequate means of ascertaining at all correctly.

In his letter of the 14th August last, the Commissioner for the Neilgherries reported on Dr. Cleghorn's proposal to place the general charge of the Neilgherry woods under the Special Assistant Collector, resident on the Hills.

2. The Board in their Proceedings of the 21st ultimo, No. 6,708, laid this report before Government, and recommended that the entire general control of these woods should be vested exclusively in the Commissioner.

3. In his present letter, the Commissioner states, that further inquiries, consultation with others, his own observations, and certain incidents have led him to attach more importance than he did when his first report was penned to the preservation of the woods on the Hills, and convinced him of the insufficiency of the present arrangements for that purpose.

4. The Commissioner is now strongly of opinion that the only method of carrying out a really effective conservance on the Hills is to employ an experienced Officer solely on that duty.

5. In this opinion Mr. Brooks is confirmed by a report from his Assistant Mr. Roupell. There can be little doubt, the Board think, that the conservancy arrangements on the Hills have not worked satisfactorily. Illicit feeling is known to be very prevalent, and notwithstanding the reiterated orders of Government, every year witnesses a further denudation of the tract. This can only be ascribed to the want of really effective supervision.

6. The receipts are so small, as *per se*, to indicate that the want of the residents, in the way of fuel, must be illicitly supplied. The Firewood contract for Ootacamund is rented out for Rupees 50 per mensem, as the seigniorage is 6 Pies per cooly-load, this represents a consumption of fifty-four such loads per diem. Making every allowance for the use of private timber and peat, such a sum is manifestly disproportionate to the requirements of so large a community as that of Ootacamund. It is not clear what the terms of the contract are; but if, as Major Beddome's description implies, it is simply a monthly lease, without restriction as to the area within which the felling is to be carried on, it is obviously a wasteful arrangement.

7. For the last three years the charges have exceeded the receipts. This would not so much signify if the preservation of the forest were fully ensured, but the reverse is, as the Commissioner states, the general opinion of residents and visitors.

8. It seems to the Board that the Commissioner's plan is the only one likely to succeed. Not only would an Officer of experience and position direct and control the work of the subordinate agency, but he would be able to do what is now left undone, namely, restrain proprietors of forest blocks from encroaching on adjacent Government forest and reserve. It is well known that much injury is thus caused by felling and fires. In other respects also, the services of such an Officer would be most useful to the Commissioner, such as examining and reporting on lands applied for by private parties, seeing that they are properly demarcated, &c. It will be impossible for the Commissioner or his Assistant to leave their other work to inspect such lands whenever they are applied for, and such duties often involve absences of several days.

9. The Conservator of Forests is necessarily absent from the Hills for frequent and lengthened periods, and such absences are fatal to effective supervision. Moreover, it is not desirable that the head of such a department should have devolved on him local executive operations which will more or less interfere with his freedom of movement.

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10. The Board would suggest, therefore, that an Officer of experience and standing should be appointed to work the Neilgherry woods under the Commissioner, as an experiment for, say two years. The Board are confident that if a thoroughly competent Officer were appointed to the duty, there would be a considerable increase of revenue, while conservancy would be effectual. At present the charges exceed the revenue, and the object in view is not accomplished. The conservancy of the Hill Forests cannot now, however, be regarded merely as a source of actual revenue; the preservation of the woods is of the utmost importance in its influence on the rain-fall, and this consideration alone justifies, the Board think, the experimental measure proposed in the face of an existing deficit.

11. It is very necessary, the Board think, that the Officer selected should not only have had some experience of forestry, but should be of a standing, which would give his proceedings and opinion weight with the European community on the Hills.

No. 283. From the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 17th December 1868, No. 1,081.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 8,619, of the 8th instant, I have the honor to offer the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. When Forest Conservancy was first introduced at Ootacamund, it worked well, all or nearly all the sholahs belonged to Government, and there was very little attempt at smuggling, as all wood could be seized if entering without a pass, our receipts were comparatively large, and the Department could well pay its expenses. Within the last few years, however, large quantities of sholah land all round Ootacamund have been given up for Chinchona and Tea Plantations, and wood has been brought from all quarters, and it has become impossible to stop any wood, although it may have been clandestinely cut, unless parties had actually been detected in felling it in Government tracts. Our receipts were reduced to a minimum, and it became impossible to check smuggling without a large establishment of Forest Police, which the Revenue did not authorize. Smuggling is, however, confined to head-loads, and the real cause in the falling off of the revenue has been the large amount of wood brought into Cantonment from the Plantations alluded to.

3. This private supply of wood from the different plantations will fail shortly, and the Revenue from the Government sholahs will consequently increase, and will authorize a larger establishment. I may also mention, that private planting has lately received a great stimulus, and many residents can supply their own wants from their private grounds, and even sell wood. I do not, therefore, feel the alarm as to the future that is expressed by the Commissioner.

4. I believe it would be the best plan to transfer the Conservancy of all the sholahs entirely to the Commissioner and his Assistant, relieving the Forest Department of all duties except that of superintending the planting. Whether an Officer is appointed or not to this charge, under the Commissioner, the smuggling cannot be checked without a large staff of Forest Police which will be a heavy charge of

itself, but an Officer could hardly be employed on a smaller salary than 500 Rupees a month, and how is the charge to be met? if it is put on the wood (a necessary of life in a place like Ootacamund) it will cause great dissatisfaction to the residents and visitors of the station. Government will remember that an Officer was formerly appointed solely to this charge, but the appointment was soon done away with on the ground of expense, and I could not now recommend the employment of an Officer, when I feel sure that an active Overseer of character and integrity is fully equal to the charge, if he has a sufficient staff of Police under him. Mr. Newman (late Quarter Master Serjeant of the 43rd Foot) at present in charge of the Australian Plantations at Wellington, is quite the man for the post. He is a skilled planter, and has the highest characters for integrity. He is very active, and his salary need not be more than at present, Rupees 130 per mensem.

No. 284. From the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 18th December 1868, No. 1,086.

In continuation of my letter, No. 1,081, of yesterday's date, I have the honor to forward a report on the same subject from Colonel Morgan, the Officer in charge of the Neilgherry Sholahs, by which Government will perceive that, that Officer applied for a second Overseer for Ootacamund in August of last year; but the subject of the Conservancy Establishment has been under reference ever since. Colonel Morgan also reports, that whenever cases of theft are brought before the Civil Authorities the punishment inflicted is so slight, as to be of no use in checking the practice.

From the Deputy Conservator of Forests, to the Officiating Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated 18th December 1868, No. 827.

1. With reference to the Commissioner's and the Acting Assistant Commissioner's Reports on the Neilgherry sholahs, I have the honor to offer a few remarks.

Copy of letter enclosed.

2. So long ago, as 2nd August 1867, I brought to Dr. Cleghorn's notice the absolute necessity there was for another Overseer at Ootacamund. I was then, and am still, of opinion that Overseer Newman is well qualified for the work, with the present Overseer Taylor as his Assistant.

3. Overseer Taylor has detected numerous cases of theft, but the punishment inflicted, is simply useless to deter the thieves. I have repeatedly brought this fact to notice. The minor cases of theft which occur by the kindred, such as women going into sholahs to bring away firewood, are punished by the Monigar, the punishment being a few hours detention in the Lock-up.

4. Jodas always carry axes to rifle bees' nests for honey, the sound of their axes on hollow trees may frequently be heard by the sportsmen. Burghers also have a right to fell wood for their houses in certain sholahs.

No. 285. ORDER THEREON, 11th March 1869, No. 653.

Forests, No 12.

1. In his letter, under date 26th October 1867, No. 350, the Conservator of Forests (Dr. Cleghorn) recommended to Government, that Major Morgan, one of his Deputy Conservators, then in charge of the Neilgherry Sholahs and of the Hill Plantations, should be relieved from this duty, and his jurisdiction confined to the valley below, including Segoor, Mudumallay, Collegal, Bowany, &c. He also proposed that the general control of Forest operations on the Neilgherry Hills, should be transferred to the Special Assistant Collector, special instructions being, however, given to the Overseers on all technical matters by the Conservator of Forests himself, who would be responsible for the progress of planting and conservancy.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th March 1869.

2. When Dr. Cleghorn made this suggestion, there were two Overseers working under Major Morgan's orders on the Hills, viz., Mr. Newman on Rupees 75 per mensem, and Mr. Taylor on Rupees 50, and the Conservator's recommendation included a proposal that a third should be employed (Mr. Hall) on Rupees 80, with 15 Rupees horse allowance; that Mr. Newman's salary should be raised to this rate, and that Mr. Taylor should receive Rupees 60 instead of Rupees 50 per mensem.

3. In their Order, under date 30th January 1868, No. 259, the Government approved of so much of the Conservator's proposals, as related to relieving Major Morgan of the charge of the Neilgherries, and expressed their opinion that the charge below the Hills was ample to employ all his time and energies. As regarded the other details of the arrangement, the Government expressed a wish to receive Major Beddome's observations, as he was by this time acting as Conservator of Forests.

4. In reply to this order, Major Beddome explained that Mr. Newman had been already promoted to a First Class Overseership on Rupees 130 per mensem, and stated his opinion that he might be left in charge of all the Forest operations on the Hills, as the Special Assistant Collector was liable constantly to be changed, and would not be likely to take any interest in Forest work, even if he had time to do so. He also pointed out that the proposal to take Mr. Hall back into the Department as a Second Class Overseer, would supersede Mr. Taylor who, however, had declined promotion in Tinnevelly.

5. In the meantime, the Neilgherries had been constituted a separate District by special enactment, and a Commissioner had been appointed. The Government, accordingly, before disposing of the question of Forest management and establishment on the Hills, resolved to obtain the Commissioner's views as to Dr. Cleghorn's proposals.

6. In his first letter, printed with the Board's Proceedings, recorded above, Mr. Brecks points out that the Revenue Officers of the Hills, Covenanted and Uncovenanted, as they move about the District, cannot but possess opportunities of discovering irregularities, which opportunities the Conservator himself may not always have, and he states his conviction that the desirability or otherwise of carrying out Dr. Cleghorn's proposal rests on the means which the Conservator himself may possess, of exercising that personal supervision over the work of the Overseers which is clearly desirable. In forwarding this letter, the Board express their decided opinion, that the entire general control of the Neilgherry woods and the scrutiny of the Periodical Returns of the Overseers, should be vested exclusively in the Commissioner, and observe that Dr. Cleghorn's opinion is entitled to the highest consideration.

7. In his second letter, Mr. Brecks reports, that the further consideration which he has given to the subject, and the more complete information which he has obtained, lead him to the conclusion that, if the peculiar character and value of the Hills, are to be preserved, or any results either in the shape of forest revenue or conservancy are to be looked for, the sholahs and swamps must be put under the special control of an Officer experienced in Forestry, whose sole duty it would be, with the help of a small out-door establishment, and in conjunction with the Revenue and

Village Officers, to organize and carry out a well considered system of Conservancy operations. Mr. Brecks has arrived at the conclusion that the present system of Forest Conservancy is altogether inefficient, and reports that the residents on the Hills, who have a permanent interest in them, deplore the unauthorized felling, which, in spite of repeated orders, still takes place, and look with alarm at what may be the result, a few years hence, if the present system continues. He also considers that no amendment can be expected, so long as the executive charge of the sholahs, is in the hands of men of the class of Overseers who cannot be expected to see the necessity for the preservation of a few trees, either on the score of beauty or utility, and whose orders cannot be expected to have that weight with the European community, which such orders would have, if issued by an Officer of equal or superior social position to themselves. With this letter, Mr. Brecks also submits his Assistant's report on the swamps, but states his belief that the proposed bund system would not be necessary if the swamps were placed under charge of an efficient Officer.

8. With his third letter, Mr Brecks submits a report from his Assistant on the working of the Conservancy Rules, as regards the interests of the agriculturists, and again expresses his opinion that unless the Conservancy of the sholahs is organized on some efficient footing under the control of an experienced Officer, the destruction of the sholahs is but a question of time, and he draws attention to the conclusion independently arrived at by his Assistant, regarding the unauthorized felling which takes place.

9. In submitting Mr. Brecks' second and third letters, the Board observe that it is clear that the present Conservancy arrangements of the Hills have not worked satisfactorily, and that the paucity of receipts shew, that the wants of the residents in the way of firewood must be illicitly supplied. They point out that the Conservator of Forests is necessarily absent from the Hills, for frequent and lengthened periods, and that such absences are fatal to effective supervision, and further, that the Head of the Forest Department should not have executive duties to perform, and they conclude by recommending, that a special Officer should be appointed to the duty of superintending the Conservancy operations on the Hills, under the Commissioner, as a temporary arrangement for two years. They add that, in their opinion, the Officer selected, should not only have some experience in forestry, but should be of a standing calculated to give his opinion and proceedings due weight with the European community.

10. The Acting Conservator of Forests, to whom copies of the Board's Proceedings have been forwarded, also expresses his opinion that it would be expedient to transfer the conservancy of the sholahs entirely to the Commissioner and Assistants, relieving the Forest Department of all duties, except that of superintending the planting operations, but he deprecates the employment of a Special Officer for the charge, and expresses his opinion that Overseer Newman, would be found quite equal to the duty. He ascribes the falling off of the Forest Revenue on the Hills, to the fact that a large quantity of firewood is brought in for sale from private plantations, and states that, though on first commencing operations, Forest Conservancy worked well on the Hills, latterly it has become impossible to check smuggling, as the receipts were reduced to a minimum, and did not authorize the employment of the necessary establishment to do so.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th March 1869.

11. His Deputy, Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan, also ascribes much of the smuggling which takes place, to the lenient manner in which the cases of theft, which have been prosecuted by his Department, have been dealt with by the Magistracy.

12. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has given these communications his most careful consideration, and adverting to the facts (1), that it is on general grounds inexpedient to permit the existence of any Department in the small range which is placed under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Hills, over which he cannot exercise the fullest control (2), that the Forest Department has, from the testimony of Major Beddome himself, altogether failed to prevent smuggling and illicit felling, and that the Range has proved a loss to the Department ; and (3), that there are no forests on the Neilgherries, which contain valuable timber, he resolves to transfer the entire management of the Neilgherry Sholahs and of the Hill Plantations to the Commissioner from the 1st of April next.

13. His Lordship in Council, however, is not satisfied that the necessities of the case justify the proposal made by Mr. Brecks and supported by the Board of Revenue, to employ a Military Officer experienced in forestry under the Commissioner for this duty. Such an arrangement would involve an expenditure which would be in excess of the requirements of the case.

14. The existing Forest Establishment on the Neilgherries should be transferred to the Commissioner from the 1st of April, and it will then be for him to propose such modifications or additions, as he may consider necessary, bearing in mind that as a rule the annual cost must not exceed the annual receipts, as the charges and collections must for the future appear in the accounts under "Jungle Conservancy" subordinate to Local Fund. The Government do not doubt that aided as he will be by the whole of his Revenue staff, the Commissioner will be able to bring the cost of the Establishment within the collections, and improved management will doubtless, in due course, increase the receipts. If, however, after full experience, it shall appear that a stronger establishment and the services of a special Officer of a higher grade than that of Overseer are really needed, the matter may again be brought under the consideration of Government by the Commissioner.

15. In an Order, under date, 8th February 1869, No. 327, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council has directed that Major Morgan shall exercise a general supervision over the operations of the Assistant, who has recently been nominated to the charge of the Wynaad Range. This duty will be undertaken by him from the date of the Assistant's taking charge of the Range ; but he will not be relieved of his present range on the Neilgherries until the 1st April, as above directed.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of [1869] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March, 11th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 11th March 1869, No. 653.

MARCH.

Nos. 231-235.

Neilgherry Forests.—Passing orders with reference to the transfer of their entire management to the Commissioner from the 1st April 1869.

9

1868. Department.

No. 3101.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 21st September 1868.

No. 6,708.

Expressing opinion that entire general control of Neilgherry woods, and scrutiny of periodical Returns of Overseers should be vested exclusively in Commissioner.

Mines of operations in the Nilgherry Sholas and Australian Plantations at Wellington.

1 The Sholas around the Cantonment are strictly Conserved and wood is not allowed to be felled, the Forest Department through their Peons removes dead wood and fallen trees and sells them by Auction

2 Felling is Carried on in the Dense Sholas by the Forest Overseer to supply wood to the Government Nilgherry Works.

3 Firewood for the supply of the Cantonment is at present felled in the Mosthanad Sholas about 6 miles off, near the top of the Seguir Ghat. Mr. Tyrrell is the Contractor and is paying 50 Rupees per mensem for the privilege

4 Much firewood is at present brought into Cantonment from different private plantations (Tea, Cinchona &c). This of Course much lessen's our receipts just at present, these Sholas will probably all be exhausted in about 2 years or a less period, when Government have the monopoly the firewood Contract should be worth 65000 Rs Annually.

5 The Overseer and Peons at Ootacamund patrol the Sholas and prevent clandestine felling. The Overseer is also employed in planting operations

6 The Firewood Contractor for Metteypolliam and the foot of the Hills on the Coimbatore Side) pays £750 Rs annually for the privilege of felling Firewood, Charcoal, and Bamboos. Timber is felled by Voucher and Licence on the payment of Seignorage

7 The Overseer at Wellington also guards the Sholas and has large plantations to look after. He also has the Superintendence of the Forests of the Slopes and foot of the Hills on the Coimbatore Side).

Ootacamund
Offi of Conr of Forests
18 September 1860.

P Robinson Major
Offg. Conr of Forests.

21st September 1868
Cotacamund —

No 92.

From,

N. A. Rainsell Esqre,
Asst Assistant Commissioner

To

J. W. Brooks Esqre,
Commissioner Neilgherries.

Sir,

With reference to paras 8 and 9 of Orders of Government, Revenue Department (Forests No 2 1/2) dated 30th January 1868, I have the honor to submit the following circumstances for your consideration

2. The Revenue Survey Department are at present undertaking the demarcation and Survey as Government Reserves of such bogs and swamps yielding peat as still belongs to Government within the Survey station limits of Cotacamund, Coonoor and Kotagherry - When these are completed the swamps at Wellington will at once be taken in hand -

3. The terms of para 8 above alluded to are comprehensive, embracing every Government swamp upon the Neilgherries, that they can be carried out after some little period, labour and expense - The Report, therefore, called for in para 9 cannot be furnished for some time to come, if it is to show the extent ascertained by survey of each of the

Map of operations in the Neilgherry Hills and Australian Plantations Wellington

Lt Genl Ph Maj 33/68

R 1852/68

Rec'd Nov 4th 1868

the bogs.

4. It seems clear that the cause and the Chief preserver of a swamp are, its position and its natural surface level: its position being such that the drainage (whether surface or under-ground) of the adjacent land converges to its site, while the level of the site is, in a state of nature, such that water once there received can with difficulty escape, and that only by two means, or, in other words, either by rising above the level of retention or by descending underground to lower levels - It may, I apprehend be assumed that Peat-bogs are the natural results, after long time, of the steady permanent confluence of waters to such sites as those above mentioned; and, in these bogs are found further preservers of the swamp waters. The peat soil, like a sponge, imbibes, and like a sponge retains, if not meddled with, the waters it receives, while the long thick grass, peculiar to such soil, goes far towards preventing the evaporation of the surface moisture, during the heat of the day - Moreover, ordinarily, in a state of nature, such water as leaves the swamp is only the excess supply beyond what the swamp can conveniently hold, and the surplus water -

flows

flows away gently in a stream, the volume of which is approximately indicative of the supply at the time, received into the swamp from its various feeders on the higher levels - In the case of heavy rains there is, of course, frequently a rush of water from swamps, but this consists of the surface-drainage of rain-water only, and in no way affects the perennial supply - the swamps after the down-flow of the surface rain-water being left in the same position as before -

5. Such are the main-features of Peat swamps, some of which are situate in open land, while others are fringed with belts of trees, and smaller classes of vegetation - It would seem indisputable that the indigenous Shola of the Neilgherries with its deep shadow, the quantity of moss, lichen, and moist decayed leaves at its foot (all aids in preventing the down-flow of rain water and in its soaking into the soil on the spot), and its tendency to keep the surface of the ground cool and damp must operate advantageously in shielding from the sun's rays the surface below which trickle the stream lets which feed a swamp - May it may not improbably operate so far as to cause, in some cases extension

of

of swamps. In a similar direction must be the effects of any kind of vegetation, which must act more or less powerfully as a preventive to evaporation, and as a cause and retainer of moisture according to the depth of its shade.

6. Such being the causes and the condition of Peat swamps in their primeval state, it would seem that naturally, they are not likely to be impaired, except under peculiar circumstances, such as deficiency of water-supply and any other similar and unforeseen event. As the injury to swamps is shown in their ceasing to act as permanent receptacles of water, to the cause of this must be looked for, in whatever may conduce to let off their waters. In several swamps (Government and private) within station — limits this cause at once forces itself upon the enquirer. The effect of Channels cut through a swamp whether in view to cultivating the swamp (when drained) with potatoes, or the excavation of the drained peat soil for brick making, or for the express purpose of feeding a water-channel is always to get rid of the water supply as quickly as it is acquired, and — by

by degrees to obliterate the original Swamps

7. It has been observed that some Swamps which were formerly impassable can now be traversed on foot without difficulty, and this circumstance has been attributed to the frequent trampling of cattle. I am unable from personal knowledge to speak to the change in the character of these Swamps, or its cause, but can readily conceive that where the trampling of cattle was such as to form a track in any way adapted as a channel for water, and leading out of and below the Swamp, the cause assigned is the true one.

8 Since these Swamps are injured, and by degrees obliterated by the artificial diversion of their waters, the object and tendency of any remedial measures should be primarily the retention of those waters. In this view I would beg leave to suggest that except where there may be strong reasons to the contrary, all channels which have hitherto been cut in Government Swamps be at once filled up with the soil originally excavated therefrom; that

No

no channels be in future without Special
Reasons, cut in any Government swamps
and that all swamps whose condition
may appear to require such a precaution
be dammed up at the base with a
bund, supplied at each end with a
Surplus Channel to allow of the easy
escape of storm waters. This bund System
would further have the advantage of
Counteracting any probable damage to
Swamps by the trespassing cattle.
4 I have already adverted to the utility
of Trees and other Kinds of Vegetation
as Swamps Preservers. A communication
with Lieutenant Colonel Finigan has
led me to the opinion that the object
in view will be amply obtained by the
bunding System merely, and that the
Plantation of belts of trees could only be
effected at a cost quite out of proportion
to the advantages to be therefrom derived.

I have
Signed H. A Campbell
Ag. Asst. Commissioner

/True Copy/

Alex Berger
Ag Secretary

No. 28.

From.

S. M. Burke Esqr.
Commissioner Stuyvesant.

To. The Secretary
Board of Revenue

Sir. I have had occasion to give further consideration to the subject of my letter of 11th August last; & regarding the communication of the Schooner Clarissa as the property of the Stuyvesant. I have to request that the Board will submit some further remarks on the subject, as my opinion remains unchanged that the Stuyvesant is now entirely free of the charges of my former letter, & the vessel should be cleared accordingly.

I have &c.

Enclosure No. 1 of the Board of Revenue to the Secy to Govt R. D. 378 Dec 68.

Rec 3852/68

From Mr Burke Esq Collr

Copy of letter from the Commissioner Stuyvesant dated 21 Sept 1868 No 92

loads of wood. They said they were not allowed by the Forest Department to get dead wood from the Sholahs there. I saw here and there plenty of stumps of young trees that should never have been cut down:

3. On the 14th the Tahsildar reported that the Manigar of Ootacamund had come across 14 men with headloads of wood, and that 11 of them had thrown down their loads and run away. Mr. Taylor the Forest Overseer has been informed of this.

4. I regret to have to say that the present system of conservancy is condemned as altogether ineffectual by those, with whom I have spoken. Men who have a permanent interest in these Hills deplore the unauthorised felling that takes place, especially round about the European Settlements. They look with some alarm at what may be the result, a few years hence, if the present system continues. A large proportion of the Native squatters, if here, possess but an indifferent character, and whether in employ or not, seem to care little, so long as they can repair to a neighbouring Sholah, and bring in firewood for sale.

5. The present Establishment on the Neilgherries, for forest conservancy, and the annual Receipts and charges are as per enclosed list A. The Modus operandi, is explained by Major Beddome in

6. The Board have called for a report upon the Swamps on the Hills, and are aware of Dr Bidie's opinion, of the result that may be expected to follow the destruction of forests near the sources of streams. That the water supply here has not been so copious in late years as in former years all are agreed. It is not so clear that the scanty monsoons are owing to the felling of forests, and I hope that this and following years will show that, on an average as much rain falls now

* Pro. of Govt of Mad. 26th June 1868 No. 4717

now as heretofore I think however that there can be no doubt but that the existence of forests prevents the waters running rapidly off the surface to waste, especially in a hilly country like this. This being so the isolated position of the sholahs here, their limited area, and the fact that in most instances they form the reservoir and birth place of streams which feed the swamps below them render necessary some especial measures for their preservation.

7. And I cannot avoid remarking that it seems to me almost useless under the peculiar circumstances of the case, to put such a charge as the conservancy of the sholahs here into the hands of men of the class of overseers. Such conservators cannot be expected to feel much interest in or to see the necessity for the preservation of a few trees either on the score of beauty or utility. I will say nothing about the temptation to such men to permit unauthorised felling which as the Board are aware is little susceptible of check under any system, nor need I mention that

the wishes and orders of a Military officer of some standing would have more weight with the European community here than any thing that an overseer could say.

9. The result of enquiry and consideration therefore leads me to modify my letter of the 16th Ultimo, and I am strongly of opinion that if we are to preserve the peculiar character and value of these hills and to look for any results either in the shape of forest Revenue or conservancy we ought to put the sholahs and swamps under the control of an officer experienced in Forestry, whose sole duty it would be, with the help of a small out door Establishment and in conjunction with the Revenue and Village Officers, to organise and carry out a well considered system of conservancy operations.

10. I beg to forward herewith my assistants report upon the Swamps called for in G.O. dated 30th January 1868 No. 19. If the Swamps were reserved and put under the charge of an efficient officer I think the Bund system alluded to in para 8 of my assistants report would not be necessary.

Enclosures C

22nd September 1868.
Ootacamund,

I have &c.
(Signed) J. W. Breeks.
Commissioner Neilgherry.

(True Copy)

A Macfarlane
Acting Secretary.

Compd

1868 Department.

Enclosure in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Actg Secretary to Govt Revenue Department dated 8th December 1868.

2

Rev. 3852/68

Rec. Proc. 11th March 1869 No 832

Copy of a letter from the Commissioner Nellore to the Actg Secretary to Board of Revenue dated 22nd September 1868.

11th March

653

3 The supply of firewoods. The supply of firewoods for the Station of Potaconmond is derived (so far as the Government are concerned) from two causes: that is from the firewood Contractor, Mr. Friend, and from the Forest Department. Mr. Friend's contract is confined to a single Shola near the head of the Lagoorghaut, from which firewood, dry or green, is obtainable by both Private and Public applicants. A Ranger stationed at the Shola issues the required Passes. The value of a Pass for a handy load of fuel is Eight (8) annas, which pass 6 Pics to 9 Pics (according to the size of the bundles) are charged for each head load. These rates are specially mentioned in the agreement executed by Mr. Friend. Dead firewood can be taken on a Pass issued by the Forest Department out of any Shola other than the contract Shola. During the continuance of the Contract, the Forest Department cannot sell any green wood as firewood.

There is also a contractor for Coonoor where similar rules to those above mentioned obtain. Fuel in such person is to be found at Kotagherry.

No restriction is placed on the supply of Villagers resident outside the limits of Potaconmond and Coonoor in obtaining such fuels as they may require for themselves free of charge. They are not however permitted to take such within the above station limits except with the sanction of the Forest Department or of the Contractor.

4 The supply of wood for building purposes. Applicants can procure wood for building purposes upon a Pass granted by either the Forest Department or the Contractor, whose contract embraces every description of wood, for whatever purpose required. Upon payment of Rs two (2) a Ranger will mark out sufficient wood to build an ordinary native hut, and wood enough for repairing such a hut may be cut upon payment of Re one (1). No tree may be felled on this account which is less than one (1) foot in circumference.

Large building-wood, such as teak is brought by the Forest Department to Potaconmond Coonoor and Wellington

from

from distant points, such as Lugoor and Mendarinal as, and sold to Govern-ment as well as to private appli-cants. A few private individuals have timber stacked for sale. The charge per cubic foot of Teakwood is from Rs. 1—4—0 to Rs. 2—"—0 according to the length of the log.

In the case of the smaller building wood treated of above, the rules in force in Thatone are equally applicable to outside Villagers, wherever residing, who are allowed to obtain what they may require upon payment for a pass of Rs. 2 or Rs. 1, as the case may be: These orders, as may be expected, are too frequently set at nought, and cutting without a pass is of common occurrence.

5. *Fire supply of wood required for agricultural implements.* Such Villagers as reside beyond station limits are permitted to cut wood for agricultural implements free of charge, but only after obtaining a pass on this account. Cantonment residents must pay for any such wood, whether procured from the Contractor or from the Forest Department. In their case the wood required is chiefly for handles for Mamatties, Reik-anes &c. and is charged for at 2 annas per bundle.

6. As shown above in para 3, fuel is procurable from Government or from the Contractor at the low rates of from 6 pies to 8 pies per head-load, and 8 annas per bandy-load. The market values, however, of such quantities are respectively from 3½ annas to 4 annas, and from 3½ Rs. to 4 Rs. The true cause of the rates being so considerably enhanced when the fuel is brought into the public market is traceable to the circumstance that the sources of the supply are so distant from the scene of sale that the actual cost, or estimated value, of carriage forms the chief item in the value of the fuel when exposed for sale within station limits. Very restrictive orders have been

issued by Government against interference in any way with wood in forests situate within certain prescribed radii of Astaramand and Coonoor. The contract should in each case several miles distant from the station, to be supplied. To start from the station, obtain the supply applied for (whether head-load or bandy-load) and to bring it into the station, requires the greater part, if not the whole, of a day; to say nothing of the toil involved in the undertaking.

The demand for labour of all classes is so great, and labour is accordingly so highly remunerative, that any of the Government Coolies earns from 6 annas to 8 annas a day - that it seems matter of wonder that the charge for fuel is not higher than it is. If only one head-load or bandy-load is procurable by one person daily, that person naturally fixes his load at such a sum as will suffice to bring him, taking into consideration the labour incurred and the time devoted thereto. A whole day is given to obtaining the load and

bringing it to the station, and the value of a whole day's toil, or cost thereof for the distance traversed, is therefore set upon the load. This value, as at present fixed, certainly does not bear favorable comparison with the wages derivable from any other descriptions of labour. On these grounds Colonel Morgan expressed his astonishment that the current rates for fuel within stations were so low. In this opinion I think that any one acquainted with the facts will readily coincide.

The two other descriptions of wood, alluded to in paras 4 and 5 above, can be purchased, where purchase is necessary, at such reasonable rates, that in this respect no alteration in the existing Rules would appear advisable.

8. It will be perceived, therefore, that the interests of agriculturists, and indeed of all classes, are at present amply protected under the Forest and Jungle Conservancy Rules. There is however another aspect under which it would seem desirable that these Rules should be considered, and this would

now proposes briefly to review them.

9. The most striking feature in the character of the present system under the charge of the Forest Department is the marked paucity of the Establishment servants, and the consequent inability properly to supervise the working of the Rules. This Colonel Morgan admits, must conduce, and does daily conduce, to the evasion of the restrictions upon obtaining wood, for whatever purpose required, without payment of the prescribed fees. In fact, there can be no room to doubt that Government are, at present heavy losers; much wood being abstracted without any corresponding return. The remedy for such state of things is manifest. A far greater number of persons than heretofore must be employed to exercise supervision, if the interests and rights of Government are to be at all effectively maintained.

The readiest and most obvious way of accomplishing this object is to enlist the services of the Salug and Village officials, and to transfer the working of this branch of the Forest Rules to the Revenue Department, as already determined upon by Government.

10. I should mention that other sources of fuel and wood-supply besides those above particularized, are to be found in scholahs within easy reach of stations, and which are now the property of private individuals. This however does not in any way affect the question of the loss daily occurring within tracts still under Government Control.

11. This loss arises, in some cases, by the removal, without any to any other than the parties concerned, of wood for which a pass is required and for which no pass has been obtained, and, in other cases by the tacit connivance of the Forest Peons, who find means thereby of turning such irregularities to their own no small advantage, while the chances of detection are so feeble that guilt can, in hardly any instance, be brought

home to the offenders.

12. In conclusion, I would be glad to offer a few remarks upon the probable loss to Government, under the present system of obtaining fuel. As stated above, Colonel Morgan is quite convinced that much wood is now taken, for which no account is rendered. The Tahsildar has recently brought to notice that upon the Neilgherries there is a total population, in round numbers, 40,000 souls of these the Hill tribes number about 20,000 as the latter are allowed to take firewood for their own consumption free of charge, they may be left out of the present calculation. Of the remaining 20,000 people, a fair proportion (say one half) can procure firewood, without purchase, for sustaining Planters Superintendents of Estates, their Establishments &c. It would seem then that there are at least 10,000 people to whom fuel should be supplied on a system and that even the present incomplete system placed on an efficient footing, Government might look to realize on account of fuel alone a very much larger sum than is now brought to Credit.

13. The aggregate loss also in connection with the small building-wood required by natives generally, from absence of supervision during the cutting, is probably far from insignificant. The amount of this there is, however, at present, no adequate means of ascertaining at all correctly.

I have &c
Signed) W. A. Rowsell
Assistant Commissioner

/True Copy/

Thompson
Ag Secretary

To
Capt. J. Postlethwaite

Customs
Commissioners Office
2nd October 1868

No 56.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from the Board of Revenue a letter dated the 23rd September 1868 No 28 forwarding for my information a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 8th January 1868 No 1 addressed to the Collector of Customs at Galle upon the subject of the establishment of Boats for the conveyance of Mails between Galle and Point de Galle.

2 I am also directed by the Board of Revenue to request that you will be pleased to call upon the Collector of Customs at Galle to report whether he has any objection to the proposed establishment of Boats for the conveyance of Mails between Galle and Point de Galle, and if not the Collector of Customs at Galle to be requested to submit his estimate of the probable cost of the establishment.

2 I am by the Board of Revenue directed to request that you will be pleased to call upon the Collector of Customs at Galle to report whether he has any objection to the proposed establishment of Boats for the conveyance of Mails between Galle and Point de Galle, and if not the Collector of Customs at Galle to be requested to submit his estimate of the probable cost of the establishment.

3. I am also to request that you will be pleased to call upon the Board of Revenue to state whether they have any objection to the proposed establishment of Boats for the conveyance of Mails between Galle and Point de Galle, and if not the Collector of Customs at Galle to be requested to submit his estimate of the probable cost of the establishment.

&c.

Enclosure in Pro: 3
the Board of Revenue
to the Agency to Govt
R. D. dated 8th Dec
1868.

3

Rev. 3852/68

From 8 March 69 L No 82

Copy of letter from the
Comm.r Chilaw to
the Agency to the Bd of
Revenue dated 23 Sept.
1868 - No 63.

Rec.d 11th March/69

553

he Calls the "Bannock Shalakes" without hearing
the world Cattle's case in full Play.

Shame for

Signed J. W. Brooks

Commissioner

/ True Copy /

Amanfiyo

Ag Secretary

Ch Bamfield

C P & S

Enclosure No 2
to the Govt of Fort St
G. O. No 8 dated 15th Jany 1869

Rec: 3852/68.
Fort St. George 15th Dec. 1868.

Copy of letter from
the Conservator of
Neilgherries No 2 dated
18th Nov. 36

1st Division
No 3

Scale of the existing Establishment of the Neilgherry Sholas.

		Rs a p	
1	1st Class Overseer at Wellington	100 - -	
	Do Travelling allowance	30 - -	
1	3d Class Overseer at Ootacamund	50 - -	
	do double Horse allowance	30 - -	This Overseer inspects the Dani Shola, a distance of 10 miles from Ootacamund, no Horse fel. -ling is carried on. —
1	Goomastah at Mettoopolliem	20 - -	
	do Travelling allowance	8 - -	
1	Road Peon at — do	9 - -	
1	Office do at Ootacamund	8 - -	
3	Shola Peons at — do @7 Rs	21 - -	
3	do @ Mettoopolliem @7 Rs	21 - -	Of this 2 peons are not employed since date of demolition.
	Total Cost of monthly Establishment	297 - -	
	Total cost of the Estt annually	3564 - -	

Receipts and Charges.

Year	Actual Cost realized	Value of wood supplied to D. P. W.	Total Receipts	Total Charges including Establishment	Balance against the Sholas.	Remarks.
	Rs a p	Rs a p	Rs a p.	Rs a p	Rs a p.	
1865-66	30,55 10 -	848 - -	3,900 10 -	5963 7 2	2064 13 2	* This includes Rs 950, the amt of sale of Bullocks
1866-67	2643 1 -	1677 10 -	4320 11 -	4500 - -	179 13 -	** In the Charges a large amount annually represents the Cost of forming plantations of Eucalyptus at Ootacamund and planting Eucalypti and australian beauties in Sholas which have been felled on Hummil ent.
1867-68	2561 5 3	2193 4 -	4744 9 3	5417 5 7	672 12 4	
Total	8,250 - 3	4715 14 -	12,965 14 3	15,883 4 9	2,917 6 4	

Ootacamund
Office of Conservator of Forests
18th September 1868.

/Signed/ R. B. Beddome
Major
Offg Conservator of Forests

Inwards

I think it is very desirable that in the change of the forests on the higher hills should be transferred to the Commissioners, and that he should be instructed to organized this conservancy with the aid of his Assistant Inspectors and of the Police of persons proposed by Dr Cleghorn in his letter of the 20th October 1860 - Lt Colonel Pearse should be ordered forthwith to commence with the Hill Forests.

In carrying out the preliminary arrangements for the better Conservancy of the forests, and in framing rules for the guidance of the Inspectors and other subordinates, the Commissioners should be instructed to avoid interfering, as far as he may think proper, of the aid & advice of the Principal Conservator of Forests.

I see no necessity or justification

charge

for the proposal made by the Board of Revenue, suggested by the Board of Revenue, that "the Hills Office experiment in forestry" and of such alterations in the service as will give the proceedings a definite object with the European assistants on the Hills," should be placed under the orders of the Conservator for the Special charge of the Hill forests & Swamps. Such an arrangement would also be an experiment which in my judgment is advisable in view of the requirements of the case. The officer entrusting the inquiries & finalisations would not be less than Rs 800 or Rs 900 per annum, an expense which would also more than double the outlay at present incurred. I can see no reason why the medical assistant of inquiries should not be removed by the Commissioner and his Assistant, instead as they will be by the

subordinate Revenue officials & by the village officers, by the Chief Revenue officers and by the inferior Revenue officers, the chief administrative officer of a district, by the Collector, and executive officers, in all proposals.

It may be objected that the Commissioner does not now experience in forest management and that therefore the success of the experiment should not depend on his approval & first orders with proper care and thus, I assume, the new duties of the Board of Revenue than the advocate an arrangement which would be aware in your Lordship's opinion of the views of Government as a matter of first importance in the working of the Hill forests & a new and special matter. It is important & important to prevent unauthorized & indiscriminate felling and that the best trees are not evaded.

charge

and also the forthcoming
[illegible] plantations, [illegible]
[illegible] Government [illegible]
as the [illegible] Hills [illegible]
to placed under the general
supervision of the Commissioner,
but [illegible] subject [illegible] as
to the ingrafting [illegible]
the arrangement [illegible]
minor [illegible] of the [illegible]
of state of the Local Superior
[illegible] in the Forest.

H. J. Richthofen

21st December 68

I agree generally with the views
expressed by Mr Richthofen in this
despatch. I do not think that the
nomination of a principal officer
to the charge advised by Mr Brooks
can be considered necessary, and I
would deprecate the proposal
which would probably attach

charge

Should it be decided to appoint an
Inspector of Forests, it should appear
that the services of a general officer
of a higher grade than that of
Conservator are required, & that such
a one in the event of appointment
it will be necessary to give a salary
of Rs 300 or 400. But I am much inclined
to think any such appointment
unnecessary.

I am disposed to agree with Mr
Thompson in thinking that the

sanctioned by the Govt. of India.

The next thing great should be under the direction of the Commissioner including Planting as well as Conserving and Selling but I think it very important that the overseer under Mr Rucker should be an Englishman. Some economie in forest Management and I would incur some expenditure in order to secure the services of such an agent. I doubt whether a native forest officer will be an efficient Guardian of the Public interests in that quarter both with respect to the Chiefs with which the natives dread and with reference to the difficulties which may arise with English Planters and other Residents in the Hills. I concur in the opinion expressed by my Colleagues that

the Circar Plantations & that Govt. garden should also be kept under the control of the Commissioner but that question may with propriety be deferred until we hear from the India Office in reply to our last communications. Napier.

charge

Revenue Depart

Memorandum
on No 3852.

1. Early in 1867, Sir Thomas Lycroft wrote a minute on the subject of the preservation of the woods of the Coonoor Plant, and of the neighbouring Sholas in general, and adverted to the necessity of extensive cultivation and the formation of tanks, pools and meadows for providing fuel for the residents on the Hills. He also expressed his opinion that Major Morgan (who was then in charge

charge of the Neilgherry Forest Range in addition to other duties) should be relieved of these duties as far as possible and be required to exercise a due supervision over the Neilgherry woods, and the peat bogs. His attention was generally called in by His Excellency the President and Mr. H. D. Phillips. In an order of the 30th January 1868 No 209 based on these minutes, and on a report submitted by Dr. Cleghorn on the Still Plantations after a perusal of the minutes.

"The Govt. regrets the great importance which they attached to the conservation of the Neilgherry sholas, and requests a report of the condition and the measures proper to be adopted for the preservation and working of the peat bogs. The Government also concurs with Dr. Cleghorn in considering that the best course would be to retain Major Morgan on his charge on the Still (as he had large lands property there) and to give the general control, and periodical

periodical returns to the Special Assistant Collector who was resident on the Hills leaving the Conservator himself to issue special instructions on all technical matters to the Forest Overseers, and to be responsible for the progress of planting and conservancy-as they however required Captain Beddome to give his opinion on the latter arrangement-

After

2. After some correspondence with Major Beddome on the subject of the Hill conservancy arrangements the Government in the order under date 6th August 1868 No. 2107 requested the opinion of the Commissioner of the Nilgherry Hills on the subject and the papers now under consideration contain replies with the opinions of the Board of Revenue through whom they have been submitted

4. In his first letter

letter Mr. Brooke
pointed out that the
Revenue officers of the
Bills Covenanted and
Uncovenanted as they
were about the Dis-
trict cannot but pos-
sess opportunities of
discovering irregularities
which opportunities the
Conservator himself
may not always
have; and he states
his conviction that
the desirability or
otherwise of carrying
out

out the Telephone pro-
posal rests on the in-
means which the Con-
servator himself may
possess of exercising that
personal supervision over
the work of the overseers
which is clearly desirable.
In forwarding this letter
the Board express their
decided opinion that the
entire general control of
the bridging woods and
the scrutiny of the period-
cal returns of the Over-
seers should be vested
exclusively in the
Commissioner

Commissioner and observe that Dr Cleghorn's opinion is entitled to the highest consideration.

5. In his second letter Mr Brooke reports further consideration of the subject and the more complete information on the subject which he has obtained leads him to the conclusion that if the peculiar character and value of the Hills is to be preserved or any results either in the shape of forest revenue or conservancy are to be looked for, the shola and swamps must

must be put under the special control of an officer experienced in Forestry whose sole duty it would be with the help of a small subordinate establishment and in conjunction with the Rev. and Subordinate officers, to organize and carry out a well considered system of conservancy operations. Mr Brooke has arrived at the conclusion that the present system of Forest Conservancy is altogether inefficient and the residents on the Hills who have a permanent interest in them

Mem deplore the unauthorized felling, which in spite of repeated orders still takes place, and look with alarm at what may be the result a few years hence if the present system continued. He also considers that no amendment can be expected so long as the Executive charge of the Sholas is in the hands of men of the class of Overseers who cannot be expected to see the necessity for the preservation of a few trees either on the score of beauty or utility, and whose orders cannot be expected to have that weight with the European community, which they would have if issued by an officer of equal or superior social position to them selves. With this letter Mr. Brooks also submits his Accts

Assistant's report on the swamps but states his belief that the proposed land system would not be necessary if the swamps were placed under charge of an efficient officer.—

6. With his third letter, Mr. Breeks submits a report from his Assistant on the working of the Conservancy Rules as regards the interests of the Agriculturists and. again expresses opinion that unless the conservancy of the tholais organised on some efficient footing, under the control of an scientific officer, the destruction of the tholais is but a question of time, and draws attention to the conclusion independently arrived at by his Assistant regarding the underwriting felling which takes place.

7. In submitting Mr. Breeks second and third letters the Board observe that it is clear that the present conservancy arrangements of the Hills have not worked

works satisfactorily, and that the paucity of receipts show that the points of the regi-=ulate in the way of firewood must be illi-=citly supplied. They point out that the Conservator of Forests is necessarily absent from the hills for frequent and lengthen-=ed periods and that such absences are fatal to effective supervision, and further that the Head

Head of the For-=est department should not have executive duties to perform, and con-=clude by recom-=mending that an Assistant Conservator officer of standing and experience should be ap-=pointed to the duty of super-=intendence of the Conservancy

Conservancy ope-
-rations on the
Hills under the
Commissioner, as a
temporary arrange-
-ment for two
years. They add that
that in this opinion
the officer selected
should not only have
some experience in
forestry but should be
of a standing calculated
to give his opinion on
and proceedings
due

a Major will be
probably sufficient
for part of this
+ Lt Colonel ?

due weight with the
European Com-
munity.

The proposals of the Com-
missioner of the
Nilgherries & the
Board might be
carried out by
transferring the
Forest Conservancy
of the Hills to the
Commissioner, re-
quiring him to cre-
dit all receipts
to the head "Ju-
dicial Conservancy
Fund" (subordi-
nate to "Local Fund")
and to debit
charges

charges to the same head. It would appear that there are no forests 'proper' on the Nilgheries, but merely sholas and jungles whence firewood is obtained. The adoption of the proposals now submitted would therefore be merely carrying out on the Neilgherries what is in force in many other Districts where the timber producing forests are under the control of the Forest Department proper, and the fire-wood producing jungles are worked by the Collectors for ordinary Revenue Establishment, aided by a few hands paid from the Jungle Conservancy Funds. A great deal of experimental planting

planting estates carried out from the Jungle Conservancy funds & the several Dists, and the Plantations of the Hills might similarly be left to the Conservr, unless it was thought advisable to place them under the Supt. of Cinchona Plants who of course originates many planting experiments at the Govt. Gardens.—

The Forest Dept would gain by the transfer if the charge to the Rev. Dept, as there has been an annual loss in working the Neilgherry Range as shown in the margin. The Commissioner might be directed to entertain such an establishment only as could be paid from the existing receipts, in the first instance, and he would doubtless find this sufficient, aided, as it would be, by the whole of his regular Establt on the Hills. In all probability the services of an experienced officer would merely be required for a year or two to introduce a proper system and reform existing abuses, and so long as his employment was only temporary

Yeare	Revenue	Charges
	Rs	Rs
1863/64	4,173	5,902
1864/65	5,764	5,395
1865/66	4,466	8,134
1866/67	4,835	6,140
1867/68	5,484	7,174

temporary, the cost might be met from the general revenue under the Head "Miscellaneous", in the same manner as the cost of employing Coll. Douglas Hamilton and Veterinary Surgeon Thacker on these special duties. Proper management would doubtless have; as stated by the Board; so augment the receipts on account of firewood &c., as eventually to provide funds for the payment of a Special Officer, if after trial, it was considered necessary to employ one permanently. On grounds

of utility alone, it certainly seems to be desirable, to make some effort to preserve the sholas and the course recommended would perhaps be the best calculated to effect this desirable end.

Where we have an officer with the large powers [illegible] to the Commissioner Mr [illegible], it seems almost an absurdity to sanction the existence within the limits of his range, of any department over which it is not competent to him to secure the fullest control. I doubt therefore whether there should be any hesitation in adopting the measures of change and substitution which the Board have properly proposed. The Forest department have always appeared to me to be too intent on making revenue & showing a large balance on the credit side at the close of the year. This object ought to be a very secondary one on the Hills, where damage has been done to the sholas & swamps which, [illegible], will require the careful, honest & independent supervision of a qualified person for several years. The class from which overseers are drawn, are, I should say, worse than useless, since it must be by their connivance that so much illicit cutting, felling & selling [illegible]

[illegible]

Revenue Department

No 653.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11th March 1869.

Read the following papers:

From the Board of Revenue — Expressing opinion that entire general control of Neilgherry woods, & scrutiny of periodical Returns of Overseers should be vested exclusively in Commissioner —	(R. & C. 21st Sept.r/68 No. 6708)
— Do — — Do — — Do — Recommending, to Govt to appoint an experienced Officer for Conservancy of Neilgherry Woods. —	(— 8th Dec.r/68 — 8619)
From the Offg Board of Forests — Reporting with reference to the Commissioner's report upon the Neilgherry Sholas. —	(— 17th — — 1081)
— Do — — Do — — Do — Forwarding in continuation of his letter No. 1081 dated 17th Dec.r/68 a report on the same subject from Lieut. Morgan the Officer in charge of the Neilgherry Sholas	(— 18th — — 1086)

Minutes.

In this letter under date 26th October 1867, No. 350, the Conservator of Forests (Dr Cleghorn) recommended to Govt that Major Morgan, one of his Deputy Conservators then

then in charge of the Neilgherry Sholas and of the Hill Plantations should be relieved from this duty, and his jurisdiction confined to the valley below including Segoor, Mudumalley, Collegal, Bonany, &c. He also proposed that the general control of Forest operations on the Neilgherry Hills should be transferred to the Special Asst. Collector, special instructions being framed, given to the Overseers on all technical matters by the Conservator of Forests himself, who would be responsible for the progress of planting and conservancy. When Dr. Cleghorn made this suggestion, there were two Overseers working under Major Morgan's orders on the Hills, viz. Mr. Newman on Rs. 75 per mensem, and Mr. Taylor on Rs. 50, and the Conservator's recommendations included a proposal that one third should be employed (Mr. Hall) on Rs. 80 with 15 Rs. horse allowance, that Mr. Newman's salary should be raised to this rate, and that Mr. Taylor should receive Rs. 100 instead of Rs. 50.

In their order under date 30 June 1865, No. 259 the Govt. approved of so much of the Conservator's proposals as related to relieving Major Morgan of the charge of the Neilgherries and

and expressed their opinion
that the charge below
the Hills was ample to
employ all his time and
energies. As regarded the
other details of the arrange-
ment, the Govt. expressed
a wish to receive Major
Beddome's observations
as he was by this
time visiting as Conservator
of Forests.

In reply to this
order, Major Beddome
explained that Mr.
Nicholson had been
already promoted
to

to a first class overseership
on Rupees 130 per mensem,
and explained his opinion
that he might be left in
charge of all the Forest
operations on the Hills,
as the Special Assistant
Collector was liable pos-
sibly to be changed and
would not be likely to take
any interest in Forest
work, even if he had time
so to do. He also pointed
out, that the proposal to
make Mr. Hall back to the
Department as a second
class Overseer, would
supersede Mr. Taylor
who, however, had de-
clined promotion pre-
viously.

In the mean-
time the Neilgherries
had been constituted

a

17

a separate District,
by special enactment,
and a Commissioner
has been appointed.
The Government
accordingly before
disposing of the
question of Forest
management and
establishment on
the Hills, resolved
to obtain the Com-
missioner's opinion
to Dr Cleghorn's proposals

In

In this first letter printed with the Bd's Proceedings ended above Mr Brooks points out that the Revenue Officers of the Hills, hereinafter and Hereon named, as they never about the Judicial cannot but possess opportunities of discovering irregularities which opportunities the Conservators himself may not always have and he states his conviction that the desirability or otherwise of carrying out Dr Cleghorn's proposal rests on the means which the Conservator himself may possess of exercising that personal supervision over the work of the Coolies which is clearly desirable. In forwarding this letter the Board express their decided opinion

opinion, that the entire general control of the Neilgherry woods and the securing of the periodical returns of the Overseer, should be vested exclusively in the Commissioner, and observe that Dr Colquhoun's opinion is entitled to the highest consideration.

On the second point, Mr Brooke reports, that the further consideration which he has given to the subject and the more complete information which he has obtained, lead him to the conclusion that of the peculiar character and value of the Hills, no benefit is perceived, or any results either in the shape of forest revenue or conservancy are to be looked for, the Sholas and swamps must be put under the special control of an Officer experienced in Forestry, whose sole duty it would be, with the help of a small establishment and in conjunction with the Revenue and Village Officers, to organize and carry out a well considered system of conservancy operations. Mr Brooke has arrived at the conclusion that the present system of Forest Conservancy is altogether inefficient, and reports that the residents on the Hills who have no permanent interest in them deplore the unauthorized felling, which, in spite of repeated orders still takes place and that with what may be the result of a few years hence, if the present system continues

We

We also considered that no
amendment can be expected
so long as the executive charge
of the States, is in the hands
of men of the class of Over-
seers who cannot be expected
to see the necessity for the
proscription of a few men
either on the score of humanity
or policy, and whom it were
cannot be expected to blame
that might risk the European
Commission, which would
have if associated upon Officers
of equal or superior social
position to themselves.
With this letter, Mr Brecks
also submits his resolutions
respecting the Swamps, but
states his belief that the
proposed Canal system would
not be necessary if the Swamps
were placed under charge of
an efficient Officer.

With
his
third letter, Mr
Breckenridge re-
ports from the exa-
mination of the work-
ing of the Common-
wealth Bill, as re-
gards the interests
of the negro slaves
and again expresses
his opinion that
under the Commis-
sionership of Mr Stocker
as organizing Com-
missioner officer acting
under the control
of an experienced
Officer, the distribution
of the slaves in the
operation of liberty
and be drawn —
attention

attention to the conclusion
independently, ar-
rived at by his Excellency
and by regarding the com-
as the original following
which have taken place

In submitting
the Board's second
annual Report to
the Board of Directors
that it is clear that
the present Conservancy
arrangements of the
Port have not
worked satisfactorily
and that the financial
position of the Port
the wants of the Inhabitants
in the way of improvement
must be ill-suited by
unsatisfactory. They should

and that the Conservators
of Ports in general
about from the Public
for frequent and
long thereof for in the
case that such alterations
are taken to effectual
supervision, and
finding that the
Board of the Port
(Regulations) should
make arrangements for
obtaining the
Public Opinion
and Commercial Men
accordingly that
a special Officer
should be appointed
and to the Duties
of Superintendent of
the Conservancy of
the Harbour in the
Public

Wilks, under the Commissioners as a temporary arrangement for two years. They, and that in their opinion the Officers selected, should not only have some experience in forestry, but should be of a standing calculated to give their opinion and proceedings due weight with the European Community.

The Appointment of Boards to enquire into Cases of the Board's Rs. have been performed after the proper Enquiries that it would be expedient to change the Constitution of the Boards in Wilts, Salisbury, the Forest of Dean & Forest of Dean except that the Inland Planting Operations should be dispensed with altogether & a Special Officer for the change, and

and expressed his
opinion that Observers
Reserves would be
formed quite equal
to the duty. He
considers the follow
offices of the Coast
Revenue are on the
Hills to the East
that a large quantity
of fine cut and un-
manufactured tobacco
is smuggled into
from private plan-
tations, and States
that though our first
commencing operations,
Forest Conservancy
Wonkel

would be on the
Hills, battery at Kar-
kiguee impossible
to check smuggling
as the receipts were
required to a minimum
and did not authorize
the employment of the
Preventive establishment
to do so.

His Deputy
Collector Morgan, also
considers much of the
smuggling subject
to the Salt Laws to be
Coolies who the Cases
of theft which have
been prosecuted
by his Department
have

has been death
with by the Magistracy
No Right
Honourable the
Governor in Council
has given them Com
munications his
most Careful Con
sideration, and
agreeing to the fa
(1) That it is beyond
general grounds
expedient to prevent
the exercise of any
Discouragement in
the female Sex
which is placed
under

with the jurisdiction
of the Commissioners
of the Hills over
which he cannot
by Law exercise the full
Control (2) that the
Forest Dept has
from the testimony
of Major Pardoe
himself, all together
failed to prevent smug
gling and illicit
felling and that the
Range has proved
a loss to the Dept and
(3) that there are
no Forests on the
Neighbouring which
Contain

contains valuable timber, he resolves to transfer the entire management of the Military schools & of the Hill Plantations to the Commissioners from the 1st of April next

His Lordship

in Council desires

~~to receive a Report~~

~~as per Resolution~~

the proposal made by Mr Brooke and supported by the Board of Revenue

to

is not satisfied that the necessities of the case justify

N.

included amount the grt to abolish the monopoly & convert the same to the use of the

V.

to employ a Military Officer experienced in Forestry under the Commissioners for this duty. Such an arrangement would involve an expenditure which would be (all the expense of the progress of the measures of the case

The Commissioners no doubt make their proposition and the Board of Revenue transmit their conveyance of

of his want of experience
of forest operations.
But as a matter of
fact the Conservancy
of the Neilgherry Hills
is by no means a dif-
ficult task. All that
is necessary is to prevent
unauthorized felling
Commencing from this
year that the Conservancy
are not burdened
The agency available
is the inspecting Peons
Officials including the
Village Officers must
be utilized for supervising
for more energetic
than that hitherto exercised
by the Forest Depte

would omit all
this. It is true there
is no valuable timber
in the Neilgherries
the management of
the Md woods of the
country ought not to
require any thing
but the Rent Remis
but the Rent Remis
are an important
item for consideration
Plan for the
Planting & the
formation & manage
ment of young
Plantations does
require skill
& knowledge.
Encourage the generality of
the Md people with the
h officials with the

certain for quick
dealing against
authority energy
is called for
any Remiss
absolutely.

I doubt whether
this Para should stand
the retrenchment
should be made
to depend on
that
Roads are
subordinate officers
are
Salary
Head Assr

is of course essential;
but it is not requisite
that the supervision
should be exercised by
an officer experienced
in the management
of valuable timber
forests.

The existing forest
establishment in the
Neilgherries should be
transferred to the Com-
missioner from the 1st
of April, and it will
then be for him to pro-
pose such modifications
& additions as he may
consider necessary,
bearing

bearing in mind that the annual cost must not exceed the annual receipts, as the charges and collections must for the future appear in the accounts under "Jungle Conservancy" subordinate to Local Fund. The Government do not doubt that aided as he will be by the whole of his revenue staff the Commissioner will be able to bring the cost of the establishment within the collections, and

Tho' not a [illegible] officer with Rs. 500 a Rs 600 per mensem [illegible] [illegible]

and ~~experienced~~ improved management will doubtless, in due course, increase the receipts. If, however, after full experience, it shall appear that a stronger establishment, and the services of a special officer of a higher grade than that of Overseer are really needed, the matter may again be brought under the consideration of Government by the Commissioner.

Stet. I would omit this. It will be time enough to consider the question when the Commissioner shows that he cannot do without a special officer of a higher grade.

In an order ~~of this~~ date, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council has directed that Major

under date 8 Feb [illegible] No 337

Major Morgan shall exercise a general supervision over the operations of the Assistant who has recently been nominated to the charge of the Wynaad Range. This duty will be undertaken by him from the date of the Assistant's taking charge of the Range, but he will not be relieved of his present range on the Neilgherries until the 1st April as above directed.

14 Copies Letter Bd of Rev Dept 12th
13 " " Off Conr of Forests
6 " " Asst Conr

60/4

E. C. Ebell

Reported to England
6th April No 3 of 1869. Miss Grant

Scratch
Map