M.R. O. 1—30,000—15-10-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 988 Press Mis.

244-45.
Dated 10-6-1869 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 244. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th March 1869, No. 1,794 :—

Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 22nd February 1869, No. 25.

On receipt of Board's Proceedings, No. 6,697, of 21st September last, I deputed my Assistant to place himself in communication with the legal representative of the late Mr. H. D. Rae, in view to ascertain and report what portions of forest land may conveniently be reserved. I beg to forward that Officer's report on the subject.

2. It will be observed from Mr. Roupell's letter that he advocates the desirability of making over the whole of the area, shown in the plan, to Mrs. Rae, and bases this recommendation on three considerations :—

1*st*.—The irregular shape the estate will assume if any of the forest blocks are reserved.

2*nd*.—The nature of the forest, which he describes as " large bushes, thick under-growth, and trees of an inferior size".

3*rd*.—The fact that the reserves will be merely nominal, in consequence of causes operating to the gradual destruction of what there is in the shape of wood.

3. Under these circumstances, I would recommend that the land be made over in its entirety.

4. The plan of the estate is sent by banghy for reference.

Enclosure No. 1.

From the Acting Assistant Commissioner, Neilgherry Hills, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, dated Ootacamund, 25th January 1869, No. 2.

With reference to Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 6,697, dated 21st September 1868, and to your endorsement thereon, I have the honor to inform you that I have personally inspected the land which was surveyed by Government in view to its being handed over, for experiment at Tea cultivation, to the late Mr. H. D. Rae, and have consulted with his representative, his widow, Mrs. Rae, as to which blocks of forest land, delineated in the plan, can be most conveniently reserved to Government.

2. Mrs. Rae hopes that the whole area specified in the plan may be handed over to her.

3. This area was pointed out to the Survey Department by Mr. Grant, late Collector of Coimbatore. Its demarcation and survey have been completed, and, although the portion consisting of forest is nearly 28 acres in excess of the land of this description originally promised, I would suggest that the present demarcation be not interfered with, and that the total area, therein contained, be included in the Government grant.

4. A reference to the plan will show that the effect of cutting out any of the forest blocks would be to render the shape of the land, that would then remain, most irregular. Additional expense would have to be incurred by Government in such new demarcation, while the portions so demarcated would be so hemmed in on all sides by the remaining private land, that they would practically be, in a very minor degree only, Government reserves. The temptation to the estate coolies to help themselves to firewood so near at hand, and so easily obtainable, would be so strong,

that it seems but reasonable to expect that Government forest, situated as above described, would soon be very seriously damaged. I am, of course, supposing that the grass land to be included in the grant is that shown in the plan.

5. The character of the forest of which I am speaking may, I think, also be fairly taken into account in considering the objection to making over to Mrs. Rae any excess above that formerly stipulated for. This forest consists chiefly of large bushes, thick under-growth, and trees of an inferior size, though larger trees are dotted about here and there. In fact, the timber in this forest is of very inconsiderable value.

6. Under these circumstances, and upon a consideration also of the advisability of settling without further unnecessary delay, a question which has so long remained undecided, I would beg leave to recommend that Mrs. Rae's wishes (as embodied in paragraph 2 of this letter) may be submitted for the approval of the Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Plan.

THE Board resolve to submit this letter to Government, with a recommendation that the area, demarcated and surveyed, be now made over to Mrs. Rae.

2. It will be seen that the forest land exceeds by 28 acres the area which Government directed should be made over, but the so-called forest is of inferior quality, little more than scrub-jungle, and so situated as to render reservation of any part undesirable as far as Government is concerned, while such reservation would be inconsistent with the maintenance of a compact form for the estate. The Board deem it advisable that the whole area, shown in the plan, should now be conceded.

No. 245. ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1869, No. 988.

Land Revenue.

SANCTIONED, as recommended by the Board of Revenue.

2. The assessment to be charged on the property should at once be determined.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated April 10th.
Read.

G. O., 10th April 1869, No. 988.

APRIL.
Nos. 244-245.

Grant of land to Mrs. Rae on the Neilgherries.—Recommendation of the Board of Revenue with reference to it, sanctioned.

No. 988 R.D.

Prov. of the M. Gore.
Under date the
Read the following
No 141 Prov. of the Bd. of Rev.
H.C. 16 Mar/69 Rec. 17 Apr/69.

Sanctioned, as
recommended by
the Board of Revenue.
The assessment
to be changed on the
property should ab
ove be determined

Wm
10 Apl 69.

No Copies Letter Bk of Rev Dept W

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Pro No. 298 - 312 & 18 S. 67

