M.R.O. 1—59,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1508 Press Mis.

649-651

Dated 27th May ~~19~~ 1869

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following :—

No. 649. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th December 1868, No. 8,864.

Read the following letter from J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 13th October 1868, No. 43.

Mr. Marden, one of the proprietors of the "Hill Grove Estate" on the Coonoor Ghaut, has applied, under the Waste Land Rules, for an acre of ground marked A. situated on the said ghaut.

2. The acre was formerly part of the "Hill Grove Estate," and was given up to Government, along with about 30 acres (B. B.), shaded in my sketch, in exchange for a similar area in the direction of C. for the construction of the new ghaut.

3. The acre A. is now scrub, and contains a few old coffee trees; and as it is a level bit, and connects the "Hill Grove Estate" with the new ghaut, Mr. Marden says that it would be of great service to the Estate to erect a store upon. I have seen the bit; it cannot be called wood-land, and I see no objection to its being put up to auction, reserving fifty links between the road and it.

4. Orders requested if I may sell the acre under the Waste Land Rules.

Enclosure No. 1.—Rough Sketch.

Mr. Breeks is requested to ascertain from the Superintending Engineer whether, so far as the new ghaut road is concerned, the reservation of the whole of the land is expedient; and if not, whether a space of fifty links along it is sufficient.

No. 650. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1869, No. 3,250.

Read the following papers.

Board's Proceedings, dated 17th December 1868, No. 8,864.

From J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 8th April 1869, No. 41.

The Department Public Works have cut a trace (to be eventually widened into a road) through the "Hill Grove Estate" at Coonoor, the property of Mr. Marden and others.

2. Mr. Marden objected to the trace and demanded compensation. A good deal of correspondence ensued between Colonel Walker, (the Superintending Engineer,) Mr. Marden, and myself. Finally, Mr. Marden in his letter, which is enclosed, has agreed to accept, by way of compensation, eight acres of rocky grass land to the north-east of "Hill Grove Estate," and one acre of land about which I wrote * to the Board on the 13th October 1868, No. 43. The acre alluded to is situated on the new Coonoor Ghaut, and

* Letter embodied in Proceedings of Board, 17th December 1868, No. 8,864.

connects the bottom of the "Hill Grove Estate" with the ghaut: it formerly formed part of the estate, and contains still a few abandoned coffee trees.

3. The Board, in reply to my letter of the 13th October last desired me to ascertain from the Superintending Engineer, whether the reservation of the whole acre was expedient, or whether fifty links along it would suffice. In reply, Colonel Walker says Mr. Marden may have the acre reserving ten yards clear of the new ghaut.

4. As the acre is situated on the Coonoor Ghaut I request the Board's permission to make it over to Mr. Marden on permanent puttah.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From T. MARDEN, Esq., of Hill Grove Estate, Coonoor, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, dated Pulney Hills, 29th March 1869.

IN reply to your letter, No. 128, of the 8th instant, I have the honor to accept the terms offered by you, namely, that I should give up to Government a belt of land one chain in width, measured half on each side of the centre of the bridle-path, lately cut by the Engineers through my land towards Lamb's Rock, receiving in exchange therefore a piece of waste land adjoining Hill Grove Estate traversed by the Coonoor Cantonment line, and measuring acres 8 roods 2 poles 8¾ as by survey, dated 25th July 1868, and also one acre of land on the Coonoor Ghaut road, at the site marked out by Captain Lane and Mr. Reilly. I must, however, stipulate for a crossing to my upper grass land at some point to be determined by the Engineer Department in communication with my Superintendent, otherwise I shall be entirely cut off from my own pasture.

2. I beg, however, to observe that this agreement on my part is somewhat of the nature of making a virtue of necessity, since you threaten to take the land if I do not give it, and I beg to repeat distinctly, with reference to paragraph 2 of Colonel Walker's letter, (enclosed in your's under reply,) that I do not want the road in question, and would sooner be without it. It certainly seems to me not a little extraordinary that Colonel Walker should know my business so much better than I know it myself, and that he should insist on benefiting me against my will. There appears to lie hidden something or other in Colonel Walker's words—"if fully carried out as projected"—which I venture to submit he would have done as well to reveal. However, since my judgment of what is good for me does not go for anything with Colonel Walker, I will trouble you with a brief explanation of why the carrying out of the present trace cannot possibly do me any good.

3. A road from Darling's bridge right down to Hill Grove would only benefit me, as enabling me to compete with other planters for manure from Wellington. I need hardly observe that planters do not usually carry their *produce up-hill*, but a road that only goes about half a mile, and that the easiest part, out of some two miles towards my estate, is, I repeat, of no use to me at all. It would, indeed, be of service to me if I were to make the rest of the distance at my own expense, but in view of so very distant and doubtful a benefit, I hardly think I need modify the concluding words of the preceding paragraph. I beg to inform you that my Superintendent represents to me that we run the risk of suffering much injury from the blasting going on immediately above our estate. The cliffs there are almost precipitous, and rocks tumbling down may carry away whole rows of coffee trees, even if they do no injury to the coolies working amongst them. The Government will, of course, be prepared to award full compensation in the event of any damage being done.

4. I have nothing to say as to the concluding clause of Colonel Walker's letter. He is, no doubt, right as far as he goes; but in the present condition of coffee cultivation, a planter can hardly be expected to have much sympathy with picturesque roads where they affect his own scanty and precarious profits. He must think of how they will *pay*, and whilst Colonel Walker is meditating *æsthetics*, *my* first consideration must be *night-soil*!

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th May 1869.

5. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, my Superintendent forwards the enclosed as his authority for saying that a shed had been erected on the ghaut by your leave. I had not seen the correspondence when I wrote, but am now perfectly willing to admit that the concession you kindly made was not of a nature to give us any claim.

6. You will observe that in paragraph 1, I have assumed that the piece of waste land referred to by Colonel Walker in his letter, No. 175, of 27th February last, is the same as that mentioned in paragraph 2 of your letter, No. 20, of 14th January last.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In a letter, dated 13th October 1868, contained in the above Board's Proceedings, the Commissioner reported that Mr. Marden, one of the proprietors of the Hill Grove Estate on the Coonoor Ghaut, had applied, under the Waste Land Rules for an acre of ground marked A. in the accompanying sketch, and situated on the above ghaut; that this plot was formerly part of the Hill Grove Estate, was given up to Government along with about thirty acres, marked B. B. in the sketch, in exchange for a similar area marked C., for the construction of the new ghaut; and that it could not be called wood-land, as it is merely scrub and contains a few old coffee trees. Mr. Brooks was of opinion that it might be put up to auction and sold, with a reservation of fifty links between it and the road.

3. The Board requested the Commissioner to ascertain from the Superintending Engineer whether, so far as the new ghaut road was concerned, the reservation of the whole of the land was expedient; and if not, whether the space of fifty links along it would be sufficient.

4. From the Commissioner's present communication it appears that the acre in question which Mr. Marden desires to have as compensation for the land taken up for a road through the estate, the trace of which has already been cut, forms a part of nine acres, eight of which consist of rocky grass land situated to the north-east of the Hill Grove Estate.

5. The Superintending Engineer, it will be seen from paragraph 3 of the Commissioner's letter, has no objection to offer to the grant of this land; but suggests that ten yards of it along the new ghaut should be reserved.

6. The Board recommend that the Commissioner be authorised to make the ground over to Mr. Marden on permanent puttah, with the reservation of ten yards along the new ghaut road, as suggested by the Superintending Engineer.

7. Should the above recommendation be acceded to, the Commissioner should take care that the Boundary of the reserved space, bordering on the ground transferred to Mr. Marden, is distinctly laid down in a permanent manner.

No. 651. ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1869, No. 1,500.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government desire to know whether sanction is sought to make over nine acres of land to Mr. Marden, or only the one acre on the Coonoor Ghaut. It would appear from paragraph 4 of the Com-

missioner's letter and paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Board's Proceedings, that the latter arrangement is proposed; but from paragraph 1 of Mr. Marden's letter, he appears to accept nine acres and odd as compensation.

2. Information should also be submitted regarding the extent and character of the land to be resigned by Mr Marden to Government, and full particulars as to the road which it is proposed to construct.

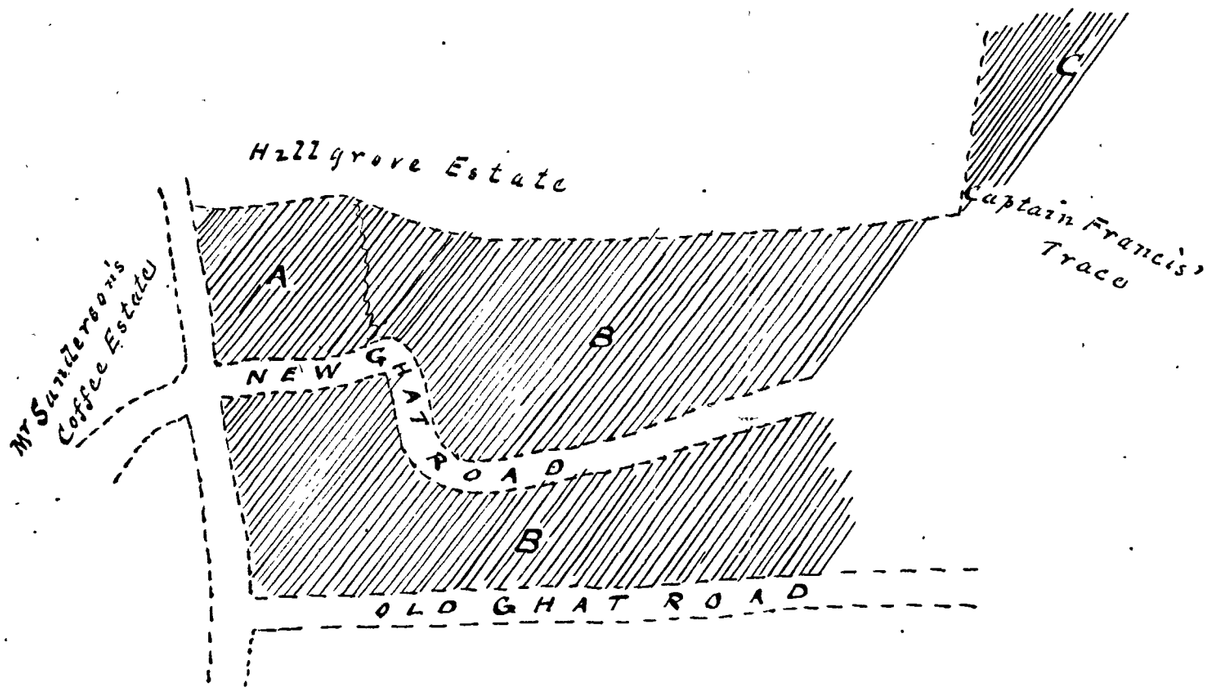
(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.



Govt. of [1869] Bengal.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May. 27th.

Recd . Read.

G. O., 27th May 1869, No. 1,560.

Transfer Map of Rec'd 17 Sept. 69 Ch. 3227.

MAY.

Nos. 649—651.

Mr. Marden's land taken for a road on the Neilgherries.—Information requested regarding the extent of land to be given to Mr. Marden.

Dec: 1683

Lr Lord Privy Seal 28 Apr 84

No 1500

5

£1500

29 May 84

Sr Govt desire to know whether sanction is meant to make over nine acres of land to W. Brandin or only the use and occupation of the Convent Grant. It would appear from para 4 of the Com. letter and paras 5 & 6 of the Bds Proc. that the latter arrangement is proposed, but para 1 of Mr Brandin letter he appears to suppose nine acres odd as compensation.

Mr Information should

also be submitted regarding
the extent and character
of the land required
by Mr Marsden to Govt, and
full particulars as to
the road which it is
proposed to construct

List

Glebe Tollitt Bd of Road Deputies