M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-23.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 167 Press Mis.

2y-28

Dated 5 - 2 - 1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

L A5
L B5
L A4
L B5 B4
L A4 A3

Read the following papers :—

No. 27. From E. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., late Madras Army, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Dindigul, 18th January 1870.

I HAVE the honour to forward you a copy of a letter I have to-day addressed to the Collector of Madura, and to request that you will lay the matter before the Madras Government.

2. The auction-sale alluded to is to take place on 14th proximo.

3. The Serumallys are so accessible that I have selected them as the site of the important experiments I am commencing on behalf of the Cotton Supply Association and Silk Supply Association.

4. I have made nurseries on land given me by the present renter, and have Mulberry and Exotic Cotton-seed laid down in them, but believe that my tenure will become void from date of the sale of the hills by auction.

5. Under these circumstances might I request the Government of Madras to re-consider the question of buying in these hills.

6. Mr. Isaac Watts, the well-known Secretary of the Cotton Supply Association, has arrived in India, and will, I trust, be with me here in a short time.

7. He will probably visit Madras, *en route* to Calcutta, on his visit to the Viceroy, and I have already urged on him the necessity of personally speaking to the Members of the Madras Government on the subject under question in this communication.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., late Madras Army, to the Collector of Madura, dated Dindigul, 18th January 1870.

HAVING been given to understand that the Serumally Hills are shortly to be exposed for sale to cover the debts of their proprietor, the present Zemindar of Ammumanickanoor, I trust I may not be thought too bold in urging on you to recommend Government to purchase these hills.

2. My reasons for taking the liberty of making the above recommendation are, that an intimate acquaintance with these fine hills has proved to me that not only can their resources not be properly developed by continuing the present system of renting the hills out periodically, but I go further and openly state that owing to the exactions of a former renter, the hills are gradually being deserted by the ryots.

3. Debts contracted by ryots several decades ago are still hanging over the heads of their children and grand-children, and a number of them are made to work like serfs to liquidate these debts, which, from interest and compound interest having been added to the original sum, amount to sums these poor labourers can never hope to pay.

4. Should Government assume the control of these hills, their plateaus would become gardens, and their hill-sides might be turned into forest reserves.

5. Close to the populous and wealthy town of Madura such a reserve is much wanted.

6. I am myself particularly interested in the welfare of these hills, and were the tenures secure, I would immediately apply for a grant of land on the usual terms to plant Mulberry and Exotic Cotton, and to carry out the experiments I have been asked to make by the Manchester Cotton Supply Association and the London Silk Supply Association.

7. The Serumallys are particularly well suited to the cultivation of these two great staples, and were you to assure me that Government would protect my interest by securing me in the tenure of my land, I would undertake to put 300 acres under cultivation there, beginning operations at once.

8. I have brought out fresh seed from last autumn's Mulberry crops, have established nurseries in which the young plants are thriving well, but am now obliged to stop in the midst of my operations by hearing that a step is about to be taken which will, I believe, if it is carried out in its integrity, vitiate the tenure on which I am desirous of procuring a further grant of land there, *i.e.*, by cowlenama from the present renter.

FORWARDED to the Acting Collector of Madura for report through the Board of Revenue.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
20th January 1870.

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

No. 27A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st January 1870.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madura, 25th January 1870, No. 20.

WITH reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, and to the Notification published by the Madura Civil Judge in the *District Gazette*, page 10, of the 8th instant, regarding the proposed sale* of the thirteen villages in the Ammanaiekanoor Poliem, I have the honour to state that the village of Serumally comprises the whole range of hills called the Serumallys. They contain some useful timber and extensive jungles of firewood. The soil on the upper plateau is generally good, and Coffee grows well. The hills are situated close to the proposed line of railway between Dindigul and Madura. The gross Fysal revenue of the village is Rupees 341-8-3, and the proportion of the peishcush of the Poliem to the village is Rupees 238-15-6. Its estimated annual revenue at present is Rupees 2,800†.

Board's Proceedings, 19th November 1869, No. 8,569.
Do. 8th December „ No. 9,001.
Collector's letter to the Board, 10th January 1870, No. 7.

* 14th February 1870.

† Inclusive of forest rents.

2. The right which the Court now proposes to sell is the life-interest of the present Poligar, after allowing four years for the termination of the lease under which he has granted the hills to the present renter.

3. Should the Board, in consideration of the situation and importance of these hills, desire their purchase on behalf of Government, I beg that they will favour me with *early* instructions on the subject. I am of opinion that the hills will be sold at a low price, and I have reason to believe that the present renter would be willing to make over the remainder of his lease to Government on reasonable terms.

4. In conclusion, I have the honour to enclose a letter, which I have just received from Mr. R. A. Campbell, who has recently resigned his commission in Her Majesty's Indian Army, and who cultivates a Coffee plantation on the Serumallys.

Mr. Campbell's letter to Government on this subject referred to me for report, through the Board of Revenue, is herewith returned.

Sale is ordered for the 14th February 1870.

IN this letter the Acting Collector advocates the purchase of the life-interest of the present Poligar in the Serumally Hills at the approaching sale.

2. The Board are in favour of this proposition, and recommend Government to sanction it at once, leaving a certain discretion with the Collector.

3. He will be expected carefully to estimate the resources of the tract of country included in the sale, and not to offer more than a fair price. It is unnecessary to enlarge on the difficulties now found in procuring fuel-reserves in the vicinity of lines of railway.

No. 27B. From the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, in charge of Madura and Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madura, 31st January 1870, No. 250-B.

I HAVE the honour to bring to the notice of Government that the "Serumallys" in this district are to be sold by public auction on the *14th February* by order of the Court, and to point out that this appears a favourable opportunity for securing them for the purposes of conservancy, etc.

2. Although almost all the ripe timber of the better description has been felled by contractors, there still exists a good supply of saplings which, with careful conservancy, cannot fail to furnish a supply of timber hereafter, and the slopes are covered with trees of the unreserved classes and firewood.

3. On the extension of the Great Southern Railway to Madura and Tinnevelly, the new line will probably run just along the base of the hills, and for this reason alone they are, in my opinion, invaluable to Government in the interests of the Railway Company and promotion of the general welfare.

4. The "Poliem" of which they form a portion is *unsettled*, and the decision as to succession on the death of the present holder rests with Government; there is little doubt that if they can be secured on equitable terms, and placed under the management of the Government officers, the cultivation and consequently the revenue will be greatly increased from year to year, and the resources of these fine hills developed; so that, apart from the important considerations connected with the supply of timber and fuel to the public and Railway Company, the step of which I venture to advocate the expediency, would be of the greatest benefit to all concerned.

5. The whole hills are at present leased (on a contract which has, I believe, five years to run) to a Chetty in payment of demands which he has on the Zemindar; but I can state with certainty that he will readily hand over the lease to Government, should they purchase the life-interest at the auction of the 14th proximo, in consideration of an annual payment of little, if anything, more than what he at present derives, which, I am informed, does not exceed Rupees 1,500 per annum.

6. I have lately arranged with several of the Zemindars for the placing of their forests under conservancy, full reports of which are being prepared for the Conservator of Forests; and the securing of the "Serumallys" would go far towards the extension of conservancy measures in the Madura District, where the numerous private estates have hitherto always formed an obstacle to effective and remunerative conservancy.

7. I venture therefore respectfully to suggest that the life-interest of the present Zemindar be bought up at the auction of the 14th proximo, leaving it for future consideration what steps should be adopted after his death, viz., whether to retain the hills as Government property, giving the heir-presumptive compensation in money, or to hand them over to the Government nominee.

8. The position of the hills and their proximity to Madura, Dindigul, and the proposed line of railway, is well known to His Excellency the Governor and Mr. Ellis.

9. The Collector has, I believe, addressed the Board of Revenue on the subject, and the absence of the Officiating Conservator of Forests in the northern districts, and the short notice given by the Court which renders it impossible to send this report through him, will, I trust, be considered a sufficient excuse for my addressing you direct instead of through that officer, to whom I forward a copy of this letter, and a request to communicate with Government if he approves of the course I have adopted, and there is time.

No. 28. ORDER THEREON, 5th February 1870, No. 167.

Forests, No. 1.

UNDER the circumstances represented by the Board of Revenue and the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council authorizes the Board to instruct the Acting Collector to purchase, on behalf of Government, the interest of the Ammanaickanoor Zemindar in the Serumally Hills, at the coming sale by auction, should he be able to do so on favourable terms.

2. In acting on these instructions, Mr. Arbuthnot will, of course, be guided by the observations of the Board in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings.

3. The result of the sale should be reported to Government by the Board, and the head of the budget of charges to which any outlay necessary is debitable should be then stated. This information should not have been omitted in the Board's present Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Acting Collector of Madura.
„ the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ E. A. Campbell, Esq.

Fwd. F. R. Battleman.

The natural of the Pola...
of Ramanankaran in ...
the village of Semmally ...
in the Mountain Patrol ...
is also sold by the ...
Civil Court on the ...
last. The Village in ...
portion contains the ...
Semmally Hills which ...
contain valuable timber ...
and an extensive ...
Plateau on which ...

This is an important Excise
fuel along the line of
Railway that formed
about the recommendations
of the Board respecting
the Collector to make
careful enquiry before
determining the price to
be given at the auction.
There is no basis of the sale
stipulated for the Collector's
further information. B.C

Fort St. George, 2 Feby

Dated February, 1878.

Read

G. O. No. 96, February 1878, No 107.

Secondly Hills in Madura District—
Board of Revenue to instruct the Acting Collector
to purchase it on behalf of Government.

FEBRUARY,
Nos. 27—29.

Govt. of India Separate
REVENUE,
&c.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c. &c. &c.

a retired officer is
proceeding January
experiments. The Board
of Rev and the Dy
Conservator of Forests
strongly recommend that
the Jermadan retired
on three fifths of pension
in behalf of fort. The
Line of Railway, Sanitarium,
with fears in close
proximity of the Falls.

and the Jungle will
be available as a
fuel reserve, the pension
is also in other respects
desirable. It is suggested
that it be recommended
by the Board that G.S.
Col. be given a discretion
very cautiously to pension
in behalf of fort; and
that intimation of this
effect be sent to Govt. by
Telegraph

AHB

No 167. Rec. 19th

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 5th Jany 1870.

Read the following
Papers.

Pn: of the Bd of Rev: Ft. St. 31st Jany 1870.
from the Dpty Sec. to Govt in
charge of Madras Jurisdn 31 Jany 1870 No 250
B.

Under the circumstances
represented by the Board
of Revenue, and the
Dy Conservator of Forests
the Rt Hon'ble the Governor
in Council authorizes
the Board to instruct
the Collector to purchase
on behalf of Govt, the
interest of the Annamalai
Mankanon Zemindar
in the Serumally ~~valuable~~ Hills
~~Caudalooptee~~ at the
coming sale by auction
should he be able to

do so on favourable terms.

In acting on these instructions Sr Arbuthnot will of course be guided by the observations of the Board in Para 3 of their Proceedings

The result of the sale should be reported to Govt by the Board, and the head of the Budget of charges to which any outlay is debitable if necessary should be debited should then stated. This information should not have been omitted in the Board's former Proceedings.

Govt Secretary

To The Board of Revenue Despatch
1/13/1 Copy to the Collr of Tanjore
Do Collr of Coimbatore
Do Collr of Trichinopoly
Do Collr of Madura
Do Collr of Tinnevelly
Do Collr of Salem
Do Collr of Coimbatore
Do Collr of Malabar
Do Collr of Canara
Do Collr of Dindigul
Do Collr of Vizagapatam
Do Collr of Ganjam
Do Collr of Nellore
Do Collr of Cuddapah
Do Collr of Bellary
Do Collr of Kurnool
Do Collr of Guntur
Do Collr of Masulipatam
Do Collr of Rajahmundry
Do Collr of Chingleput
Do Collr of North Arcot
Do Collr of South Arcot
Do Collr of Tanjore
Do Collr of Trichinopoly
Do Collr of Madura
Do Collr of Tinnevelly
Do Collr of Salem
Do Collr of Coimbatore
Do Collr of Malabar
Do Collr of Canara
Do Collr of Dindigul
Do Collr of Vizagapatam
Do Collr of Ganjam
Do Collr of Nellore
Do Collr of Cuddapah
Do Collr of Bellary
Do Collr of Kurnool
Do Collr of Guntur
Do Collr of Masulipatam
Do Collr of Rajahmundry
Do Collr of Chingleput
Do Collr of North Arcot
Do Collr of South Arcot