MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1781	Press Mis.
211-12 Dated	16-11-1870	18 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 211. Read the following letter from the Accountant-General, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated 21st June 1870, No. 85:—

WITH reference to Government Order of the 9th instant, No. 847, I have the honour to report that, in consequence of an inquiry by the Government of India, why two sets of accounts were kept in the Office of the Conservator of Forests, a correspondence took place between this Office, the Conservator, and the Board of Revenue, which is recorded in Proceedings of the Board, dated 21st August 1869, No. 6,277. In those Proceedings, the Board suggested that an Accountant from this Office and one from their own should be associated with the Assistant Conservator, to condense and simplify the registers of the Central Forest Office, so that the returns rendered by the Conservator might be collected from one set of books.

2. The Accountants have recommended five forms of registers, as sufficient to show distinctly all the particulars necessary for the compilation of the returns rendered by the Conservator. These forms were approved of by the Assistant Conservator.

3. The annual account, rendered to this department by the Conservator, shows, under each range, the total receipts in cash and value of timber supplied to Public Departments on the one hand, and, on the other, the total charges, which embrace advances for working, salaries of officers and establishments, and contingencies. Accordingly, in the proposed Registers marked A., B., C., a separate page must be allotted for each range; and in each register, there is a column for posting the details of receipts and charges for each month, and a column for the total receipts and charges of the year. These registers, except with a slight addition in that marked A., which is considered requisite to show the value of timber supplied to departments, are uniform with the forms used in the Bengal Presidency, as shown in pages 30 to 32 of Circulars issued in 1867-68 by the Comptroller-General of Accounts. Register D. is a form of a single sheet of paper, exhibiting the advances drawn from the treasuries to meet working charges during the entire year.

4. Register E., (designated as E., F., and G., by the Conservator in his letter recorded in the Order of Government under reply,) is intended to show the stock in the forests and market depôts, and the disposal of the same. With it the balance of the stock, given in one of the annual returns submitted by forest officers, through the Conservator, to the Board of Revenue, ought to be checked. At present no such check appears to exist in the Central Office. The portion of this Register, called form G. by the Conservator, will show the particulars of supplies of timber to departments, and from it two returns, submitted to this Office, will be compiled; the one exhibiting supplies to the Public Works Department, and the second, those to other departments. Up to 1868-69, these returns were rendered yearly, but from 1869-70, they are to be rendered quarterly, if possible, to admit of adjustments being more speedily effected under recent instructions from the Comptroller-General of Accounts. The returns for 1869-70 are not yet complete, but those for 1868-69 are contained on eight sides of medium paper, not a very voluminous document.

5. It has been suggested by the Accountants that Forms A., B., C., and E., should be printed. They are now before the Board of Revenue, and, when approved of and printed, the posting into them of the figures from the accounts of Range Officers, after these have been scrutinized, should not occupy an ordinary Clerk a week, if so long.

6. I am unable to offer any opinion regarding the statement made by the Conservator of Forests in paragraph 19 of his letter, as the Accountant from this Office was, in accordance with the Board's suggestion, sent to "endeavour, in "communication with the Assistant Conservator, to simplify the accounts of all "kinds kept in that Office," and did not examine the work done by each of the employés in the Forest Central Office.

No 212. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1870, No. 1,781.

Forests, No. 16.

THE Government await the reply of the Board of Revenue to their Order dated 9th June 1870, No. 847.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated November, 14th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 14th November 1870, No. 1,781.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 211-212.

Registers kept in the Forest Office—Accountant-General's report on them to lie over till the receipt of the reply of the Board of Revenue to the Order on the subject.

No. 1854/71

No. 84/71

No. 1781 dated 14th November 1870

14 Encl. Regd. No. 17

19 — Encl. Regd. No.

6 — Encl. Regd. No.

Copy

No. 1781.

The Govt. await the reply of the Bd. of Rev. to their order of 9th June 1870.