S.R.O. 1—30,000—18-10-39.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 343 Press Mis.

Dated 12-2 1874

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*12th March* 1870.

No. 121. Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated camp at Ootacamund, 31st December 1869, No. 1,884:—

With reference to your Official Memorandum, No. 87, of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward Mr. Cadell's Report upon the Shervaroy Hill Plantation.

2. The plantation, which is situated near the head of the Attur Ghaut, four miles from Yercaud, the station on the Shervaroys, cannot, I am afraid, be looked upon as more than a garden-experiment, and not one likely to be of much profit or utility. It was commenced in 1866-67, when Dr. Cleghorn was Conservator, but Lieutenant Walker informed me subsequently that he had both the Conservator's and Collector's approval of the scheme. It is almost entirely planted with Toon (*Cedrela Toona*), but the elevation of the plantation is, I believe, too great for the favourable growth of the tree. The plantation is over 4,000 feet in elevation, and this tree thrives best at from 1,000 to 3,000 feet. There is besides little or no market for this species of wood, and I much doubt if it would pay the expenses of getting it down to the plains.

3. I visited the plantation on one or two occasions with Lieutenant Walker, but was not favourably impressed with the nature of the soil or situation; the former is very rocky, and the surrounding tree-vegetation stunted, and many of the young Toon-trees were attacked by the borer of a goat-moth. Lieutenant Walker subsequently asked me to apply for sanction for 2,000 rupees to build a house on the plantation; but this I declined, and he afterwards built a small house there at his own expense. On Mr. Cadell's joining the district I informed him that as his reserves and plantations in the plains required his chief attention, and as all his important duties were in the plains, I could not sanction his living up on this plantation; and I also ordered him to keep down the expenditure, as I considered it was costing more than we were authorized in spending on such an experiment. When I visited the plantation last September I found that the borer had spread very much, and that there was hardly a tree that was not destroyed at the crown. I then supplied some *Eucalyptus* seed with orders that the seedlings should be planted out between the Toon-trees.

4. I could not recommend that an Overseer should be appointed to the charge of the plantation, or that the expenditure should, in future, be anything but trifling; the place may, however, be kept up with advantage for experiments on the growth of various trees, but should be looked upon more as a nursery or garden.

---

Enclosure No. 1.

From the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, Salem and South Arcot, to the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated camp at Salem, 20th December 1869, No. 150.

In reply to your Letter No. 1,820, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to forward the report called for on the Shervaroy Hill Plantation.

2. In April last I went to the Plantation almost immediately after my joining this appointment, and was then much struck by the beauty of the situation and the general appearance of the

plantation, which to a new-comer from the plains was very pleasing. But on subsequent visits, and at a time when I was hard pressed for funds to meet the charges present and prospective of our reserves and plantations near the Railway line, I was led to inquire whether I was warranted in spending so much money on one single plantation on the Shervaroy Hills; in fact, on the ornamental instead of the useful.

3. It can hardly, I think, be maintained that the Shervaroy Hill Plantation will ever be remunerative. The settlement on the Shervaroy Hills is not likely to extend, or new buildings commenced, and timber for building purposes, therefore, will not be required. I may mention that several houses at Yercaud and elsewhere are for sale, and there are apparently no purchasers. Again, the expenses of taking the timber down a slip (for the ghaut-roads could not be used) would not be covered by the price obtained for it.

4. The Shervaroy Hill Plantation can only be kept in thorough order by a very expensive and monthly process of clearing away the date-roots and long grass which entirely cover it. The expenditure entailed by this operation I could not conscientiously warrant, and I have allowed the trees, grass, etc., to come up together, the nursery only being kept clean. I have put out in baskets two or three hundred *Eucalyptus* plants, and I look upon the place as a nursery for supplying the Collector with trees for his roads, or private individuals with them for distribution over the hills, should they apply for them. More I cannot do as long as I am left a free agent. I want all my money for reserves down below near the line, and I have no hesitation in saying that were the place my own property, I would abandon it to-morrow. In this I am supported by the pretty general verdict of the residents on the Hills, by the opinion of the Collector, and I think, Sir, by your own.

5. I see I have omitted to mention that the Toon-trees were nearly all attacked by the goat-moth. Many of them, I fear, destroyed. Any remedy I might have attempted for this would have been very costly, and far from certain.

6. In conclusion, I beg to say that I would not recommend the employment of an Overseer to look after this plantation alone. I should be very glad to have an Overseer to look after my reserves and plantations on the line as his principal duty, and he might occasionally run up from Attur to see the plantations; but to debit the whole cost of his supervision against the plantation would not be warranted by any probable outturn to be obtained hereafter by the sale of the timber from there.

---

No. 122. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1870, No. 358.

Forests, No. 3.

UNDER the circumstances represented by the Deputy Conservator of Forests in charge of the Ranga and by the Acting Conservator, the Right Honourable the Governor in Council authorizes Major Beddome to carry out the proposals made in paragraph 4 of his letter above recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. DALYELL,
*Acting Secretary to Government.*

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests,
" the Board of Revenue.

Encl. 1 to Enclosure.

GOVT. OF INDIA
REVENUE.
Copy of Letter &c. from
the Officiating Conservator of Forests
Nilgiri Circle, No. 252,
dated Ootacamund, the 31st December 1869.
Submitting for the information of the
Government of Madras, a report
on the Forest Operations of the
Circle during the year 1869-70.

No. 1554

Rev. Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 22nd ~~February~~ April 1870.

Read the following letter
from the Offg. Conservator of Forests
(N. C. 31st December 1869 & 1884)

Under the circum-
stances represented by
the Dy. Conservator of
Forests in charge of
the Range, and by
the D. Conservator, the
Board have much pleasure
in sanctioning the proposals made
in para 4 of his letter
above recorded.

No. 1554.

Shave seen the plan which
is enclosed, & finds correct
as Major Beddome's survey.

13 Feb 1870 Conservator of Forests with papers returned
14 Feb 1870 Received