

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 426	Press Mis.
1-4 Dated 1-4-	19870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

15

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st April 1870.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 1. From J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated camp at Gunupur of Jeypore, 26th November 1869, No. 717.

I HAVE the honour to reply G. O., No. 2,742, dated 7th October last.

2. The timber-producing qualities of the Golcondah Forests have not at all deteriorated since they were first taken under conservancy in October 1865. The forests, as reported by the Conservator in his Reports for 1865-66 and 1866-67, form a valuable block, extending over an area of sixty miles by eighty; but as these are quite inaccessible, it was originally proposed that the Forest Department should fell and store the timber at Nursipatam for sale, but this has never been done, and this, in my opinion, is the reason why the project has hitherto proved a failure.

3. The collections of 1865-66 amounted to but Rupees 27, while the total expenditure was Rupees 409-11-2. Mr. Carmichael, in bringing this want of success to notice, drew attention to the fact of no timber-stocking taking place, and to want of better supervision; but matters have not mended.—*Vide* Government Proceedings, dated 21st September 1866, No. 2,543.

4. The establishment entertained was as per margin. Since April last, the pay of the Overseer was reduced to

One Overseer	Rs. 60	Rupees 30 and Rupees 10 batta. They
Travelling Allowance	15	do nothing beyond granting licenses
Four Peons, at 6 Rupees each	24	for felling timber, and otherwise protect-
Total	99	ing the forests.

5. From some cause or other the Conservator has not been able to visit the forests as he four years ago proposed to do, and, unless the work is taken in hand in right earnest as was originally proposed, I see no prospect of the receipts ever covering the expenditure.

6. Annexed is a statement of receipts and expenditure to end of 1868-69:—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.		
	RS.	RS.	A.	P.
1865-66 (from October 1865) Rupees ...	27	409	11	2
1866-67 " " " ...	183	1,094	14	10
1867-68 " " " ...	1,347	1,238	0	0
1868-69 " " " ...	377	904	0	0

No. 2. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th December 1869, No. 9,219.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 23rd October 1869, No. 1,770.

IN continuation of paragraph 3 of my letter, No. 1,667, dated 28th August last, I have the honour to forward, herewith, the annual Accounts of the Golcondah Forests, furnished by the Acting Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam, for 1868-69.

15

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st April 1870.*

2. The Account Current has been received without the usual Certificate either from the Collector or Treasury Deputy-Collector, verifying the amount of Forest Revenue carried into the Treasury Accounts during the past official year. The amount of income exhibited on the Credit Side has, however, been admitted by me in accordance with the accompanying Statement of revenue, which is usually submitted to the Accountant-General with the annual Accounts of the department.

3. The revenue and expenditure on the Debit and Credit Sides of the Account Current now submitted having been already included in the Financial Statements appended to my Report, dated 28th August last, No. 1,667, which was forwarded to the Board of Revenue, with the annual Accounts of other Ranges for 1868-69, I must remark that the expenditure of Rupees 904-12-4 exceeded the income of Rupees 377-11-8, thus leaving a balance of Rupees 527-0-8 against the State. I would suggest therefore that the jungle conservancy of this district should be amalgamated with the forest conservancy, as a special case, both being worked under the supervision of the Collector. In such case the revenue derived therefrom will cover the cost of establishment and contingencies of the forest, instead of leaving a large deficit over the actual income, as has been hitherto the case, since it was placed under conservancy.

4. *Memorandum No. I.*—The opening balance has been raised from Rupees 21-13-0 to Rupees 29-13-0. The difference between these two items, viz., Rupees 8, is the amount outstanding against Contractor Beemadu, as pointed out by me to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam in my letter, No. 1,015, dated 18th November 1868. The amount should have been long ago worked out by the late Overseer in charge of the forest. Pending the adjustment of this sum, I have included the amount both in the opening and closing balances in Memorandum No. I. under notice.

5. *Statement showing the payments made to the Establishment.*—This Return has been furnished *nil*, though a sum of Rupees 900-8-0 was incurred on account of the establishment employed on the forests during the past official year. This omission will be pointed out to the Collector.

6. In conclusion, I trust that the accounts audited in the Central Office will be found correct by the Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Accounts.

RESOLVED that the foregoing letter, with which the Officiating Conservator of Forests forwards the annual Account Current for 1868-69 of the Golcondah Forests in the Vizagapatam District, be submitted to Government, in continuation of the Board's Proceedings, dated 29th November 1869, No. 8,767.

2. The Conservator states that the Account Current was not accompanied by the usual Certificate of its correspondence with the Treasury Accounts. This omission should now be supplied.

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1st April 1870.*

3. The financial result of the working of the Golcondah Forests during

Years.	Receipts.	Charges.	Loss.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1865-66	27 0 0	400 11 2	382 11 2
1866-67	184 0 0	995 0 0	811 0 0
1867-68	281 0 0	1,308 0 0	1,024 0 0
1868-69	377 11 8	904 12 4	527 0 8

Years.	Balance at the beginning of the year.	Receipts during the year.	Total.	Charges.	Balances.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1865-66	60 0 0	22 0 0	82 0 0	69 0 0	13 0 0
1866-67	12 14 11	37 9 6	50 8 5	12 14 11	37 9 6
1867-68	37 9 6	1,100 8 5	1,138 1 11		1,138 1 11
1868-69	1,138 1 11	1,779 8 9	2,917 10 8		2,917 10 8

1868-69 was a loss to Government of Rupees 527-0-8. The marginal figures show that it has been so every year, and the Conservator consequently suggests that the jungle conservancy of this district should be amalgamated with the forest conservancy as a special case, both

being worked under the supervision of the Collector. In such a case, he adds that the revenue derived therefrom will cover the cost of establishment and contingencies of the forest.

4. The cost of conservancy consists almost entirely of the salaries of the establishments, and if the forest of Golcondah cannot be efficiently worked at an expenditure within the receipts, the best plan would be to give up the Imperial conservancy altogether, and leave the forests to be dealt with by the Collector under the Jungle Conservancy Rules.

5. The Board accordingly recommend that this be done in preference to the measure proposed by the Conservator, which, as far as the Board can see, would be simply taking away from the jungle conservancy revenue with a view to prop up a manifestly losing concern in the Forest Department.

No. 3. From the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated camp at Ootacamund, 5th March 1870, No. 1,974.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have lately explored the forests of the Golcondah Talook in the Vizagapatam District. They comprise a tract known as the Golcondah or Gudem Hills, situated at the south-east corner of the Vizagapatam District, and bounded on the north by the Jeypore Zemindary, on the west and south by the Godavery District, and on the east by the Madgole Zemindary. It has never been surveyed, but may be said to have an area of rather more than 2,000 square-miles. It was formerly a Zemindary, bearing the same name as the talook, but was bought in by Government when brought to the hammer for arrears of revenue, and is now the only tract of forest in the district belonging to Government. The forests are almost entirely confined to the hill-tract, there being little timber to speak of about the foot. The roads up the ghauts and about the hills are of the poorest description, being hardly accessible for a poney; and the climate is said to be very feverish throughout the year, except for about three months.

2. Starting from Krisnadevipett I ascended the hills by the Rampolu Ghaut, and spent a fortnight in travelling over a considerable portion of the hills and

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forests, and finally descended to Narsipatam by the Lumasinghy Ghaut. I was accompanied throughout my tour by Mr. Sewell, the Sub-Collector of the district, who took this opportunity of visiting this portion of his district, and who rendered me every assistance during my visit. The average elevation of the forests and of our encamping ground was a little over 2,000 feet, and the highest elevation we reached was 3,900 feet, which was at the top of the ghaut, just south of the village of Darakondah, and is probably about the highest point of the range.

3. For the Eastern Coast the hills are very rich in forest vegetation, and I was surprised to find very considerable tracts of shola or moist forest land about most of the ravines and in the vicinity of the hill-streams. These tracts are not so rich in the number of species of trees, or in the endless variety of under-growth, as similar tracts on our Western Coast; but the forest is ever green and decidedly what would be termed shola, and is very rich in ferns; some fifty species having been observed, amongst which were three or four unknown to our western forests, though all of them Himalayan or Burmese ferns, and two very fine tree-ferns (*Cyathea spinulosa* and *Alsophila glabra*). The Rattan abounds, and *Barleria cristata* forms a great portion of the under-growth, only one *Strobilanthes* (*S. consanguineus*) representing the numerous species found as under-wood in the Western Coast sholas. Moss was very abundant, and at a much lower elevation than it is found in our western forests, and Lycopods were common. The drier forests yield three sorts of bamboo (*Bambusa arundi nacea*, *Dendrocalanus strictus* or male bamboo, and *D. monadelphus*), and are very rich in valuable timber, amongst the most valuable of which the following may be enumerated:—

<i>Tectona grandis</i>	Tek.
<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i>	Yeggi.
<i>Cedrela Toona</i>	Gali.
<i>Terminalia glabra</i>	Nalla maddi.
<i>Albizia stipulacea</i>	Chinduga.
<i>Lagerstrœmia parviflora</i>	Chinanji.
<i>Schluchera trijuga</i>	Bachà.
<i>Vitex altissima</i>	Nevali adagu.
<i>Acacia sandra</i>	Sandra.
<i>Anogeissus latifolius</i>	Chiri man.
<i>Nauclea cordifolia</i>	Dudagu.
„ <i>parvifolia</i>	Kadambe.
<i>Xylia dolabriformis</i>	Konda tangeda.
<i>Albizia odoratissima</i>	Ganara man.
<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Gumudu.
<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	Irugudu.
<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Karaka.
<i>Bignonia suaveolens</i>	Pàdri.
<i>Eugenia jambolana</i>	Nirada.
<i>Bischofia Rœperianus</i>	Pantà man.
<i>Albizia amara</i>	Nalla regu.
<i>Minusops elengi</i>	Pogada.
„ <i>hexandra</i>	Palà.

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<i>Soymida febrifuga</i>	Soomi.
<i>Terminalia belerica</i>	Thani.
<i>Grewia tiliaefolia</i>	Thadà.
<i>Ougeinea dalbergioides</i>	Wondanapu.
<i>Acacia leucophlœa</i>	Tella tumà.
<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>	Tuki.
<i>Melia azadirach</i>	Vepa.
<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Usirika.
<i>Acacia ferruginea</i>	Wonee.

Most characteristic of the forests about the foot of the hills are the two beautiful and in other districts rare trees, *Anogeissus acuminatus* (Pasi) and *Albizia procera* (Konda dirasan).

4. I regret to state that Kumari (or hill-cultivation) has here, as elsewhere in our Presidency, made sad havoc with the virgin forest. It is termed Kondapolu, and in every Muttah on the hills acres and acres of forest have been destroyed by it; and it is difficult to find a piece of virgin forest near any of the hill-villages, unless very inaccessible or precipitous. It would be a great thing if this practice could be discontinued or confined at least to such tracts as have already been cultivated, so that no more virgin forest should be destroyed. I am not sure, however, that it can be put a stop to: the hills are divided into ten Muttahs which are each under a Dora; and these people have the privileges of engaging in this system of cultivation, but whether to an unlimited extent I was not able to ascertain.

5. About fourteen miles to the south-west of Gudem, and two miles from a small village called Murraypakalu, I found a small tract of teak of superb growth. The area was perhaps not 200 Acres, but has evidently been much curtailed by hill-cultivation, and has occupied a larger area at some previous date. There were a good many trees seven to nine feet in girth, and sixty or seventy feet high, with a perfectly straight trunk, and saplings were numerous. The tree was hardly observed at all elsewhere on the mountains; and it is curious that its area should be so restricted; still it is interesting to know that it will grow so well, and this tract should be carefully reserved. The timber could not possibly be brought down to the plains and sold at any profit with the present state of the road, and there is not sufficient to warrant the expense of making a road. As it might be advisable at some no distant date to form a teak plantation in connection with the conservancy of the existing block, the Engineer's department might report at what expenditure a cart-road could be made up to this part of the forest.

6. There is no way of utilizing the fine timber of these mountains at present, without a considerable expenditure in making roads; the timber would cost more in getting out than it would sell for, and there is no market. The Godavery forests to the south and west and the Zemindary forest to the east and north-east contain equally fine timber, and are more accessible. There is at present a small forest establishment at a monthly cost of Rupees 60, but the receipts are almost nil; the establishment is not of much use. They cannot keep down the Kumari cultivation without the aid of the Revenue authorities; and if this system of hill-cultivation can be checked, it could be done by the Revenue-officers with the aid of the Police who are stationed at all the principal places on the hills without the

necessity of a forest establishment, and I would recommend that the establishment be done away with at once, and that the forests be placed entirely under the Collector. He might employ a Maistry or a couple of Peons under the local Conservancy Establishment, whose duty should be to make periodical visits to the hills, and report on the extent of hill-cultivation, etc. In future years these forests may become of great value, and if the Kondapolu cultivation can be checked, it should be so done at once. From the inaccessible nature of the forest, and the fact of there being no market, the forests require little or no guarding in other respects.

7. Tea, Coffee, and Cinchona, might all be grown in parts of these hills, but not as profitably or as well as in Wynaad and many of our western tracts; and the climate is much against any one making the attempt, so there is not much chance of any land being taken up with this view.

8. Botanically, I did not meet with much novelty, except the ferns above alluded to, which belong to the following species:—*Nipholobolus stigmatosus*, *Lastrea gracilescens*? *Diplazium tomentosum*; *Goniopteris multilineata*, and *Pteris crenata*. I had, however, previously examined the Godavery forests to the south of this tract, and the Kimeddy forests to the north, so that much novelty was not to be expected. Specimens of one doubtfully new tree have been forwarded to Kew and to the Madras Herbarium at the Museum. The occurrence of *Ougeinea*, a valuable timber-tree common in the Jubbulpore Provinces, is interesting.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 1st April 1870, No. 426.

Forests, No. 1.

THE foregoing papers relate to the Golcondah Forests in the Vizagapatam District. The receipts from these forests

have been always insignificant and, except in one year, quite insufficient to meet the cost of the conservancy establishment.

2. In his letter to the Board, dated 23rd October last, the Acting Conservator proposes that the whole of the jungle conservancy of the Vizagapatam District should be placed under the Special Department, (establishment being placed under the Collector's supervision), and expects by this means to cover the loss to the department occasioned by the forests under notice. The Board, however, make a counter-proposition to the effect that the accounts of the Golcondah Forests should be transferred to the local Jungle Conservancy Fund, as their management is already in the hands of the Revenue Department.

3. In his special report on these forests, the Acting Conservator makes a similar proposition to that of the Board, as he is clearly of opinion that the forests in question cannot be profitably worked by his department. The Government concur in this view, but as the Government of India have, on a recent occasion, objected to the transfer of any forests from the Special Department without their sanction, the measure must be deferred until the proposals for a partial re-organization of department, which are now under the consideration of Government, have been disposed of.

4. In the meantime, the Acting Collector will be requested, through the Board of Revenue, to take into his consideration the proposals made by Major

Beddome in his Report, dated 5th March 1870, and to submit to Government his opinion. Mr. Melville should also be directed to take immediate measures for the preservation of the valuable teak-tract referred to in paragraph 5 of Major Beddome's letter, and should obtain a rough estimate of the probable expense of opening out the hill-forests under reference.

5. It is observed that the Collector, Mr. Minchin, is of opinion that the working of these forests has proved a failure, because the wood has not been felled and stored at Narsipatam as was originally intended. It would appear, however, from Major Beddome's Report that the cost of bringing timber to Narsipatam would be out of all proportion to its sale-value there.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue 1869
Department
From W. L. 112.

The Collector
Vizagapatnam

The Asst. Secretary
to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Dated 26 November 1869
Recd 6 Decemr.

82/17

Sd/- 426. 10 April 1870

Submitting his opinion
as the reason why
the Government Forests
in the Golconda Estate
has proved a failure
in the receipts not
covering the expenditure

October/69 Rs 2742
20 November/66 - 467-468
7 February - 142/3
28 September/65 - 594/95
12 June - 227-228

18 Nov 1870 1225

Cost. of 1870 Rs 100000

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated April, 1st.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O. 1st April 1870, No. 426.

APRIL

Nos. 1-4.

Golconda Forests in Vizagapatnam District.—Letters from the Collector and Conservator of Forests relating to their accounts, with orders thereon.

17th of Nov 3 1870
1870

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 1st March 1870.

Read the following papers:

From the collector of Vizagapatam.

Subj: his opinion as the reason why the Govt. Forests in the Goleondah Estate has proved a failure in the receipts not covering the expenditure.

M.E. 26: Nov: 1869, No 477

Pro: Board of Revenue.

Subj: Offg. Conservator's letter forwarding account current of Goleondah Forests, for 1868-69.

16: Decr: 1869, No 9219

From the Offg. Consr. of Forests.

Reporting upon the exploration of the Goleondah Hills.

5: March 1870, No 1974

J. D. S.

The foregoing papers relate to the Goleondah Forests in the Vizagapatam District. The receipts from these forests have been always insignificant and quite insufficient.

Except in one year.

to

to meet the cost of
the Conservancy Establish-
ment.

2. In his letter
to the Board dated 23rd

October last, the Ag. Conserva-
tor proposes that the
whole of the Jungle Con-
servancy of the Vizaga-

patam District should
be placed under the
Special Department and
expects by this means

to cover the loss to the
Department occasioned

by

with being placed
under the Chief
Superintendent.

by the forests under notice.

The Board, however, make
a counter-proposition to
the effect that the Accounts
of the Golconda forests
should be transferred
to the local Jungle
Conservancy Fund
as their manage-
ment is already
in the hands of
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3. In his special
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makes a similar
proposition to that of
the Board, as he is clear-
ly of opinion that
the forests in question
cannot be profitably
worked by his de-
partment. The Govt.
concur in this
view, but as the Govt of
India have on a
recent occasion objected
to the transfer of any forests

by the transfer of the
forests to the
Board on this ground.

The Board recommended that
the forests should be amalgamated
with the other forests in the same
as with Major Pickstone's
forests, and will shortly
be put in execution.

17th

from the Special Depart-
ment without their sanc-
tion, the measure must
be deferred until the pro-
posals for a partial re-
organization of Department
which are now under the con-
sideration of Government
have been disposed of.

4. In the meantime, the
Acting Collector will be
requested through the
Board of Revenue to take
into his consideration the
proposals made by Major
Pickstone in his report
dated 5th March 1870, and
to submit to Government
his

5. It is observed
that the Collector
Mr. Mincher, is of opinion
that the working of these
forests has proved a
failure, because the
wood has not been
felled

114 To the Door-keeper Revenue Ser 2 April
170 to the Office of Conservation of Forests

50:41

[Handwritten signature]

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