

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th February 1871.*

No. 231. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 18th November 1870, No. 2,433 :—

With reference to paragraph 21 of the Government Order, No. 1,124, dated 28th July last, I have the honour to furnish the following information regarding the reserves at Walyar and Thellay.

2. The Walyar reserve, consisting of 963 acres, was first formed in March 1868. The greater portion of the land belonged to Government, but 246½ acres were purchased at a cost of Rs. 1,280. It is situated close to the north of the railway line near Walyar, and is bounded on the north by a range of hills. In 1868-69 the reserve was enclosed by a trench and embankment, and in the same year 1,000 Babul seedlings were planted out, which now average seven feet high. In 1869-70 12,000 Tamarind seedlings were planted out, and have well established themselves. Some broad-cast sowing of Babul, however, failed from want of rain. This year 75,100 pits have been dug in parts of the reserve, and Tamarind, Babul, Wild Mango, and Veypum (*Melia*) seedlings have been planted out. This promises to be fairly successful, but the plants are still very young. The reserve is fairly covered with jungle in most parts, but bare in some places, and much has to be done in the way of planting. It would be difficult to estimate the yield per acre at present, or to give any information as to chances of re-production. With the exception of 685 cubic yards, cut more with a view to nursery and planting operations, and of which no exact data was entered at the time, no felling has taken place whatever. The tract contains a very great variety of trees including Teak.

3. The Thellay reserve is, I am afraid, too distant from the line to become a railway fuel reserve, and Mr. Sheffield informs me that the Collector considers it desirable that it should be retained for the supply of the town of Vellore. If, therefore, a sufficient area can be procured nearer the line (which subject is now occupying Mr. Sheffield's attention), this tract will not form a portion of our fuel reserves. It was originally reserved as it required rest, and has not been felled in since its reservation. It has never been fenced in or demarcated. I shall report further on this tract in my next report after I have visited it with Mr. Sheffield.

4. With reference to the progress made in the formation of fuel reserves, etc., since the Government Order in question, I have to report that these operations have chiefly occupied the attention of our officers in all the ranges traversed by railways, but up to date they are scarcely more than preliminary. Colonel Morgan has explored all the jungle in the vicinity of the Mettapolliem extension, and he has mapped out what tracts it is necessary to reserve, and his report and sketch map have already been forwarded to Government. I proceeded along the Trichinopoly and Negapatam line with Lieutenant Walker, and we had consultations with Revenue authorities in these districts as to what land can be made available for planting, etc. There will be no difficulty in procuring a sufficient area in the Trichinopoly District, and Lieutenant Walker is now about to take steps for mapping this out and eventually taking over what may be required. Little or no land is available in Tanjore, and it will probably be cheaper for the railway to burn coal between Negapatam and Tanjore. The Casuarina plantation supposed to exist at the former place is only a garden of two or three acres in the middle of

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the town, and not capable of extension and showing very poor growth. In company with the Collector of Trichinopoly, I inspected a block of land suitable for carrying out the experiment of planting on irrigable land, and which the Collector believed could be made available at a very small cost. Lieutenant Walker has been instructed to take it over. In the Tinnevely and Madura Districts, Lieutenant Walker has examined the country along the line, and, in communication with the Revenue authorities, has selected sites for the plantations and reserves, and has also submitted a report and sketch map. It would be premature my forwarding these to Government at present, as a considerable quantity of the land selected for plantations comprises beds of tanks, and there is some doubt how far we shall be able to take up this land. There can be no doubt that it will be an excellent plan for cheap planting, especially with reference to Babul and some of the other Acacias best suited for fuel, but at the same time it is probable that an arrangement of this nature may interfere with the grazing rights and rights to water of neighbouring villages, and it would, of course, be useless to attempt to plant where we could not exclude cattle. We are in communication with the Revenue authorities and Department Public Works on this question, and it will be settled before my next report. From Lieutenant Walker's report I do not think that we shall experience any difficulty in obtaining land in both these districts. In some cases it may be necessary to purchase, but the rates will be reasonable. In the Madura District 20,000 to 30,000 large sized Babul trees are to be found growing in the beds of Government tanks adjoining the line, and a similar quantity is reported as growing in the beds of private tanks, which could be leased or purchased, and it appears that these plantations could be increased to an extent that would fully meet all requirements. In the Tinnevely District there is also much Babul already growing in tank-beds, but this is chiefly on private land, but most of this can, it appears, be purchased or leased.

5. In Salem and Cuddapah Mr. Nisbet and Mr. Yarde have been giving their attention to selecting sites for further reserves and plantations, and Mr. Sheffield, who has just assumed charge of the North Arcot Range, is similarly employed in that district. I am now about to proceed myself on a tour of inspection through the country adjoining the line in these districts, and shall therefore delay more specific mention until my next report.

No. 282. ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1871, No. 344.

Forests, No. 11.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,

Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

*Office of Conservator of Forests
Camp Ootacamund 15th Nov. 1871*

No. 2133

From

*Major R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests*

To,

*W. Huddleston Esq.
Secretary to Government
R. 19.*

Sir,

*With reference to para 21 of the
Government Order No. 1124, dated 28th July
last, I have the honor to furnish the follow-
ing information regarding the Reserves at
Walyar and Thellay.*

*2. The Walyar Reserve, consisting of
968 acres was first formed in March 1868,
the greater portion of the land belonged to
Government, but 246½ acres were purchased
at a cost of Rs. 1280; it is situated close to the
North of the Railway Line near Walyar, and
is bounded on the North by a range of Hills,*

rest and has not been felled in since its
reservation, It has never been fenced in or
demarked. I shall report further on this
tract in my next report after I have vi-
sited it with Mr. Sheffield.

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occupied the attention of our Officers in
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for planting &c. There will be no difficulty
in procuring a sufficient area in the Trichino-
poly district and Lieutenant Walker is now
about to take steps for mapping this out and
eventually taking over what may be required;
Little or no land is available in Tanjore and
it will probably be cheaper for the Railway
to burn coal between Negapatam and Tanjore,
the Casuarina plantation supposed to exist
at the former place is only a garden of 2
or 3 acres in the middle of the town and not
capable of extension and showing very poor
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Trichinopoly, I inspected a block of land suit-
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believed could be made available at a very
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instructed to take it over. In the Tinnevely
and Madura districts, Lieutenant Walker
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that it will be an excellent plan for cheap
planting especially with reference to Babul
and some of the ^{other} Acacias best suited for fuel,
but at the same time it is probable that an
arrangement of this nature may interfere
with the grazing rights, and rights to water
of neighbouring villages and it would of
course be useless to attempt to plant where
we could not exclude cattle. We are in com-
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D. P. W. on this question and it will be settled
before my next report. From Lieutenant
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in both these districts. In some cases it may
be necessary to purchase but the rates will
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Nisbet and Mr. Yarde have been giving
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Arcot range is similarly employed in that
district. I am now about to proceed myself
on a tour of inspection through the coun-
try adjoining the Line in these districts
and shall therefore delay more specific
mention until my next report.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servt.

R. H. Assme. Major &
Conservator of Forests.

28 July 1870

1870-71

Letter of Appointment

To
The Conservator of
Forests

From
No. 3639

The Secretary to Govt

Dated 18th
Received 28th Jan 1871

Enclosure - One

Subj: -

Refers to report the Bureau
of Hallgar & Whalley & the
progress made in the formation
of fuel reserves with reference
to Jan 21, of 1870, & 1871

27 July 1870

13 Table Book of Forests Dept 1870

1870-71
No. 3639
28 Jan 1871

Govt of 1871

REVENUE.

THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

Dated February 27th.

Recd.

G. O. 27th February 1871. No. 314

RECEIVED.
NO. 291-239.

Letter from the Conservator of Forests furnishing
certain information regarding them, received.