

40.29.1871. 11.11.1871

Rev: 1871. *Opport*
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS. *11-1102*

PROCEEDINGS, 27TH MARCH 1871, No. 1,315.

Dep? 40/1/11

Encl.

Received

5

MARCH.

No. 1,315.

Forests belonging to Amrapollium Rajah, in Malabar District.—Letter from Collector, forwarding one from Conservator of Forests reporting on, and suggesting that Government should purchase these forests outright and place them under proper conservancy, submitted to Government.

Dep? 14.11.1871
L.H. order

No 135+136

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th April 1871.

No. 135. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th March 1871, No. 1,315:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 9th February 1871, No. 40.

In continuation of this Office letter, dated 24th January 1871, No. 6, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter from Major Beddome regarding the Eddawanna (or Amrapollium) Rajah's forests.

2. I hope to have opportunities shortly of seeing the Rajah and of inspecting the forests, and will report what arrangements can be made to secure the tract which would, I think, be a most valuable acquisition.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major R. II. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Collector of Malabar, dated Ootacamund, 4th February 1871, No. 2,586.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have carefully explored the forests belonging to the Amrapollium Rajah, situated between Nellikottah and the base of the Nilgiris, below Makurty Peak and Banghy tappal. The 4th Rajah who, I believe, generally goes to the forests, was absent at Calicut, but the 3rd Rajah met me at Poonappaya, and sent his Goomastahs over the forest with us. Mr. Ferguson accompanied me, and we slept two nights in the forest, and went over a very considerable portion.

2. The whole tract may be said to be first-class forest, and very superior to any that has hitherto been felled for planting, either near Nellikottah or at Nellikottah, and it would be almost a sin to fell it for planting. Over a considerable portion teak was abundant, several trees of from 10 to 30 years of age to the acre; and in one or two places teak was most abundant, growing almost to the exclusion of every other tree, far into the forest. Teak disappeared, but Irul and Ven Teak, both very superior jungle timbers, were of superb growth and very abundant, and there was much valuable timber of other kinds, besides some blackwood.

3. The forest has not been judiciously worked; every large teak tree having been felled out, the ground has been deprived of seed, and the forest is deteriorating in consequence, as far as teak is concerned. If the forest was properly taken in hand and conserved, teak nurseries established, and seedling planted out, and teak seed sown here and there in pits, it would in time rival any tract of forest in the plains of the western part of our Presidency.

4. Government possess little or no good forest in Malabar besides the small escheated tract of Chenat Nayar, the forests about Nellikottah being rather poor. I dare say that you are aware how the private forests about Manar and near Sholakal, and, in fact, everywhere in the district, are disappearing before extended cultivation; it would, therefore, I think, be a judicious arrangement if Government could purchase this forest outright, and place it under proper conservancy, not with a view to any immediate profit, but for future requirements; we might then plant teak in it largely without felling the present forest, here and there scrub and worthless trees only being cleared away, and I think that the treatment of a large tract on this principle is well worth a trial. The tract will, I am afraid, prove to be very unhealthy for about six months in the year, but it would probably be more so at least at first, if it was felled for planting.

5. The Rajah asks 70,000 Rs. for the tract, which he says is 16 square-miles. It is a large sum when we consider that there can be no immediate profit, and that some portions are valueless and others steep and inaccessible; it is at the rate of about 7 Rs. an acre. I think it probable that the Rajah would take 5 Rs. per acre, but before any offer is made, or before the question is laid before Government, I think that the tract should be demarcated and its extent accurately ascertained, and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th April 1871.*

that the title should be proved to be good; this having been done, I think you might go up to Government on the subject.

6. There is a tract of about 2,000 acres belonging to the Nellumbur Rajah between Nellumbur and Yeddicarrah, well adapted for planting, which Mr. Ferguson is anxious to secure. I shall address you shortly with reference to this.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 7th March 1871, No. 994.

2. The Board await the further report promised by the Acting Collector.

No. 136.

ORDER THEREON, 14th April 1871, No. 668.

Forests, No. 6.

THE Government await the further
information promised.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.