

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th July 1872.*

No. 250. Read the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 5th June 1872, No. 1,278 :—

AGREEABLY to G. O. No. 705 of 30th April last, I have the honour to submit a memorandum in answer to the various queries from the Government of Mauritius; I also forward the forms, etc., asked for, and shall be obliged if you will supply copies of the annual reports for the last ten years from the Government library, as a large number of copies are, I believe, available there.

No. 251. ORDER THEREON, 30th July 1872, No. 1,136.

Forests, No. 17.

ORDERED that copy of the memorandum and its enclosures (omitting paragraph 20 of the memorandum, the correctness of which the Government do not admit) be forwarded to the Mauritius Government with copy of the Forest Reports for the last ten years, in reply to the Colonial Secretary's letter of 5th April 1872, No. 599A.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Tracts

The nature and extent of the duties of the Conservator, Deputies and Assistants are as follows:-

1. The Conservator exercises general control over all Forest operations carried out by the Officers of the Department in this Presidency as detailed in the succeeding paras.
2. He checks the amount of Revenue derived both by the sale of Timber from Government Depots, as well as from seigniorage realized by the removal of unreserved kinds of Timber by Merchants and others from the assigned portions of Forest Tracts.

Tracts under the License and Voucher system.

The Conservator is constantly on tour in the different Forest ranges, he then sees that his instructions to his Assistants are carried out, and he inspects all operations such as planting, felling, road making, Conservancy operations &c., he also inspects all depôts, books and accounts, cash chests, plant, live stock &c.

The Annual Administration Report (together with its accompaniments) is submitted to Government.

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A separate Financial Report is also rendered to the Board of Revenue together with the annual cash & stock accounts of the Department.

5. The Returns specified in the accompanying Memo. A are received, audited and compiled in the Central Office. Whilst those indicated in Memo. B are furnished to other Departments.

6. The annexed copy of general instructions issued to the Deputy and Assistant Conservators will explain the duties generally performed.

formed by them. The Forests are divided into divisions. The first contains Teak, Blackwood, Sandalwood and Redwood and such tracts are chiefly reserved, whilst the second contains the unreserved kinds of Timber, which are worked by Merchants and others under the License system in accordance with the established Rules, of which a printed copy is herein inclosed.

7. There are several other miscellaneous duties transacted by Deputies and Assistants such as building huts for working and cattle

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cattle Establishments, constructing or improving Forest roads, clearing away undergrowth and creepers &c around saplings and young trees, forming nurseries & plantations.
8. List shewing the salaries & allowances drawn by the Conservator, Deputies and Assistants together with their Office Establishments is subjoined.

Conservator of Forests. — ^{Rs.} 1000. — Draws travelling allowance of Rs. 10. per diem whilst absent from the Head Quarter Office.

1st Class Deputy — 800

2nd Class — ^{Rs.} — 700.

3rd Class — ^{Rs.} — 500

2^d Class Assistant — 300 + 60.

3rd — 1st — 1st — 200 + 60.

Sub Assistant — 150 + 30.

9. The several grades of Officers above mentioned will be classified in accordance with the scheme of the Forest Establishment recently sanctioned by the Government of India. The Officers will then draw higher emoluments as particularized below.

Inspector of Forests — 1200 + 200. Consolidated Travelling allowance.

Deputy Conservator — 700 + 150.

— 1st — 500 + 150.

— 1st — 350 + 150.

— 1st — 250 + 150.

Probationary

Probationary Forest Assistant — 150 — Travelling allowance of Rs 4 per diem is granted for time actually spent in marching or Camp.

The grades of the Overseers are given as follow. — Travelling allowance.

1st Class Overseer — 100 + 30.

2nd — 1st — 80 + 30.

3rd — 1st — 60 + 15.

4th — 1st — 50 + 15.

Sub Overseer — 30 + 10.

10. The Overseers are employed in looking after working parties ^{year} as well as attending to the instructions given them by Range Officers. The different Classes of Overseers are graded according to the extent and

and amount of Revenue derived from the Forests.

11. The scale of the Office Establishment of the Conservator and Deputies &c are given here-

under. — Central Office. —

1. Head Clerk	Rs. 75
1. Head Accountant	50
1. Compiler	50
1. Asst. ^{to} D ^y	40
1. 2 nd Clerk	25
2. Clerks @ 10 Rs each	20
1. Recordkeeper	25
1. Draughtsman	40
2. Peons @ 8 Rs each	16
4. — D ^y — @ 7 Rs each	28
1. Sweeper	3
<u>Total Rs. 372</u>	

— Deputy Conservator's Office. —

1. Head Accountant	Rs. 70
1. Assistant	D ^y 30
1. Timber Yard writer	14
1. Gumastah	15
4. Peons @ 7 Rs each	28
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— Assistant Conservator's Office. —

1. Head Writer	30
1. Assistant	D ^y 20
1. Gumastah	15
2. Peons @ 7 Rs each	14
<u>79</u>	

12. The average cost of planting varies so much in different districts being of course regulated by the price of

of labor that statistics on this subject are not of much value to officers of this Department in the different districts of the Presidency and would be of still less value in other countries. Much depends on the nature of the season. In a wet year 1000 plants might be put down & tended at less than $\frac{1}{2}$ the cost that might be necessary in a year of drought, and our climate is subject to great variation in different years. Our planting season generally speaking is from June till November, this is the rainy season in most parts of

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of the presidency but in some districts we may have little or no rain in certain years, though in others a-bundance may fall. The highest and lowest figures for planting out and establishing each young tree may be taken at 6 pie and 1 anna 8 pie (a variation from 3 farthings to $2\frac{1}{2}^d$).
13. Nurseries and planting operations are supervised by the forest officer of the district, the labor is in some cases gardeners on the permanent establishment supplemented by hired coolies as required, or in other

other cases the labor is wholly that
of hired coolies, a native master
or native, East Indian or European
Overseer is generally in immediate
charge the salaries of such appoint-
ments being regulated by the size
and importance of the plantation.

14. At Vellumbur close to the
base of our Western ghats where
there is a heavy rain fall and
a forcing climate we have upwards
of 2000 acres of Teak, for more
than 20 years about 100 acres have
been put down annually. This
plantation may I think be put
down as a complete success and
already

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already in some years the thinnings
have paid the annual expenditure.
In other districts we have established
small Teak plantations and nur-
series with varied success according
to the rain fall soil &c. but most
of these are in a very young state.
We have also plantations of Sandal-
wood. (Santalum album) Red
Sanders (Pterocarpus santalinus)
and Sappan (Casalpinia Sappan)
these all promise well and as they
are valuable timbers demanding a
high price they will all I think pay
well eventually. Mahogany and
some other trees might also I think
be

be planted at a profit. On our
mountains we have large planta-
tions of the Australian Eucalypti
and 2. Acacias. (A. melanoxylon
& dealbata) these all grow most ra-
pidly and with the climate and
rain fall experienced on our mountains
the planting goes on with few or no
casualties and is decidedly cheap,
these plantations will probably re-
coup themselves even if the produce
is only sold as fuel, most of the
timbers are valuable but the demand
for the timber in the localities plant-
ed except as firewood will be very
limited and carriage beyond a certain
distance

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distance will of course be prohibitory.
Planting on our mountains is very
easy and satisfactory compared
to what it is in the plains.

15. In most of our districts we have
lately established small experimental
nurseries and plantations for the
instruction of our young Officers,
Overseers and subordinates and
for experiment in the growth from
seed coffee &c. &c. of different
trees both indigenous and foreign
and for instruction in transplanting
&c. &c. these are all very recent
but promise to be of great use.

16. In all our Railway districts
we

we have within the last few years commenced to form Fuel plantations, these cannot be reported upon favorably, and they will never I am afraid pay their expenses, they are in almost all cases on poor soil, and in localities where there is a very small and uncertain rainfall, and little water available when it is most required. To plant trees as fuel is profitably in the plains of India a good soil and a good rainfall or an ample supply of water are indispensable, and these conditions are seldom to be obtained, in most districts

districts they would make the land too valuable to allow of its being given up for fuel, and in other districts such as our Western coast the same conditions cause such an ample natural growth that plantations are not required.

17. In some districts we have Casuarina fuel plantations, that promise to be a complete success financially, these are established in sandy tracts near the sea and in sandy tracts adjoining the beds of some of our larger rivers, in all which places water is very near the surface. This particular tree grows well in these localities which are quite unsuited for any other

other cultivation the growth is rapid,
the casualties few, and the operations
cheap; these trees are established at
an average of about 1 anna each.

18. The felling of timber is where
possible carried on departmentally,
and this plan is the only proper
one where thorough Conservancy is
aimed at. Many of our forest
tracts are so straggling that we are
obliged to have recourse to Contract
or to the Licence & Voucher system,
(elsewhere explained).

19. Our timber sales are conducted
according to circumstances, in some
cases tenders are called for, in others
auctions

auctions are held, or we sell on
indents, building timber &c. is generally
sold by cubic foot, Sandal, Red
Sanders, &c. by weight. The forests
Department conduct the sales but the
Revenue Department receives the money
the latter is paid into a treasury and
the purchaser produces his receipt be-
fore the forest Officer. In some cases
timber is sold standing in the forests
at a signiorage generally on the
cart-load, in cases of this nature the
purchaser first pays the signiorage
for the required amount to the Revenue
Department and receives a voucher
for the amount, on receipt of this is
voucher

voucher the forest Officer grants
a licence to fell; this double check
has proved very valuable, the Revenue
Department who have no control over
the working of the forests receive
all the money and the forest
Department who have the control
and working of never touch any
of the money this is a great check
against petty frauds and bribery on
the part of the lower subordinates
both amongst the Native Revenue
Officials and those of the Forest
Department.

20. The forest police is very defective
in this Presidency as compared to

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what it is in the Bengal, Mysore
and cannot be held up as a
pattern, the forest Officer of the
district and his subordinates and
peons endeavor to keep smuggling
in check, but often with very
little success as they are thwarted
by the Revenue and Magisterial
authorities who as a rule are much
opposed to Forest Conservancy, it
often happens that cases of theft
or misdemeanour are thrown out
when clearly proved, and we have
no regular forest law or recognized Code
of Rules, every Magistrate and Re-
venue Officer has his own views or
opinions

opinions on the subject. As yet we
 have never been able to calculate on
 any aid either from the Police or
 Revenue authorities, occasionally
 a Revenue Officer may approve of
 Conservancy and render us great
 assistance, but it often happens that
 he is opposed to it in every way &
 then his subordinates follow suit
 and we are thwarted instead of
 receiving assistance.

Office of Insr. officers. }
 5th June 1872. }
 Conservator of Forests. }

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

No. 1278

From

Camp, Ostacamund
5th June 1872.

To

Major R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests.
The Honorable W. Huddleston
Secretary to Government
R. D.

Sir,

Agreeably to G.O. N: 705 of 30th April last, I have the honor to submit a memo in answer to the various queries from the Government of Mauritius, I also forward the forms^{&c} asked for, and shall be obliged if you will supply copies of the annual reports for the last 10 years from the Government Library; as a large number of copies are I believe available there.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. H. Beddome Major
Conservator of Forests.

Recd 19 67/72

In a letter from the
Conservator of Forests to
the Secretary to Govt R. D.
1278 of 5 June 1872.

4. 12. 1136 of
30 April 1872

20.7.72
20.7.72

Forest Department.

From
The Conservator of Forests,

To

The Secretary to Govt.
R. H.

Dated 5th June 1872.
Despatched 10

No. 1278.
Enclosure, 5
Subject. H. Secy of the Conservator of Forests

Refers to L. C. H. 705
of 30th April 1872.

White Deer

No 1136 - 30th July 1872 -

3 to the Conservator of Forests

Bluegrass 1872

Adm. Secy to the Mus. & the
(nothing from 20th June: the conservator
the first draft about the number of
the last 10 years - in 1872 the conservator had
the 45 April 72. 20th A. 549. H. B.
Adm. Secy to the Mus. & the
20.7.72
30.7.72