

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th January 1872.*

No. 222. Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 30th December 1871, No. 764 :—

I HAVE the honour to forward the correspondence as per margin for the orders or consideration of Government.

Copy of letter No. 354, dated 10th August 1871, from the Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Assistant Conservator of Anamallays.

Copy of letter No. 162, dated 15th August 1871, from the Assistant Conservator of Anamallays, to the Head Assistant Collector.

Copy of letter No. 163, dated 15th August 1871, from the Assistant Conservator of Anamallays, to the Conservator of Forests.

Copy of letter No. 544, dated 4th October 1871, from the Conservator, to the Collector.

Original letter No. 27, dated 13th November 1871, from the Collector, to the Conservator of Forests.

2. I myself worked the Anamallay teak forests from 1857 to 1860. They were at that time looked upon as a strict reserve for the Bombay Dockyard and the Madras and Bombay Gun Carriage Departments. The jungle in those days extended from the foot of the hills for about six miles into the plains and nearly up to the village of Anamallay, and no cattle ever came anywhere near the foot of the hills. In

about ten years the whole of this tract of lowland jungle has entirely disappeared, and a perusal of the correspondence, now forwarded, will show how our reserved teak forests above ghaut are threatened.

3. The question is, I consider, one of the gravest importance to the welfare of the country. A similar encroachment is going on in many other localities—I may say in every district—and there is no saying where it will stop when a tract like the Anamallay teak forest is threatened. A certain amount of woodland must be reserved, particularly in a tropical country like India, or dearth and barrenness must ere long be the result.

4. The encroachment on the jungles about the base and up the slopes of the mountains in different parts of Coimbatore, Salem, Madura, Tinnevely, etc., has been very great during the last few years, and may be said to have dated from the commencement of railways. Now that these latter are being greatly extended, I anticipate very serious results before long, unless we have a Forest Act, a strict reservation of certain tracts, and more power in the hands of our officers—matters which have already received great attention in other parts of India. Most of the Revenue authorities advocate entire deforestation when there is any question of cultivation or the enhancement of the land-revenue, and serious injury to the climate and the equable flow of our streams and rivers must sooner or later be the result of such a system; in fact, it has already begun to be felt and understood in some parts.

No. 223.

ORDER THEREON, 18th January 1872, No. 113.

Forests, No. 11.

As the Collector has taken measures to stop any trespass on the Anamallay teak forest, the immediate requirements of the case are sufficiently met. Major Beddome will submit a plan of the

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forest which he thinks should be absolutely reserved, and the Government, after receiving the opinions of the Collector and Board of Revenue on his proposals, will pass such orders as they may deem necessary.

2. The question of the Forest Law is before Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Fo.
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Collector of Coimbatore.

Office of Conservator of Forests.
Coimbatore 4th October 1871.

No 544.

From,

Major R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests.

To,

A. Wedderburn Esq^{re}
Collector of Coimbatore

Sir,

In forwarding copy of the

Copy of letter No 354 of 10th Aug 71 from the Asst. H^o Asst. Collector to Asst. Conserv. of Anamallay forests. correspondence as per margin, I have the honor to request that you will

do do No 162 of 15th Aug 71 from the Asst. Conservator of Anamallay forests to the H^o Asst. Collector. give the matter your attention and

do do No 163 of 15th August 1871 from do to Conservator of forests. furnish me with your views on the

subject, a great encroachment on our Reserved forests has been attempted and it has in a measure received support.

support from your subordinates
and unless checked at once it may
lead to much destruction of wood-
land in the Anamallays and
other parts of your district.

2. The Anamallays have al-
ways been a strict Reserve. I
worked these forests myself from
1857 to 1860 and at that time the
forests extended some 6 miles
beyond the foot of the hills into
the plains and no cattle ever
come within 2 or 3 miles of the
foot

40
foot of the timber slip, the forests
about the foot being considered
a Reserve for the grazing of the
elephants belonging to our De-
partment; these forests below ghat
have now almost entirely dis-
appeared in spite of much re-
monstrance from this Department
and now it appears that the
forests above ghat are in a mea-
sure threatened. I would suggest
that orders should be passed that
grazing is strictly prohibited in
the

the Anamallays and such like
reserved tracts in your district
without the special sanction of
this Department.

I have Yca Yca

Signed R. H. Beddome Major
Conservator of forests.

(A true Copy)

R. H. Beddome Major
Conservator of Forests.

Dec 29/72

Re a letter No 764 of 30th
Nov 71 from the Conservator
to the Secretary to Govt of R.R.

No 27

Coimbatore Collector's office
Coimbatore 13 November 1871.

From A. Wedderburn Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore

To Major R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the
4th October No 544, enclosing correspondence
regarding the conservancy of the Tinnacadoo
-roo Teak Forests, I have the honor to suggest,
with the view of obviating future difficulties,
that the Government should be moved to
extend the provisions of the new Forest act
to that hitherto reserved teak Forest. It
seems to me to be such a forest as to
which the act could, with most propriety
and success, be brought into operation.

I have propounded the question
to the Board of Revenue as to whether

communal rights advance with cultivation.

I do not suppose there is any written law on the subject. It has been the custom of the country to clear forests for cultivation, and if it be held that a right of felling and grazing on Government waste land, is unlimited by any former practice, the only way to conserve natural forest will be to have it declared to be under the act.

3. The boundaries may be better fixed now than at a later period, I would therefore suggest that you ascertain the views of Government on the subject of bringing the hitherto reserved teak forest of Tunacadoonoo under the act.

4. I am aware that the conservation of the teak forest in question is of older date than any communal right now attempted to be exercised. the question now is to ascertain the law, or if there is none, to have a law passed to protect the forest.

if it is to be protected. After personal inspection I am of opinion that, if a forest law be passed, scarcely any more favorable locality for its operation, could be selected.

5. In the meantime, I have pointed out to the subordinate authority that communal grazing interests can be locally, and in accordance with custom, met without trespassing on the Tunacadoonoo ghaut -; a great extent of hill pasturage is open to the public on the Anamallays to the east, and quite clear, of the ghaut leading to the Teak forest.

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your most obedient servant

Meekins
Collector

Office of Conservator of forests.
Cotacamund 30th December 1871.

No. 764.

From Major R. S. Beddome.
Conservator of forests.

To, W. Huddleston Esq^{re}.
Secretary to Government.
R. D.

Sir,
I have the honor to forward

the Correspondence
as per margin
for the orders or
consideration of
Government.

Copy of letter No. 354 of 10th Aug^r 1871 from the A. & A. Asst.
Collector to the Asst. Cons^r of Anamallays.
- do - do - No. 162 of 15th August 1871 from the Asst. Cons^r of
Anamallays to the A. & A. Collector.
- do - do - 163 of 15th Aug^r 1871 from - do - to the Conservator
of forests.
- do - do - No. 544 of 10th Oct^r 1871 from the Cons^r to the Collector.
Original letter No. 27 of 13th Nov^r 1871 from the Collector to the
Conservator of forests.

2
I myself worked the Anamallay
Teak forests from 1857 to 1860, they were
at

Enclosure

In a letter No. 764 of 30th

December 1871 from the Cons^r

to the Secretary to Government.

No. 297/2

1871

Department

From the Collector of
Pondicherry

To

The Conservator of
Forests -
Madras

Dated 13th November
1871

No. 27

Respecting the correspondence
regarding the Anamallay
Teak forests referred to
in the letter dated 10th Nov^r 1871.

at that time looked upon as a con-
strict Reserve for the Bombay
dockyard and the Madras and
Bombay Luncarriage Departments,
the jungle in those days extended
from the foot of the hills for about
6 miles into the plains and nearly
up to the village of Anamallay
and no cattle ever came anywhere
near the foot of the hills, in about
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low land jungle has entirely disappear-
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80
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in many other localities I may
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Teak forest is threatened: a certain
amount of woodland must be re-
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country like India, or dearth and
barrenness must ere long be the
result.

4. - The encroachment on the
jungles about the base and up
the slopes of the mountains in
different parts of Coimbatore, Salem,
Madura, Tinnevely &c has been
very great during the last few
years and may be said to have
dated from the commencement of
railways, now that these latter
are



are being greatly extended. Antici-
pate very serious results before
long unless we have a Forest Act,
a strict reservation of certain tracts,
and more power in the hands of our
Officers (matters which have already
received great attention in other parts
of India). Most of the Revenue
authorities advocate entire de-
forestation when there is any ques-
tion of cultivation or the enhance-
ment of the land revenue, and
serious

[illegible]

13. Contd of Forests. Desp^d
19 Jan'y/72

14. B^d of Rev^y
15. Coll^r of Coimbatore

No 222-223

Revenue

the Forests of the Anaimallays are to be reserved for the Government, with the exception of the small portions which may be required for the use of the people.

See in
the
the Forests of the Anaimallays are to be reserved for the Government, with the exception of the small portions which may be required for the use of the people.

Revenue 1871-72. O/c^r
77-29.
Forest Department

From
The Conservator of
Forests.
To,
The Secretary to Gov^t
R. D.

Dated 30th December 1871
Received 3rd Jan'y 1872

No 761.
With enclosure No 113-18 Jan'y/72
Enclosure No 5.

Subject.
Submits for orders, or con-
sideration of Gov^t, certain cor-
respondence on the subject of
encroachment upon the reserved
forests of the Anaimallays.