Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th October 1872.

Read again letter from the Government of India in G. O., 6th July 1872, No. 1,034.

Read also the following :—

No. 243. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th July 1872, No. 1,422.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 6th July 1872, No. 1,034, Revenue Department :—

ABSTRACT.—*Failure of the Forest Department to show an increasing surplus.*—Letter from Government of India offering suggestions as to the best means of increasing it, communicated to Board of Revenue and to the Conservator of Forests for remarks.

THIS paper issued by the Government of India through their Secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, for the instruction of the Forest Officers of the Madras Government, sets forth the causes of diminished balances in the Forest Accounts and indicates the course to be taken in order to increase the net revenue.

2. The causes given for the insignificant profits now derived from the forests, are :—

1*st*.—Increased expenditure on "Timber Works" Establishment, Roads, Felling and Sawing of Timber, etc.

2*nd*.—To the fact that "little else is left than distant and exhausted forests."

3*rd*.—To the unremunerative prices allowed by the Government for work done and timber supplied to State Railways.

4*th*.—To a glut of the timber market from the accumulation of timber provided for the construction of barracks and other large buildings (Public) but not now required.

5*th*.—To the neglect of the majority of Forest Officers to ascertain and meet the requirements of the local markets, so as to compete successfully with private traders.

6*th*.—To premature exhaustion of the forests, and to conservancy itself (paragraph 9.)

7*th*.—To a failure to distinguish (paragraph 10) between the portion of the forest which represents capital and that which represents interest, and to sell exactly the latter quantity.

8*th*.—To the want of a business-like system of rotation in working the forests.

9*th*.—To the practice of retaining timber to rot and breed insects at a prohibitive price.

10*th*.—To the failure of the department to supply the market reasonably and sufficiently.

11*th*.—To the weakness of establishments which results from the neglect by the department of the health of its officers in not giving them huts to live in

"in distant and unhealthy forests, which will save them from much trying exposure and *ensure them remaining near their works.*"

3. In this recapitulation of the remarks of the Secretary for Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce, the causes explanatory of failing revenue have been gathered from the warnings addressed to the Financial Department as to the practices they should avoid as well as from the direct enumeration of such causes as are given in the earlier part of the letter. It appears to the Board to be a mistake to conclude that only distant and exhausted forests remain(2) or that the market has been at once glutted(4) and starved while timber lay rotting(9) at prohibitive prices, or that, as set forth in paragraph 9, premature exhaustion of the forests has rendered future loss of revenue certain, while conservancy has diminished present receipts; nor has a proper system of rotation been neglected in working the forests, this point as the Government are aware having from the first received the most careful attention. From a careful consideration of the letter now submitted for their remarks, the Board are driven to the conclusion that the warnings and instructions which it contains refer to points which have in every case been carefully considered by the Forest Department of this Presidency, and that some of the suggestions regarding the watching and working of markets are not feasible. As regards the balance of outlay and revenue, the Board are of opinion that a large Forest Revenue is certain to be realized at a future day when means of transport have been more perfectly organized and the internal arrangements for forest working extended. A large and, as regards present revenue, unremunerative outlay is unavoidable in such an undertaking, and the Board see no reason for surprise or despondency in the limited returns of these early operations.

4. The subject noticed in paragraph 18 is of much importance, and the Board hope that when Major Beddome calls upon his officers "to remain near their works in distant and unhealthy forests" he will not shrink from the outlay necessary to secure them proper accommodation, scrupulously observing the vital precaution of raising the flooring of the bungalows several feet from the ground.

No. 243A. From the Officiating Inspector of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 26th September 1872, No. 1,466.

With reference to G. O. No. 1,034 of the 6th July last, I have the honour to offer the following remarks.

2. The falling off of our revenue is due to two causes; the first the making over of our finest teak forests, viz., those of North Canara, to Bombay. The annual profit from these forests amounts to two lakhs of rupees. As the case now stands Bombay shows the surplus, not Madras. The second cause is due to the large outlay on plantations, roads, etc. Last year the amount was about Rs. 68,000. Had this amount not been spent, it would have swelled the profit for the year. We must submit to an apparent loss of revenue for some years until the plantations begin to make a return, and there is but little doubt but that eventually our Teak and Sandalwood plantations will yield a handsome return. Fuel plantations will

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26th October 1872.

probably never return more than a very moderate percentage on their outlay, but they are useful in other ways.

3. Our returns very much depend upon Public Works; it is our duty to meet all demands from that quarter. Sometimes our stock is in excess of the demand, we then make a clearance to a certain extent of all surplus timber by auction-sales.

4. We cannot compete with natives owning forest-tracts, simply because by felling everything, small and large, they can under-sell us in the native market, whereas our object is to fell ripe timber of a superior quality.

5. Forest maps for Teak and Sandalwood are not reliable, as these trees are very capricious in their habitats. Were they regularly distributed, it would be easy to work them by the square mile.

6. Had our forests been under professional management for a hundred years, it would not have been difficult to work them in rotation; as it is, the felling has been so irregular that to obtain systematic management requires a large staff and much expenditure. No doubt a certain amount of conservation is practised. I would simply point out that our management could not compare with that of European forests because the conditions are not equal.

7. As a tentative measure we are now forming depôts in various places. Should there be a demand the license system will gradually disappear.

8. Unfortunately the general wants of the people are only to be supplied by the felling of saplings; this rather militates against the felling of ripe trees. Probably, when our Casuarina and other plantations grow up the poorer ryots will resort to the thinnings for house-building purposes.

9. There is no doubt about plantations in situations like Nellumbore giving a good return, and it would be better for us to concentrate our resources on such sites, rather than fritter them away on Teak planting in Tinnevelly, Madura, Salem, etc., where the tree grows indifferently, and at a considerable cost.

10. The health of Forest Officers is of the first importance, considering that only a man in strong health can undergo the work to be performed. It is very necessary that they should have some sanitarium to resort to in the feverish months of April and May.

No. 244. Order thereon, 26th October 1872, No. 1,486.

Forest No. 13.

The Governor in Council concurs in the remarks of the Board of Revenue and Officiating Inspector of Forests, and finds nothing in the communication from the Department of Agriculture to condemn the system of forest management which has been pursued of late years in this Presidency. The diminishing surplus is due partly to the transfer of the most valuable part of the State forests to the Bombay Presidency, and the resulting loss of not only an important source of supply, but also of what was formerly the best market, viz., the Bombay dockyard, and partly to the further development of conservancy operations in the remaining forest-tracts, and to the extension of fuel plantations in connection with the railways.

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26th October 1872.

2. These operations cannot possibly prove remunerative for some time to come, and on this point the Government have frequently enlarged in their communications with the Government of India, but every attention will be given to the important subject to which attention has been drawn by the Supreme Government with a view to the increase of the receipts and to the economical conduct of business in this branch of administration.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. F. R Bantleman.

Office of Inspector of forests
Ootacamund 26th Septr 72

№ 1466.

From

Lt Colonel H. R. Morgan
Offg Inspector of Forests.

To,

The Honorable W. Hudleston
Secretary to Government
R. D.

Sir,

With reference to G.O. № 1034 of the 6th July last, I have the honor to offer the following remarks.

2.- The falling off of our Revenue is due to two causes;- the first the making over of our finest Teak forests viz: those of North Canara to Bombay; the annual profits from

from these forests, amounts to
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cause is due to the large outlay
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=tions begin to make a return,
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but that eventually our Teak

and Sandal wood plantations —
will yield a handsome return.-
Fuel plantations will probably
never return more than a very
moderate per centage on their
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other ways.-

3.- Our returns very much —
depend upon Public Works, it
is our duty to meet all demands
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stock is in excess of the demand
we then make a clearance to a
certain extent of all surplus —
timber by auction sales.-

4.- We cannot compete with natives, owning forest tracts, simply because by felling every thing = small and large they can under- -sell us in the native market, = whereas our object is to fell ripe timber of a superior quality.-

5.- Forest Maps for Teak and Sandal wood are not reliable, as these trees are very capricious in their habitats, were they regular= =ly distributed it would be easy to work them by the square mile.-

6.- Had our forests been = under professional management

for a hundred years, it would not have been difficult to work them in rotation; as it is, the fell= =ing has been so irregular, that to obtain systematic management requires a large staff and much expenditure.- No doubt a certain amount of conservation is prac= =tised, I would simply point out, that our management could not compare with that of Euro= =pean forests because the conditions are not equal.-

7.- As a tentative measure we are now forming depôts in various places

feverish months of April and May.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servt.

W Ronsau Lt. Colonel
Offg. Inspector of Forests.

No. 2572
Rev. 1872. Sept.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 26TH JULY 1872, No. 1,422.

Dup. 31 July 72

Encl.

Received 5-1/2 August/72
S.O. No. 1486 - 26 October 1872

JULY.

No. 1,422.

Forest Accounts—Diminished balances in,—Remarks submitted to Government, with reference to letter from Government of India setting forth causes of — and indicating the course to be taken in order to increase the net revenue.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, R. D.

Secretary.

(A true Extract.)

Exd. T. Cartledge.

necessary to secure them proper accommodation, scrupulously observing the vital precaution of raising the flooring of the bungalows several feet from the ground.

No 243
C. 14 Oct/72 R 25th Oct

Revenue 1872-73. Sept. No 3152

Forest Department

From The Offg Inspector of Forests.

To, The Secretary to Govt R.D.

Dated 26th September 1872.
Received 28th " 1872.

No. 1466.

Enclosure None
Subject

Replies to G.O. No. 1034 of 6th July 1872.-

Rd. 1486 - 26 October 1872

1243 A

C. 14: Oct/72 R 25th Oct

Revenue Department.

No. 1486

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 26 Oct. 1872.

Read ~~the following~~ a Gen letter from the Govt of India in G.O. 6th July 1872 No 1034.

Read also:

Pros: Board of Revenue

Subng remarks to Govt with reference to letter from Govt of India, setting forth causes of diminished balances in Forest Accounts, and indicating the course to be taken in order to increase the net revenue ——— } M. D. 26: July 1872 No 1422

Offg Insp.r of Forests

Replying to G.O. of 6: July 1872 No 1034. ——— } -do- 26: Sept.r 1872 No 1466

The Governor in Council concurs in the remarks of the Board of Revenue and Offg Inspector of Forests, and finds nothing in the communication from the Dept of Agriculture to condemn the system of

Forest

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2. These operations cannot possibly prove remunerative for some time to come - and on this point the Govt have frequently enlarged in their communications with the Govt

of

I shd be inclined to say, with all deference, "that attention will "have to be given "first to the reproduction "of those forests "which have yet "to reach a "remunerative "growth"

If the present generation is the last to benefit by these forests, the money might be raised by loan, so that future generations may participate

14. To the Board of Revenue &c. 4th Nov
3. The Inspector of Forests

4°/4

of India - that the principle of giving to the Forest Department a fixed allotment for the Government not in the least [illegible] before [illegible] and that they must be maintained in a state of efficiency and extended in proportion as the economical and [illegible] abandoned - future [illegible] administration will derive the benefit - but to look for a large and constant surplus Forest Revenue at present is to ignore the fact that the first object of the Dept is to repair the damage done in past years, and to develope resources which will be of value in the future -

J.B.

Govt. of {1872} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 26th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 26th October 1872, No. 1,486.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 243-244.

Diminution in Forest Revenue.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue and letter from the Inspector of Forests offering remarks on this subject, with orders thereon.