No. 151. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd October 1872, No. 2,057 :—

Read the following letters :—

From Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. MORGAN, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 2nd September 1872, No. 1,431.

I HAVE the honour to bring to the notice of Government the great necessity there is of putting a stop to the timber-stealing carried on between Nellumbore and Calicut. Our own plantations are in danger, and there is nothing to prevent Moplahs from going into our finest plantations on a moon-light night, felling a dozen trees, and sinking them in the river until a convenient opportunity may offer to convey them to Calicut.

2. I would suggest that a convenient site be chosen somewhere above the first bridge near Calicut for a guard-house.

A.—That a Duffadar and six River-police be attached to the guard-house to compel all rafts to stop above the bridge, and have their passports stamped before being allowed to pass through the bridge.

B.—A good row-boat to be attached to the guard-house to be served by the River-police.

C.—Two writers to be entertained on Rs. 30 and 15 a month to enter all passports in a book.

D.—All passports to be granted by owners of forests to specify the number of logs, the name of the wood, and the number of candies.

E.—A fee of six Annas per candy to be levied on all teak and blackwood and four Annas a candy on other wood.

3. I believe the above scheme would effectually prevent all large robberies. The tax is a slight one, amounting on teak and blackwood to six Pies a cubic foot and four Pies on other wood. The Mysore Government taxed our forests Rs. 3 a cart-load, equivalent to a tax of Rs. 10,000 annually, or the whole profit of the forests went into their exchequer. Even now they take 10 Pies a cubic foot; at this the merchants do not grumble. It seems to me that this fee should be the property of Government, not the Municipality, as it would come from men like the Rajah of Nellumbore who claims hundreds of square miles of country without a title and pays nothing to the State treasury.

4. During the non-floating months the Collector could probably utilize the establishment.

REFERRED to the Collector of Malabar for report through the Board of Revenue.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

3rd September 1872.

From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 26th September 1872, No. 224.

WITH reference to the enclosed letter and endorsement I have the honour to report that I see no immediate necessity for the special precaution proposed.

Some years ago timber-stealing was rife along the Nellumbore river, but of late years I have not heard of any cases.

2. To carry out Colonel Morgan's plan legislation would be required both to enable us to detain timber not properly stamped and to collect the fees. Even if the course were adopted I doubt its efficiency, as there are many forest proprietors, Nair and Moplah, owning tracts which, though pretty well worked out, would furnish an excuse for granting passes to cover stolen timber. Nothing short of marking timber in the vicinity of the site when it is felled would furnish perfect security. In the absence of a legal enactment the only remedy is vigilance, and hitherto this has succeeded.

3. A Forest Act would doubtless contain the necessary provisions, but in the absence of that some much more cogent reasons than can now be adduced would be necessary to warrant a special Act.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to their endorsement on the letter from the Inspector of Forests.

2. Colonel Morgan says that timber-stealing is rife between Nellumbore and Calicut, and proposes measures for preventing it which, as the Collector of Malabar remarks, would need the sanction of a new law.

3. Mr. Macgregor, on the other hand, believes that timber-stealing has ceased of late years.

4. The former officer details no facts which would enable Government to judge whether any special precautions are necessary.

No. 152. ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1872, No. 1,597.

Forests, No. 6.

THE Governor in Council is of opinion that no sufficient reason has been shown for the special legislation which would be necessary to give effect to Colonel Morgan's proposals.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue 1872. Oct. No. 3523.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD OCTOBER 1872, No. 2,057.

Dup. 30 Oct. 72

Encl.

Received 1st Nov.

OCTOBER.

Forest No. 7.

Timber-stealing—between Nellumbore and Calicut in Malabar District.—Letter from Collector stating that there is no immediate necessity for the special precautions proposed by Inspector of Forests for prevention of —, submitted to Government with remarks.

Ord. 1597 21 November 1872

of late years.
4. The former officer details no facts which would enable Government to judge whether any special precautions are necessary.
(True Copies and Extract.)
Secretary.
To the Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Collector of Malabar.
Exd. T. Cartledge.

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REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 21*st.*

Read.

G. O., 21st November 1872, *No.* 1,597.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 151-152.

Timber stealing between Nellumbore and Calicut.—Board of Revenue informed that no sufficient reason has been shown for the special legislation which would be necessary to give effect to Colonel Morgan's proposals.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.