1601

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st November 1872.

No. 159. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st July 1872, No. 1,452 :—

Read the following letters :—

From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 8th March 1872, No. 1,038.

In reply to the Government Order, No. 113, of 18th January last, I have the honour to suggest that, first, the forest leased by Government from the Nambudi of Colengode, situate in the Palghaut Taluq of Malabar District, should be strictly reserved, according to the definition of the boundaries specified in our lease; second, that the whole of the Government Forest proper, situate in the Polachy Taluq of the Coimbatore District, be also strictly reserved, according to such boundaries as shall be agreed to separate the same from the Colengode Nambudies land and the Cochin Circar on the one hand, and the neighbouring taluq of Oodamullapettah on the other. It is not easy to decide on a suitable line between what ought to be considered communal tracts and that which has hitherto been considered by this department the Anamallay Reserved Forest.

2. Such jungle as is still unfelled at the foot of the line of ghauts ought, I think, to be devoted to the benefit of the community under proper restrictions, but I really do not know what low-land jungle is still in the hands of Government and what has been given away to ryots. I know that there is, as the jungle now stands, barely sufficient for local needs, but what will be left if all the land claimed by private individuals as their own be felled and cultivated will not, I fear, be worth reserving or economizing in any way. From Coorchicottah near Oodamullapettah to Anamallay along the foot of the ghauts a great many individuals appear to have unfelled forest in their own right, many ryots are in possession of from 10 to 100 bullahs of forest, and if these ryots once commence systematic felling, little will be left but the slopes of the ghaut which for the most part are rocky and unfit for cultivation, and they will not even be worth anything as grazing grounds after the banks of the streams have been denuded. I am not certain, but I fancy that no land has been given away beyond the ridge of the ghauts, and this therefore might be the boundary between the Government Reserve and communal Forest; but I am of opinion that it is scarcely a boundary which can be maintained if grazing, etc., be permitted up to the very line.

3. What I would suggest is that from the ghaut line, *i.e.*, ridge, to the limits already specified in Polachy and Palghaut Taluqs be henceforth reserved, and that from the ghaut line downwards to the ascertained limits of private properties be strictly conserved for communal felling *but not grazing*. It is also indispensable I think that restrictions be put on further cultivation, if possible, and on cutting free of cost in putta lands. My reasons for recommending that the whole of the Government and leased forests above ghaut attached to the Polachy and Palghaut Taluqs be reserved are :—*First*.—The adoption of this plan will give the department entire control over one complete tract extending from the westernmost boundary of the leased forest to the eastern line of the Polachy Taluq, a tract bounded in the south by the Cochin Territory only. *Second*.—That as the forest is interspersed

with sholas where no teak grows, and as, though abundant, the teak is not equally distributed, it would entail unnecessary labour on the Survey Department to demarcate teak-bearing tracts only, and such reservation would be fruitless while cattle and every person who chose had access to the unreserved portions. I think I am right in advocating undisputed sway over one compact block of forest in the interests of conservancy, whether the forest in question be larger or smaller than I propose. Of all rights I believe grazing rights to be most incompatible with the operation of those measures which the proper preservation of the forest demands. *Third.*—If the reserved forest be formed as herein supposed, its survey and demarcation will be simplified, and will involve little or nothing beyond what is, in any case, necessitated by the demarcation of this part of the district from the Malabar District and British from Cochin ground, and the Polachy from the Oodamullapettah Taluq. *Fourth.*—Ample grazing grounds exist in the Oodamullapettah Taluq, not much valuable teak, but large quantities of useful timber trees above ghaut. I propose that *all forest* land in that taluq be treated as communal, but under the control of the department.

Referred to the Collector of Coimbatore through the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

11th March 1872. (Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pollachy, 25th June 1872, No. 102.

Adverting to the Officiating Chief Secretary's endorsement, dated 11th March 1872, on Major Beddome's letter to Government, dated 8th idem, No. 851, I have the honour to enclose my report to Government, dated 25th June 1872.

Enclosure No. 1.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, (through the Secretary to Revenue Board,) dated 25th June 1872, No. 26.

I am desired to remark on Major Beddome's letter of the 8th March 1872, No. 1,038, herewith returned, wherein he suggests certain boundaries to be fixed as regards reserved forests on the Annamallay Hills, and adverts to some other points which will be separately noticed.

2. I beg to forward a map prepared for some former purpose in my office, from which the proposed boundary of the reserved teak forest and of the taluqs may be deduced.

3. The forest recommended to be conserved by Major Beddome is only approachable by a private ghaut constructed by the Forest Department. It can therefore be easily conserved, and has been reserved for more than a quarter century, and all that is wanted is to keep it so.

4. The Annamallay villagers, who had once ample forest on the low grounds, having cleared it all away and put the land under the plough (37,000 acres are now under cultivation), an attempt was made to extend communal rights to the reserved forest above ghaut. This I have put a stop to, and I quite agree with Major Beddome that, in a reserved teak forest, there must be no grazing, wood cutting, or even entry without leave of the department.

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21*st November* 1872.

5. The Tunacadavoo new ghaut is not marked on the map, but is on the west of Columbamallay; the hill ridges fence in the teak forest completely on the east, and the red enclosed space might be declared the reserved teak forest; above ghaut on the north, the water-shed of hills on the east, Malabar and Cochin on the west, and Travancore on the south, would be the boundaries.

6. I am not able to concur in Major Beddome's views, as regards interference with tracts of jungle held on lease in blocks of 40 to 400 acres, as he writes in Oodamullapettah Taluq "from Coorchicotta to Annamallay" by ryots. He proposes to restrict felling. It may have been a mistake making over so much accessible forest to intending cultivators; it was done long ago by the then Collector, for reasons that then seemed good, but I think these ryots have as good a right to work their land below as the coffee planters above their sholas. In fact, shola cutting above ghaut is more likely to affect the water-supply than forest clearing below.

7. As regards the proposed arrangement that a ghaut-line be demarcated, and up to the line communal felling, but not grazing, be permitted; as the reserved forest is inaccessible, except by the ghaut-road, no further demarcation seems called for; there is no jungle to cut below, very little on the Tunacadavoo ghaut, and that is wanted to keep the soil together, and to shade the road; the northern faces of the hill-sides near and to the east are precipitous rocks. I would not interfere with the custom of the ryots elsewhere, but let them seek their grazing and wood where it is accessible to them.

Enclosure No. 2.—Map.

The Collector's observations on Major Beddome's proposals for conserving the Annamallay Teak forests will be transmitted to Government.

2. From what Mr. Wedderburn states it is clear that the tracts can be conveniently conserved and that the people of the plains have no communal rights in them. The Board presume that there are no hill-tribes whose interests require attention. Under these circumstances the strictest conservancy is feasible and expedient.

3. Major Beddome thinks that restrictions should be placed "on cutting free of cost in putta lands" at the foot of the slopes. This is obviously impossible. If putta lands or the trees upon them are wanted they must be purchased. He also wishes to stop grazing between the limits of the reserves and those of the Puttadars at the foot of the slopes. So far as grazing rights now extend this could not be done without paying compensation, but Mr. Wedderburn remarks that "the reserved forest is inaccessible except by the ghaut-road," and if so, this is a subject of no importance.

No. 160. Order thereon, 21st November 1872, No. 1,601.

Forests, No. 8.

The Governor in Council approves the maintenance of the forest-reserve as regards which the Collector is of the same opinion as Major Beddome, and concurs with the Collector and Board of Revenue in thinking that the existing leases in the low country jungle-tracts should not be interfered with. The Government do not doubt that the Collector, who is

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21st November 1872.

now responsible for the working of the Forest Department in his district, will duly maintain all State and private rights, and will not lose sight of the future needs of the country.

(True Extract.)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Office of the Conservator of Forests.
Calicamund 8th March 1872.

No. 1038

From

Major R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests

To

W. Hudleston Esqre
Offg Chief Secretary to Government
R.D.

Sir,

In reply to the Govt Order
No. 113 of 18th January last I have the
honor to suggest that 1st The forest-
leased by Govt from the Nambudi of
Colengode, situate in the Palghat-
Talug of Malabar District should be
strictly reserved, according to the de-
finition

-finition of the boundaries specified in our Lease. 2nd That the whole of the Govt. Forest proper, situate in the Polachy Talug of the Coimbatore District be also strictly reserved, ac-cording to such boundaries as shall be agreed to separate the same from the Cobengode Nambudries' Land and the Cochin Circar on the one hand, and the neighbouring Talug of Coda-mullapettah on the other. It is not easy to decide on a suitable line bet-ween what ought to be considered communal tracts and that which has hitherto been considered by this Department

Department the Anaimallay Re-served Forest.

Such jungle as is still unfilled at the Foot of the line of Ghats, ought I think to be devoted to the benefit of the community, under proper restrictions, but I really do not know what low-land jungle is still in the hands of Government and what has been given away to Ryots. I know that there is, as the jungle now stands, barely sufficient for local needs, but what will be left if all the land clai-med by Private individuals as their

own

own, be felled and cultivated will not I fear, be worth reserving or economizing in any way. From Coorchicottah near Oodamulpettah to Anamallay along the foot of the ghats a great many individuals appear to have unfelled Forest in their own right, many Ryots are in possession of from 10 to 100 Bullahs of Forest and if these ryots once commence systematic felling little will be left but the slopes of the Ghat, which for the most part are rocky and unfit for cultivation and they will

will not even be worth anything as grazing grounds after the banks of the streams have been denuded. I am not certain but I fancy that no land has been given away beyond the ridge of the ghats, and this therefore might be the boundary between the Government Reserve and communal Forest, but I am of opinion that it is scarcely a boundary which can be maintained if grazing is be permitted upto the very line.

What I would suggest is that from the Ghat line, i.e. ridge, to the limits already

already specified in Polachy and Palghat Taluqs be henceforth reserved, and that from the Ghat line downwards to the ascertained limits of private properties be strictly conserved for communal felling but not grazing. It is also indispensable I think that restrictions be put on further cultivation, if possible, and on cutting free of cost in Puttahlands. My reasons for recommending that the whole of the Govt. and Leased Forests above Ghat attached to the Polachy and Palghat Taluqs be reserved are, 1st The adoption of this plan will give the Department entire control

for cancelled

control over one complete tract extending from the westernmost boundary of the Leased Forest to the eastern line of the Polachy Taluq, a tract bounded in the South by the Cochin Territory only. 2nd that as the Forest is interspersed with Sholas where no Teak grows, and as, though abundant, the Teak is not equally distributed — it would entail unnecessary labour on the Survey Department to demarcate Teak bearing tracts only and such Reservation would be fruitless while cattle and every person who chose had

had access to the unreserved portions.
I think I am right in advocating
undisputed sway over one compact
block of Forest in the interests of Conser=
=vancy; whether the Forest in question
be larger or smaller than I propose.
Of all rights I believe grazing rights
to be most incompatible with the "
operation of those measures which
the proper preservation of the Forest
demands. 3d". If the Reserved Forest
be formed as herein supposed its
Survey and Demarcation will be
simplified, and will involve little

or

or nothing beyond what is, in any
case, necessitated by the Demarca=
=tion of this part of the District "
from the Malabar District and "
British from Cochin ground, and "
the Polachy from the Codamulla=
=pettah Talug. 4th". Ample grazing
grounds exist in the Codamulla=
=pettah Talug, not much valuable
Teak, but large quantities of useful
timber trees above Ghat. I propose
that all Forest land in that Talug
be treated as communal, but "
under the control of the Depart=
=ment

=ment

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obdt. Servant
R.H. Beddome Major
Conservator of Forests.

Bd. Pro. No. 245
18-3-72

Revenue Sub. letter from the Collector of Coimbatore dated 25 Jany 72 No. 26.

1871-72

~~Forest~~ Department

~~No.~~ 851.

From
The Conser. of Forests

To
The Offg. Chief Secy to Govt. R.D.

Dated 8th } March 1872.
Recd. 11th }

No. 1038

Enclosures - None.

Subject
[illegible] 3410/72
Replies to G.O. No. 113, of 18th January last.

[illegible]

G.O. 21 Nov. 1872 No. 1601

Returned to the Coll. Coimbatore for report & remarks - [illegible]
11 Mar 72
[illegible]

Received
Entered & Returned } March 1872

Secretary

No. 2707
Rev. 1872. 1 Sept

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 31st JULY 1872, No. 1,452.

Dup 5 Aug 72

Encl. 2

Rec 20

Received 16th August 1872.

JULY.

No. 1,452.

Anhamallay Teak Forests.—Observations of Collector of Coimbatore on proposals of Conservator of Forests for conserving, submitted to Government, with remarks.

Witts Bsen

Ac 1601 21 November 1872

Govt. of {1872} Madr

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 21*st.*

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 21*st November* 1872, *No.* 1,601.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 159-160.

Anamallay Teak Forests.— Proceedings Board of Revenue, submitting the observations of the Collector of Coimbatore on proposals of the Forest Officer for conserving them, with orders thereon.