Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th January 1872.

No. 84. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th October 1871, No. 4,271 :—

Read the following letter from J. D. ROBINSON, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 29th August 1871, No. 432.

THE requisition made in paragraph 3 of Government Order, communicated with the Proceedings of the Board, dated 1st May last, No. 1,815, affords me the opportunity of respectfully asking Government to reconsider the conclusion which they have formed on a perusal of the correspondence therein embodied.

2. Mr. Whiteside's letter attracted my attention soon after my return to the district, and is so unfair and ungenerous in its spirit and representations that in mere justice I may claim that the conclusions the Government have thus been led to form may not be allowed to prejudice my case until I have had an opportunity of showing, as I feel sure I can, that I am entitled to a verdict more in accordance with the unanimous opinion of the people of the district respecting these operations.

3. It is a very easy task to criticise, with a semblance of reluctant delicacy, the results of operations conducted during a series of years under a combination of circumstances as adverse as were ever encountered in an undertaking of the kind.

4. My intention, however, in soliciting Government to reconsider the conclusion they have formed on Mr. Whiteside's representations is not to *explain away a failure*, but to elicit for the persistent efforts of years the recognition that their object has been attained; that the district does possess a system of thriving avenues along all its principal roads; and that, considering the exceptional difficulties which had to be surmounted, the results are more than commensurate with the outlay incurred in securing them.

5. I do not pretend to deny that errors of judgment have been committed, nor would I assert that trees have always been planted in the soils and situations best suited to their growth and purpose. It will invariably be found that, when unskilled native agency has to be employed, their guiding principle, do what one may to control it, is that if a tree be planted at all it must be of one of the reproductive kinds. The "ornamental" has a very subordinate place in the estimation of the ordinary Native Pygust.

6. And thus it is that in an extended system of operations, conducted, too, it should be remembered for several years as a means of employing the suffering masses, the proportion of fruit-trees in all our avenues is larger than it would have been under more concentrated control.

7. In the case of the more recently planted avenues, on the other hand, there has perhaps been a not unnatural reaction in the other direction, and the "*Poinciana regia*, the *Acacia Roxburghia*, etc.," being trees of showy appearance and rapid growth, may thus be occasionally seen growing where the margosa, the "*Acacia speciosa*," and the banyan family would have been more in place.

8. But taking all in all, these defects are exceptional, and the statement I am now submitting will prove conclusively that their existence should not discredit general results.

9. Mr. Whiteside claims to have formed his unfavourable impressions on a wide area of observation. He does not particularise the avenues which produced these impressions, but contents himself with condemning them one and all "as stunted and by no means vigorous in growth."

I am placed at a great disadvantage by so sweeping and unfair an assertion, as I can scarcely expect to recover my position in respect of an undertaking in which I may be reasonably regarded as a partial witness.

All I can say in answer is that I challenge most fearlessly the accuracy of Mr. Whiteside's representations, and that holding myself responsible for all planting operations *north* of the Palar river, maintain, and will prove from the returns herewith submitted, that the avenues in the Principal Division are, considering their age and the condition of the soil and climate, growing steadily, and that they will in a very few years become highly reproductive and useful for purposes of shade and ornament.

10. I can well understand with what surprise and disappointment Government must have learned that, after all the outlay made in the establishment of avenues, Mr. Whiteside had not been able, during the leisurely rides and drives of which he makes such complacent mention, to find anything which he could commend. I cannot say what knowledge of arboriculture, or practical experience Mr. Whiteside brings to the question at issue between us; but this I do know that neither he nor any one else could take a short morning ride along any single avenue without meeting with reaches of well-grown and most thriving young trees.

These avenues are of all ages from nine years downwards, and skirt roads lying through every variety of country and soil. Their past growth and future value cannot therefore be fairly estimated by any one standard that could be applied.

11. Now, I have not driven much in open carriages; but I have been riding constantly for the last twelve years up and down every road in the principal division, and have made it my invariable practice to take notes of the state of the communications and avenues as I passed along.

12. Had Mr. Whiteside cared to inquire, he would have found in the Office overwhelming evidence in the form of notes and memoranda in my own handwriting that the conduct of this undertaking at least has not been, as he is pleased to style it, "stereotyped by custom."

13. I dissent entirely from Mr. Whiteside's opinion (paragraph 7) that now-a-days outlay in the attempt to plant and maintain avenues along long lines of road is money thrown away. It is true we cannot, as was done in the Salem District thirty years ago, form avenues by forced labour; but after they have been established by legitimate means, we have still the departmental authority, if we choose to exercise it, to compel the talook and village officials to look after their conservancy. I have no sympathy with those who decry and vilipend the village institution.

Notwithstanding all that has been done in a short-sighted policy to weaken its influence, it is still, in this district at least, our best and most helpful ally.

14. Mr. Whiteside, relying on more modern notions, has taken upon himself, before he had been eight months in the district, and without having "known any

of the heat and burden of the day," to denounce the whole as a failure, and sets up as original the scheme he describes in the following paragraph (8) of his letter.

Now, in regard to this scheme, I have only to remark that I recollect distinctly discussing it years ago with Mr. Sim, and, in proof that I have had it steadily before my eyes, and have, as far as circumstances permitted, been carrying it out simultaneously with planting operations, I submit a list (marked D.) showing the more important road-side wells and reservoirs constructed or restored, partly from local and partly from special funds.

The idea thus propounded, as if for the first time, may, in fact, be seen nobly realized in numberless fine old rivetted reservoirs,* with halting places adjoining, formed along all the principal thoroughfares in the days when native charity found vent in this direction. Many splendid specimens of such works may be seen in all parts of the district, and I might point to the road from South Arcot to Conjeveram as particularly rich in these monuments of defunct liberality.

* Kónérús.

15. It is not probable that I shall take much further part in this class of operations; but, whilst willingly admitting the wisdom of employing a proportion of Local Funds in this direction, I may be permitted to express a hope that Government will insist on the gradual restoration of many of these old works rather than encourage expenditure on the poor substitutes that would do duty for them in the shape of more modern "halting places."

16. In his itinerary Mr. Whiteside names five talooks and five zemindaries as having come under observation. For results in the talooks of Chittoor, Palmanair, Gudiatham, and Chendragherri, I hold myself responsible, and shall be able to account further on in this letter.

With avenue operations in the Vellore Talook and the Arni Jaghire I have had no further concern than in supplying the Sub-Collector for the time being with the funds he asked for. In the Ponganoor and Kangundi Zemindaries, which are in the Principal Division, no avenues have been formed.

In the Kalastry Zemindary a partial experiment was abandoned at an early stage, and the reach of avenue, of which Mr. Whiteside makes such prominent mention at the end of paragraph 4, has since been left pretty much to its own chances, although it would appear notwithstanding to be now in a thriving condition.

In the Karvetinugger Zemindary there is only the avenue along the road from Ramakistnarojupet *via* Tirtani to Arcot Kuppam, on the frontier of the Madras District. This avenue, twenty miles long, was, when I saw it some years ago, most promising, and is now, the Range Officer reports (*vide* letter marked E.), well grown and most luxuriant.

Thus, the area of operations in regard to which we are at issue contracts itself to the four talooks of Chittoor, Chendragherri, Palmanair, and Gudiatham.

17. It would have been fair had Mr. Whiteside, when making a side thrust at general results, in noting the failure of the experiment of the Kalastri Zemindary, recorded his opinion of the nearly adjoining reach of avenue which fringes the twenty-two to twenty-five miles of road lying through the Javernamukhi valley. I have very recently inspected that line of avenue, and can assure Government

that better grown, more shapely, and vigorous trees could nowhere be seen. There are very few gaps in the rows, and the young trees, for the most part tamarind, margosa, eugenia jambolana, etc., are of uniform and luxuriant growth. In this valley the soil is good, and there is protection from wind.

18. Mr. Banbury, who knew the district as it was twelve or fifteen years ago, complemented me, when I met him at Palmanair two months ago, on the flourishing appearance of the fourteen miles of avenues between the Gudiatham Railway station and the Synigunta Pass.

This road lies through the valley of the Gudiatham river, and, when I passed along it soon after the conversation just alluded to, I found it overcanopied in many places by its avenue. I have just returned by the road leading from Ranipet to Chittoor, and have been exceedingly gratified with the growth and vigorous appearance of the avenue generally along the twenty-five miles which come under my inspection.

As in a manner appertaining to this line of avenue, I may mention that the Government Tope at the Poiney Anicut will be in full bearing next year, and that the fruit-trees growing on the channel-banks on either side of the river are growing rapidly, and will be highly reproductive two or three years hence.

Already are some of the reaches of avenue along the Salem trunk road renting out for Rs. 470 a-year, and there will, in a couple of years hence, be large additions to the list of reproductive trees.

Along some of the roads which lie through rocky and exposed country, such as the lines from Vellore to Palmanair, and from Chittoor to the Cuddapah frontier, the growth of the avenue has been much slower and more precarious; but there are long reaches of thriving trees on both of these lines, and even on the least promising sections the trees will attain the average proportions of those in private topes planted under similar conditions of soil and situation.

19. Mr. Whiteside calls in the assistance of Mr. Sheffield of the Forest Department; but as he was not even in the district when I left it, and his strictures (so far as they go, perhaps true enough) are not very damaging to my case, I merely notice them in order that I may solicit the attention of Government to a report from the Range Officer of the Wallajah Talook, copy of which will be found marked E. In asking Mr. Stephens to submit his opinion of the sale of avenues in the Wallajah Range, I merely noted the points on which I desired information, and made no observation which could influence his independent judgment.

Mr. Stephens's statements may be easily tested, as this group of avenues, about fifty miles in length, is accessible by rail should Government see fit to depute any professional agent (I might name the Superintendent of the Agri-Horticultural Garden at Madras) to report on their state.

On the twelve miles of avenue between Banavaram (Sholinghur station) and the town of that name, and, indeed, throughout the group, that agent would find a specimen of the results obtained under perhaps the most unfavourable conditions of soil and situation that are to be met with in the district. If, after having made his reconnoissance of this group, he then inspected the line of avenue from Arcot station to Chittoor, he would be able to give Government a fairly accurate estimate of average results throughout the Principal Division.

20. Of planting operations south of the Palar river I do not speak, as I have made no regular tour in the sub-division since the famine broke out in 1866. Government will, however, note that the mileage of roads planted in that part of the district is less than one-third of the whole.

21. Before dismissing this part of my subject I should mention that in laying out these lines of avenue I have been careful to bring within conservancy all spontaneous vegetation on either side of the roads so planted. The result of this has been that there are belts and clumps of the hardier trees at points along most of the roads which relieve the monotony of the avenue rows and add greatly to the comfort and pleasure of the traveller.

22. I have mentioned elsewhere that the people of the district most fully appreciate the value of what has been done, and the numerous private topes which have crept into existence under cover of avenue operations even in parts least favourable for such undertakings is of itself a very independent testimony to their favourable estimate of the results which have been achieved.

23. I shall now review as briefly as I can the statements which accompany this letter, beginning with a few general remarks.

24. The receipts, of course, are yet very small, as only one or two of the topes and some short sections of avenue are yet old enough to be reproductive. But in two or three years hence there will be a large return from fruit-trees, and the charges of conservancy, already small (Rs. 5,300 per annum), will every year become lighter.

At the end of the present year even the most recently formed avenues in the principal division will be so far established as to be independent of watering establishments. At the same time I should mention that the injury from cattle rubbing and the attacks of white ants is so recurrent an evil even in the case of the best grown and most fully established avenues that a patrol establishment, say of one man to every four miles, should be maintained for some years to come.

The annual charge, including implements for the conservancy of the 500 miles of avenue, would thus, in round numbers, be some Rs. 5,500, or little more than Rs. 10 per mile.

25. Mr. Whiteside has placed to the debit of planting operations the cost of the casuarina plantation at Trivellam. The site of this plantation was my own selection. It was undertaken as a famine work, and was handed over to the Forest Department complete in all respects, enclosed and protected by a dyke from the inroads of the Poiney river. At the time of the transfer there had been transplanted some 20,000 thriving young casuarinas, and the nursery beds were well stocked with healthy seedlings. All that has since been done is to extend the area of the plantation, and there are now, I believe, growing some 60,000 or 70,000 casuarinas. The undertaking finds mention in the periodical forest reports as a great *departmental* success. Now as the plantation has been unconditionally transferred to the Forest Department, and Mr. Sheffield himself in a recent interview estimated its present value at from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000, it is fair that the cost, at least up to the time of transfer, should be deducted from the general charges for planting operations. This has now been done.

26. I come now to my statements.

Four statements, marked A., B., C., and D., accompany this report.

Statement A. gives the information called for in the Proceedings to which I now reply.

Statement B. is submitted in support of my observations on the general outturn of avenue operations in the principal division.

Statement C. has the same object in respect to topes formed in my division.

Statement D. has special reference to my remarks in paragraph 14.

These statements have all been most carefully prepared, and as two of the four Tahsildars who contribute statistics are men appointed by Mr. Whiteside and responsible in no way for existing results, these returns are the less likely to be too highly coloured.

27. Statement A. shows the proportions in which an expenditure of Rs. 1,42,843-1-8 from "Jungle Conservancy," "District Road," and "Famine" Funds, has been distributed over "Topes," "Nurseries," "Wells," "Reservoirs," "Avenues," and "Channel banks," and explains itself.

28. To Statement B. I respectfully solicit special attention, as upon it do I rely for confirmation of my remarks on the results of planting operations in the principal division.

According to this statement it will be found that 356 of the 505 miles of road returned as planted out lie within my division. In each mile the average number of healthy and growing trees is 164, of which two-thirds are reproductive and one-third ornamental, and for purposes of shade. The average proportion of stunted and dead trees to the total number of trees planted is, it will be seen, only six per cent. If this average were doubled or even trebled, the result in a district like this could not be regarded as unsuccessful. Allowing that the 3,714 trees returned as failed all belong to the reproductive class, we have still some 38,000 trees planted and reared at an average cost of Rs. 1-1-0 per tree, and representing at the ordinary tree-tax or tirwa of the district (3 Annas and 6 Pies per tree) an annual value of nearly Rs. 7,900 when in bearing, as a large proportion will be in a few years hence.

But this estimate does not in any degree represent their real renting value, as there are, as already mentioned, some sections of the avenue on the Salem road leased out for Rs. 456 a-year, and there will be considerable additions to the list of reproductive trees during the current year.

These figures thus justify me in saying that, even were a further ten per cent. deducted for prospective mismanagement and loss, the avenues thus far planted will recoup expenses and return a handsome profit within the next eight or ten years.

29. Statement C. shows the results in "formation of topes."

The percentage of loss in Chendragherri Talook is exceptionally heavy, but even with this the general average for the principal division will be some thirteen per cent.

The proportion of ornamental to reproductive trees is much larger than I should have expected, judging from the operations in the Chittoor Talook, which have been more directly under my personal control. The average cost per tree of both classes has been 13 Annas and 5 Pies. Of the 5,323 trees set down to this

talook 2,504 are casuarinas growing in a tope by the river side at Chittoor. Of these, 2,150 are splendidly grown trees, but I have no means here of estimating their market-value.

30. Statement D. is merely submitted to show, with reference to paragraph 14, that the project of constructing and restoring road-side wells and reservoirs has already been largely carried out in this district.

I leave the statement to speak for itself. As I have already observed I greatly approve of a larger expenditure being made in future in this direction; but I am nevertheless happy that this modification comes as the complement rather than as the starting point in the undertaking. My personal connection with these operations, on whatever principle hereafter to be conducted, will probably soon terminate, and I console myself with the thought that the people of the district have appreciated my efforts, and that no representations that may be made will dissociate my administration in *their* minds from its connection with roads, avenues, and other works of public utility.

ENCLOSURE No. 1 A.

ABSTRACT.—Abstract Statement showing the aggregate receipt under Jungle Conservancy Fund and Expenditure from all the Funds in the District of North Arcot from the commencement of 1860-61 up to the end of 1870-71, prepared with reference to paragraph 4 of the Order of Government, dated 20th April 1871, No. 713, embodied in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st May 1871, No. 1,815.

ENCLOSURE No. 2 B.

ABSTRACT.—Abstract Statement of avenues along road sides through the principal division of North Arcot District.

ENCLOSURE No. 3 C.

ABSTRACT.—Abstract Statement of Topes in the principal division of North Arcot District as they stood up to 31st March 1871.

ENCLOSURE No. 4 D.

ABSTRACT.—List of Wells and old Reservoirs by road side constructed or restored from Special Funds.

ENCLOSURE No. 5 E.—Mr. Stephens's Report.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to their orders quoted by the Collector.

2. The Board are glad to observe that the avenues in the principal division at any rate are in a far better state than Mr. Whiteside's letter led them to suppose. He apparently did not take into account the short period the trees have been planted and the very severe trial to which all vegetation was subjected two or three years ago.

3. The Board are satisfied that the very considerable measure of success that has been attained is entirely due to Mr. Robinson's personal care and attention,

and, however costly the experiment may have been, he is entitled to credit for its practical success.

No. 85. ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1872, No. 44.

Local Funds, No. 1.
Civil Works.

THE Government are glad to think that Mr. Robinson's exertions in regard to planting up his district have been attended with more success than they were formerly led to believe. The report of the Public Works Range Officer in the Wallajah Talook is satisfactory evidence of the state of things within the range of his observation, which may probably be accepted as a fair sample of the whole.

2. From the statements submitted by Mr. Robinson as to the working of the Jungle Conservancy Fund, it appears that the gross receipts from 1860-61 to 1870-71 have been Rs. 1,47,497, from which, deducting Rs. 15,628 for commission and other charges of collection, there remained a net sum of Rs. 1,31,868 available for expenditure as shown below, omitting fractions :—

	Jungle Conservancy Fund.	District Road Fund.	Famine Relief Fund.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Planting Topes	15,184	2,631	4,570	22,386
Nurseries	1,836	.....	30	1,867
Wells	376	4,736	9,794	14,907
Reserves	.....	1,930	1,177	3,107
Avenues including Conservancy and Watchers ..	97,850	42	1,296	99,189
Channel banks	676	.....	707	1,383
Total...	1,15,925	9,340	17,577	1,42,843

The balance in hand of the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund on 31st March 1871 was Rs. 15,943.

3. The length of road in the principal division is 444 miles, of which 356 miles have been planted with 62,139 trees at the average of 175 trees per mile, each tree costing Rs. 1-0-9. The number of stunted trees is estimated at 4 per cent., and of dead trees at 2 per cent. Mr. Stephens in the Wallajah range estimates the stunted trees at 6 per cent., but even the higher percentage is very small, considering the circumstances of the district.

4. Eighteen topes, aggregating 137 acres in extent, have been planted with 18,077 trees at an average cost of Annas 13-5 per tree, and of these 5 per cent. are stunted and 8 per cent. have died. In the topes 17 wells have been sunk.

5. At road side halting stations 39 wells or reservoirs have been constructed or repaired.

6. Of the trees planted 38,605 in avenues and 5,951 in topes are of kinds that will produce revenue, and from a portion of these an annual rent of Rs. 470 is already obtained while large future returns may be anticipated.

7. The remainder of the trees are of the ornamental but shade-giving class.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th January 1872.

8. Between the conflicting opinions given by well qualified authorities respecting the condition of the young avenues in the North Arcot District, the Government find it difficult to adopt a well founded conclusion. They are, however, willing to believe that the impressions received by Mr. Whiteside and Mr. Sheffield were less favourable than the actual aspect of the trees at present in a more favourable season would justify, and they fully recognize the zeal and energy with which Mr. Robinson has long prosecuted an enterprise which he believed to be conducive to the welfare of the people of his district. While acknowledging the use and benefit of avenue trees the Government are constrained to observe that the expenditure for this purpose is out of all proportion to the outlay on reserves and topes, and they consider that Mr. Robinson committed an error in directing his efforts with so much partiality to the less profitable object. The Government are also of opinion that a want of judgment has been shown in admitting so large a number of fancy or merely ornamental trees, some of which can scarcely be considered as first class shade trees, both in avenues and topes where fruit-bearing trees might have been more profitably planted.

9. The Government desire that the avenues planted shall be carefully maintained, and they will approve any reasonable expenditure for that purpose, but they desire that in future the resources of the Jungle Conservancy Fund shall be devoted to purposes of more material utility, and that attention be mainly directed to the improvement and extension of topes and fuel reserves.

10. The Government disapprove the tone adopted by Mr. Robinson in his letter which they do not consider to be warranted by anything that was written on the subject by Mr. Whiteside, whose report, it is observed, was submitted in obedience to orders from Government, communicated to him by the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proc.s of the Madras Government

Under date the Dec.r 1871.

Read the following

Proc.s of the Board of Revenue

Subm.: Letter from Coll.r of N. Arcot forwarding Statements of Jungle Conservancy Fund from 1860-61 & 1870-71, & Statt. of Avenue, &c.

H. E. 5 Oct.r 1871, N.o 4,271

The Gov.r ~~concurs in~~ thinks

~~the proceedings with the Board~~

that Mr. Robinson's exertions in regard to planting up his District have been attended with ~~[illegible]~~ more success than they were formerly led to believe, ~~and they see no reason to~~ ~~doubt that the expenditure~~

We have Msp.s White Lines & Shields & Veins Msp.s Robinson & Stephen. Unless a third hint to be desired to settle the Question, I would not go to for as this Dolt Does. I would give We R. full praise for his zeal & energy - but I would point out. 1. That the

Hard

that has been made will be amply repaid in the future. The report of the Ranger officer in the Walla-jah taluq is very satisfactory evidence of the gratifying state of things within the range of his observation, which probably and may be accepted as a fair sample of the whole.

2. From the statements submitted by Mr. Robinson as to the working of the Jungle Conservancy fund it appears that the gross receipts from 1869/70 to 1870/71 have been Rupees 147.497 from which deducting Rs. 15,628 for

absolute sentence of the Jungle Fund from its proper purpose of conserving the forest-tracts was wrong. 2. That the destruction of ornamental & shade trees has not always been at all necessary for the protection of the forests & that the expenditure of so large a sum on avenues in a District where trees are so much wanted is an error in principle.

The Avenues must of course be kept up and properly filled - but the Jungle Fund should now be restricted to its proper & legitimate purposes - for the future - The various funds of the District should provide for the maintenance of avenues

commission and other charges of collection there remained a net sum of Rs. 131.868 available for expenditure as shewn below, omitting fractions.

	Jungle Conservancy Fund.	District Road Fund	Famine Relief Fund	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
Planting Topes — 15,184.		2,631.	4,570.	22,386.
Nurseries — 1,836.			30.	1,867.
Wells — 376.		4,736.	9,794.	14,907.
Reserves —	-	1,930.	1,177.	3,107.
Avenues including Conservancy and watchers —	97,850.	42.	1,296.	99,189
Channel Banks.	676.	-	707.	1,383
Total.	115,925.	9,340	17,577.	142,843

Did we not make the Forest Debt by the Land Revenue plantations it self? Don't think so. Asst. Accountant. Therefore does not appear in the Forest Debt.

The balance in hand of the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund on 31st March 1871 was Rupees 15,943.

The

3 The length of road in the principal division is 444 miles of which 356 miles have been planted with 62139 trees at the average of 175 trees per mile, each tree costing Rs. 1.0.9. The number of stunted trees is estimated at 4 per cent. and of dead trees at 2 per cent. Mr. Stephens in the Walla-jah range estimates the stunted trees at 6 per cent, but even the higher percentage is very small considering the circumstances of the district.

Eighteen

I agree in the sense of Mr. Sim's observations. I would not go so far in praise of Mr Robinson's operations as the draft does. I would say

Between the conflicting opinions given by well qualified authorities respecting the conduct of the roadside avenues in the North Arcot District the Govt. just & impartial adopt a well founded conclusion. They are known vitiated that the empirical system exercised by Mr Whiteside & Mr Sheffield were less favorable than the actual aspect of the trees at present in a more favorable season would justify and they fully recognize the zeal & energy with which Mr Robinson has long prosecuted an enterprise which to be blessed to continue to the welfare of the people of this District. While acknowledging the one & half acre of avenue trees the Govt. are entertained that the expenditure on this purpose is not small in proportion to the outlay on reservoirs and tanks and they consider that Mr Robinson committed an error in directing his efforts with so much particularity to the less profitable

This I take it, means trees once dead. not the number that died. No one is to be accepted as less than 98 per cent of his planting.

But I presume that the total number of trees existing also represents those standing. Of the number that has been planted

4 Eighteen Taluks aggregating 137 acres in extent have been planted with 18077 trees at an average cost of Annas 13.5 per tree - and of these 5 per cent are stunted and 8 per cent have died - In the Taluks 7 wells have been sunk.

5 At roadside halting stations, 39 wells or reservoirs have been constructed or repaired.

6 Of the trees planted, 38605 in avenues and 5957 in topes are of kinds that will produce revenue and from a portion of these an annual rent of Rs. 4702 is already obtained while

while large future returns may be anticipated.—

7 The remainder of the trees are of the ornamental but shade giving class.—

8 The Govt. cannot but admit that the above represents very valuable results attained mainly thro' the active and unflagging interest manifested in the matter by Mr. Robinson, who is entitled to the acknowledgments of Govt. and to the gratitude of the inhabitants of the district for the great benefit he has conferred on them.—

The

But merely limit the
planting trees — to
ornamental — Many
of the avenues are also orna-
mental & shady:
they did not at first
stick to limit
trees in line

object. The Govt. are also
of opinion that a certain
discretion must be given them in
admitting to Cape a number
of fancy or more ornamental
trees, some of which can scarcely
be considered as first class
shade trees, but in avenues,
and lanes, where just fancy
trees might have been more
profitably planted.

The Govt. desire that the
avenues planted shall be
carefully maintained —
they will sanction every

remove expenditure for that
purpose but they desire that
in future the reserves
for the purpose concerned
shall be debited
with purposes of more
material utility &c &c.

I think that the
letter of Mr Robinson's letter
which noticed
unreasonably sarcastic
expression & he intended.
Upon consideration Mr —
Whitcombe's letter —
see myself in Mr Robinson
can reasonably
complain. It is a plain
statement of his
views confirmed by the
unprofessional opinion of Mr
Sheffield.

My own impression of a
few pieces of avenue I saw
in Hurst are not very
favorable. I thought the
trees ill fenced & ill
taken care of, many of the
old gums the various
sorts of trees injudiciously
mixed in the same line and
too many fancy trees like
the Bonicera Regia.
But I saw some good

9. The Govt. must
and anticipate that
after providing all that
is necessary for the
maintenance of what
has already been done
there will be an ample
fund left for em-
ployment in the ex-
tension of Taper- and
Cycle reserves to which
attention should now
be mainly directed.

J.B.

pieces of avenue and I must
add that my sphere of
exertion was very limited

N

Jungle Conservancy
Board of Revenue
Orders Posted

Special

R. C. 16th Decr 71 R 16th Decr 71
Cond Dempt R 15th Decr 71

Revenue Department

No. 464

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 9th ~~December~~ 1872

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting letter from Collector of N. Arcot forwarding statements of Jungle Conservancy Fund from 1860-61 to 1870-71, and state of Avenues &c.

} N. C. 5th October 1871, No. 4271.

N

Ist

The Government are glad to think that Mr. Robinson's exertions in regard to planting up his District have been attended with more success than they were formerly led to believe. The report of the P. W. range Officer in the Wallajah Taluq

Taluq is satisfactory evidence of the state of things within the range of his observation, which may probably be accepted as a fair sample of the whole.

2. From the Statements submitted by Mr. Robinson as to the working of the Jungle Conservancy Fund, it appears that the gross receipts from 1860-61 to 1870-71 have been Rupees 1,47,497, from which deducting Rs. 15,628 for Commission and other charges of collection, there remained a net sum of Rs. 131,868 available for expenditure as shewn below, omitting fractions.

	Jungle conservancy Funds Rs.	District Road Funds Rs.	Famine Relief Funds Rs.	Total Rs.
Planting Topes	15,184	2,631	4570	22,386.
			30	1867
Nurseries	1,836	"		
Wells	376	4,736	9,794	14,907
Reserves		1,930	1,177	3107
Avenues including conservancy and watchers	97,850	42	1,296	99,189
Channel banks	676	-	707	1,383
Total	115,925	9,340	17,577	142,843

3. The balance in hand of the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund on 31st March 1871 was Rupees 15,943

4. The length of road

road in the principal di-
-vision is 444 miles,
of which 356 miles have
been planted with 62,139
trees at the average of
175 trees per mile each
tree costing Rs. 0/1/-. 9
The number of stunted
trees is estimated at
4 per cent and of dead
trees at 2 per cent.

Mr. Stephens in the
Wallajah range estimates
the stunted trees at 6 percent,
but even the higher percentage
is very small considering
the circumstances of the district.

Eighteen

4. Eighteen Topes aggre-
-gating 137 acres in extent
have been planted with
18077 trees at an average
cost of annas 13.5 per tree,
and of these 5 per cent
are stunted and 8 per cent
have died - In the Topes
17 wells have been sunk.

5. At roadside halting
stations, 39 wells or reservoirs
have been constructed or
repaired

6. Of the trees plant-
-ed, 38605 in avenues
and 5951 in Topes, are
of kinds that will produce
revenue, and form a portion

of

of these an annual rent of Rs. 475 is already obtain-ed while large future returns may be anticipated.

7. The remainder of the trees are of the orna-mental but shade giving class.

8. Between the conflicting opinions given by well qualified authorities res-pecting the condition of the young avenues in the North Arcot District, the Govt. find it difficult to adopt a well founded conclusion. They are however willing to believe that the impressions received by Mr. Whiteside and Mr. Theyfold

Theyfold were less favorable than the actual aspect of the trees at present in a more favorable season would justify, and they fully recog-nize the zeal and energy with which Mr Robinson has long prosecuted an enterprise which he believed to be conducive to the welfare of the people of his District. While acknow-ledging the use and benefit of avenue trees the Govt. are constrained to observe that the expenditure for this purpose is out of all proportion to the outlay on reserves and topes, and they consider that

Mr

Mr. Robinson committed an error pr directing his efforts with so much particularity to the less profitable object. The Govt are also of opinion that a want of judgment has been shown in admitting so large a number of fancy or merely ornamental trees, some of which can scarcely be considered as first class shade trees, both in avenues and topes where fruit-bearing trees might have been more profitably planted.

6. The Govt desire that

that the avenues planted shall be carefully main-tained and they will approve ~~sanction~~ any reasonable expenditure for that purpose, but they desire that in future the resources of the Juncgle Conservancy Fund shall be devoted to purposes of more material utility - and that attention ~~& inspection~~ mainly directed to in-provement & extension of Topes & Fuel reserves.

The Govt disapprove of the time adopted by Mr Robinson in his letter. Mr Turner to consider the question & report

has
that Whitwick written
on the subject. by the
Whitwick Ld.

Now as per it is
obvious was submitted
in obedience to orders
from Govt. Comm.
I shall by the Bd
of Rev:
Ld.

Additional order in Council
19. 12. 71.
Ld

13 - To the Board of Revs - dept 10 Jan
21 - — P.W. Dept —
5 — — Trade Dept —
6 — — Accts Genl —

may/72

15

181 Lyd

Imperial Tolerance

Yard of Scarlet

Ancient Dist

Corduroy

Drab Felt

Soon

Load that W. V.

Lines must be spinning

this day week

Cotton of this 87

1084-85

G.O. 16 July 71 No 173-4
20 April 71. 224-5

No. 3366.

Rev. 1871. Dept

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH OCTOBER 1871, No. 4,271.

Dept 17 Oct 71 Encl. 5

Received. 23

Paper Hand

S.O. No 44 - 9 Jany 1872

OCTOBER.

No. 4,271.

Jungle Conservancy Fund of North Arcot District,—Letter from Collector forwarding, with remarks, Statements showing receipts of, from 1860-61 to 1870-71, and state of avenues, topes, &c, and expenditure incurred on them, submitted to Government.

No 84

R.C. 16th Decr/71 R 16th Decr/71
G 12 Dec 71 R 15th Decr/71