

2

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd April 1872.*

In considering the increase of revenue, it must be remembered that the consumption of firewood and the legitimate sources of supply remain, as far as I know, the same now as in 1868-69.

8. I will only add that it hardly follows that alienations of forest are necessarily made "without any consideration of water-supply and other climatic reasons" wherever the Forest Department has no jurisdiction. Nevertheless under the re-organization of the Forest Department lately proposed,*
* G. O., 24th January 1872, No. 148. I think that the powers of the Inspector-General might with advantage be enlarged, and that no alienations of forest land anywhere should be sanctioned until his opinion has been obtained.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of Captain Murray's letter.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to their order of 20th February 1872, No. 319.

2. Major Beddome appears to have misunderstood what was said to him by Captain Murray as to the extent of the clearing on Mr. Herklots' land. His apprehensions as to the inevitable destruction of the Coonoor Ghaut Forest are, the Board are glad to observe, premature.

No. 227. ORDER THEREON, 22nd April 1872, No. 650.

Forests, No. 7.

THE Government observe that Mr. Breeks should have made a special reference to them before making over

this land to Mr. Herklots, as such positive orders against further grants on the ghaut had been issued. It does not appear that the land actually adjoins Mr. Herklots' original holding.

2. The Government desire that the Commissioner will ascertain and report for what sum they can recover possession of the 41 acres block, of which it appears that some 25 acres have been felled, and that, pending further orders, he will endeavour to stop all further clearing on it.

3. He will also ascertain and report whether there is any more land on either side of the ghaut which has been granted or sold but is not yet cleared, in order that, if possible, steps may be taken to prevent further devastation to the forest.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.
„ the Conservator of Forests.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

2^d Q. 19 July/65 - N 78-79. Put
 6-30 July/68 No 525/26
 24 Jan'y/72 - 290-291
 26 Feb'y/72 - 278/39

Revenue 1872. Opth
 Board of Revenue,
 MADRAS.

No. 1232.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH APRIL 1872, No. 531.

Def 494/172

Encl.

Received 10^o.

APRIL.

No. 531.

Forest—on south side of Coonoor Ravine.—
 Explanation of Commissioner of Nilgiris with
 reference to a complaint made by Conservator
 of Forests regarding extensive felling of timber
 in—, submitted to Government.

No 226

S.O. No 650-22 April

C. 12 April/72 P. 18: April 172

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1232

From

Board of Revenue
 Dated 5th April 1872.

FOR ORDERS.

As Mr. Mr. Klat is in
 possession we cannot expect
 him. But I do not think
 we shall be able to
 give this land without
 a reference to the
 point of the any land
 on the British side but

been specially interdicted -
but only promised him
\$100 acres adjoining his
Estate - and if there
were not 100 acres in
that locality, a reference
should have been made
to the

S. S.

It is very much to be regretted that Mr.
Brake gave the 40 acres to Mr. Heckley.
It would have been much better to have
paid him compensation if no other land
could be found on him.

The firing which the Conservation of Forests
Department has probably commenced, (since
what K. H. Mr. S. observed on his journey
down) & further depredation will probably
follow. It would be almost worth buying
back the land & compensating Mr. Heckley
in money. RM

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 22nd April 1872.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Subj. to Gov. explanation of Comr. of Madras with reference to a complaint made by Comr. of Madras regarding extensive felling of timber in forest on South side of Coonoor Ravine.

M.C. 5th April 1872 No. 531.

The Government observe that Mr. Bruce should have made a special reference to them before making over this land to Mr. Harklote, as such positive orders, against further grants on the spot, had been issued. It does not appear that the land actually adjoins Mr. Harklote's original holding -

The Govt.

desire

FOR ORDERS.

I would instruct Mr. Bruce to ascertain for what area he can get back the 40 acres of which as I understood 15 acres are still on South side of Coonoor Ravine. Mr. Bruce should ascertain whether there is any more land on either side of the stream which has been given away or what has not yet been felled in order that if possible no more private further alienation. Mr. Bruce should have reported to Govt. before making over to Mr. Harklote any land on the side of the ravine opposite the stream.

A. J. P.

C. 13 April 1872 R. 18; April

more that the Commis-
sioner will ascertain
and report for what sum
they can recover possession
of the 41 acres block, of
which it appears that
some 25 acres have been
felled, and that, pending
further orders, he will
endeavour to stop all
further clearing on it.

3. He will also
ascertain and report
whether there is any more
land on either side of the
Grant which has been
granted or sold but is
not yet ^{cleared} felled, in order
that, if possible, steps
may be taken to
prevent further
devastation of the
forest.

Lib from Mr

16. Board of Rev Dec 23 April

3. Commr of Virginia

13. Cons of Trustees

Ed M

No. 226. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th April 1872, No. 531:—

Read the following letter from J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 2nd March 1872, No. 28:—

As directed in Government Order, Revenue Department, 20th February 1872, No. 319, I reply to the Forest Conservator's letter of the 30th January 1872, No. 870.

2. It was sometime in 1869 when Mr. Herklots first brought to my notice Government Order, Public Department, of the 19th July 1865, No. 769, and complained that he had never been put in possession of all the land thereby granted by way of compensation for a loss which he estimated at several thousands of Rupees; that he did not think he had got more than half of what he was entitled to, and that he required a survey and his full complement.

At that time, as the Board will remember, the Survey Department was greatly in arrears with the waste land purchase surveys, so after a personal inspection of Mr. Herklots' compensation block, thinking he had got all, or nearly all he was entitled to, I put him off with the promise of a survey when the more pressing arrears had been disposed of.

3. In 1870 Mr. Herklots from time to time (whenever in fact he saw me) renewed his complaint. He estimated that he was short 30 or 40 acres. I told him to look about for a suitable block of that extent when I would go over and inspect it and order a survey. It was soon after this that he informed me that there was no more forest land fit for coffee adjacent to his estate except on the opposite side of the ravine.

Disliking the idea of cutting into the forest on the southern side of the river, I again went over the ground with Captain Sargeant and tried to persuade Mr. Herklots to take forest land in some other quarter, or be content with scrub land adjoining his estate on the ghaut or northern side of the river. Mr. Herklots strongly objected and reiterated his complaints (with justice I felt) that for one reason or another he had been put off for several years; that he originally demanded 15,000 Rupees as compensation; that he was fairly entitled to 100 acres of good forest land adjoining his estate, and that if I could find him land on the north side of the river answering this description in the judgment of any experienced coffee planter, he did not care to go across the river.

4. After this I directed the Survey Officer to make a preliminary survey of Mr. Herklots' property and estimate the balance of land due to him which was found to be about 40 acres; and finally, after further inspection by Captain Sargeant, and myself not being able to find a 40-acre block adjacent to Mr. Herklots' estate in any other direction, I was compelled to give it him across the river.

The block has since been permanently demarcated and surveyed, and is found to be 41.37 acres.

The above is the history of the case and Mr. Herklots was put in possession last year.

18.22.6-229
L.P.
Timber falling on
south side of river
now Ravine

Das

5. In January this year I received a private note, dated 9th January, from Major Beddome, bringing to notice that felling was taking place on the south side of the Coonoor ravine.

I was in camp when I got his letter and replied that I regretted the felling as much as any one, but I believed that it was on some 30 or 40 acres (speaking from memory) which had been long ago granted to Mr. Herklots.

At the same time I directed Captain Murray to go and see where the felling was taking place. He reported that it was on Mr. Herklots' land.

After hearing from me that the area was some 30 or 40 acres, Major Beddome says "I have since heard from Captain Murray that it is of much greater extent." I forward Captain Murray's letter to that point.

Major Beddome, I think, would have done well, if after his interview with Captain Murray he had communicated with me again on the subject of the area.

6. Major Beddome in his letter also says "a few years ago it was also strictly ordered by Government that no more forest whatever was to be given up on the ghaut side of this same ravine. This latter order it has probably been found impossible to act up to, at any rate what with two Ghauts, an Electric Telegraph and numerous plantations, every bit of forest on this side is fast disappearing."

I suppose Major Beddome alludes to the Government Order, Revenue Department, of the 30th January 1868, No. 259, prohibiting any further grant of forest land on either side of the Coonoor Ghaut, but what the rest of the sentence means I do not know. I have found no difficulty in acting up to the order. The two ghaut roads were traced and the land taken up for them long before the order was issued and no forest land has been granted by me since. A telegraph line has lately been erected certainly, but I cannot conceive that a great amount of forest has disappeared in consequence.

7. Illicit felling still goes on there as elsewhere no doubt, but I think it is a fair inference from the following returns that it has been considerably checked since the Nilgiri forests were transferred on the 1st of April 1869 from the Forest to the Revenue Department:—

—	Number of persons convicted by the Magistrates in cases in which the Forest Department prosecuted.		Gross receipts from the Nilgiri Forests.		
	Cases.	Persons.	RS. A. P.		
1867-68	2	20	4,002	9	0
1868-69	4	5	2,774	4	6
1869-70	12	36	6,926	11	1
1870-71	18	70	11,997	11	4