No. 87. Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Palghaut, 27th May 1872, No. 28:—

With reference to G. O. dated 1st February 1872, No. 204, directing Major Beddome to endeavour, through the Collector of Malabar, to trace certain defaulting sawyers who absconded after receiving an advance, and bring them to punishment, I have the honour to inform you that I learn, by a letter from Colonel Morgan, that the breach of contract occurred in 1863. I can hardly think that it is the intention of Government that the summary provisions of the Breach of Contract Act should be called into requisition after a delay of nine years.

2. No documents referring to the original complaint can be traced, the rules being to destroy all criminal records, except calendars, after three years.

3. I observe that Government had not before them any information as to the period which had elapsed, and I therefore beg that, with reference to the date now supplied, the orders may be re-considered.

No. 88. Order thereon, 8th June 1872, No. 900.

Forests, No. 6.

Under the circumstances stated by Mr. Macgregor, the Government do not desire any further action to be taken.

2. Colonel Morgan is to blame for not bringing the matter forward at any earlier date.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Malabar.
,, the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Malabar Collectors office
on Circuit
Palghaut 27th. May 1872.

No 248

From

C. A. Macgregor Esqre
Collector of Malabar.

To

The Honble. W. Broadfoot
Offg. Chief Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to G. Os dated 1st. February 1872 No 204, directing Major Beddome to endeavour through the Collector of Malabar to trace certain defaulting Sawyers who absconded after receiving an advance, and bring them to punishment, I have the honor to inform you that I learn by a letter from Colonel Morgan that the breach of contract occurred in 1863. I can hardly think that it is the intention of Government that the necessary provisions of the Breach of Contract Act should be called into requisition after a delay of nine years.

2. No documents referring to the original complaint can be traced, the rules being to destroy all papers

Records, except Calendars, after three years.

3. Whereas Her Majesty's Government had not before them any information as to the services rendered, and Whereas they state that with reference to the date when qualified, the orders may be reconsidered.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

[illegible]

Secretary

The Permanent Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.