Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th June 1872.

No. 282. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th June 1872, No. 1,036 :—

Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 12th June 1872, No. 1,301 :—

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Proceedings of the Board, No. 832 of the 27th May last, I have the honour to inform you that I did not communicate with the Board on the subject of Mr. MacGregor's letter, as I had arranged for visiting Nellumbur towards the end of May, and I wished to see the land in question and also Mr. Ferguson and the Collector before I give an opinion on the subject. Severe attacks of jungle fever compelled me to postpone my visit, and now I am ordered off to sea for three months.

2. I have paid great attention of late to the growth of the Teak in our Conolly plantations, and also to the growth of the same tree in all Teak tracts in the plains on the west side of the chain of ghats from Canara down to Cape Comorin, and a comparison between the Teak of the plains and that of our mountains is very much in favour of the latter, both as to quality and size of growth. The best Teak that I have seen in the plains is in Travancore, but there even the Teak grown at no elevation rarely reaches 9 feet in girth, and seldom more than 7 feet and the timber is said to be so inferior to that of [illegible] Teak, that it [illegible] quite a different name in the market. The mountain Teak reaches a girth of 16, 18 and even 22 feet. These facts should lead us to consider whether it would not be more advantageous to extend our mountain plantations where we can get land for nothing, than to pay a high price for land in the plains.

3. I have not of late taken such a sanguine view of the value of the Conolly plantations, as most persons visiting them have done; considerable portions will be failures, and at my last visit I saw signs of premature decay in some of the older trees which I had hoped were not more than two-thirds towards maturity. I trust that this latter was owing to exceptional causes, and that it may be confined to a few trees, but it made me anxious, and I looked forward with great interest to my proposed visit this year; in any case I feel pretty sure that the yield per acre, taking it all round will be much less than it has generally been estimated at, and when we come to calculate the cost for the very long period that is required for the maturity of the timber and the compound interest upon the charges and superintendence over a period of fifty, sixty or even eighty years, as the case may be, I am afraid that there will be little left as profit.

4. Our tenure up to date is only a seignorage of 1 rupee on each tree cut at maturity, or when felled as timber (we have paid nothing for the land) I believe, and trust that the plantations will really pay all expenses on these terms, but the subject should be seriously considered before a large sum is paid at the outset for land, as if we look at it in the light of a speculation, the compound interest on the sum for a period of fifty or sixty years must be added to our present charges. I should much like to see the land alluded to secured on our present terms, but before it is decided to purchase it, a careful calculation should, I think, be made of what the charges actually will be for a period of fifty or sixty years (the price of labour

has risen considerably of late years) including superintendence and interest on the money, etc., the quality of the oldest grown Teak should be examined and reported upon, and it should be ascertained whether there are not other equally promising tracts in Malabar or South Canara which may be had on more favourable terms or which may be even Government property.

5. My experience of late in plantations impresses upon me more and more the importance of the careful conservancy and up-keep of existing indigenous forests; whilst we are paying large sums for plantations, fine tracts of existing forests are being ruined, saplings beyond calculation are chopped down by cowherds or burnt up or ruined by fire or overrun by cattle, all of which might be obviated by a few strict (but not oppressive) rules and a slightly increased outlay on conservancy, etc.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to Government Order, dated 8th June 1872, No. 903.

2. The Conservator of Forests doubts the expediency of the purchase of land for the extension of the teak plantations. The inquiries he proposes will occupy so much time that if their result is awaited the opportunity for the purchase which has been sanctioned by Government will have passed away.

No. 28a. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1872, No. 996.

Forests, No. 17.

THE Government have already applied to the Supreme Government on the subject of the proposed purchase, and see no reason to modify their application, but the Collector of Malabar has been directed not to commit the Government to the purchase. In the absence of Major Beddome Colonel Morgan will at once proceed to examine the site.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Conservator of Forests.

Office of Conservator of Forests.
Cotacamund 12th June 1872.

No. 1301

From

Major R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests.

To

J. Grose Esqre
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to para 7 of the Proceedings of the Board No. 832 of the 2nd May last, I have the honor to inform you that I did not communicate with the Board on the subject of Mr. Mac Gregor's letter as I had arranged for visiting Nellambur towards the end of May and I wished to see the land in question and also Mr. Ferguson and the Collector before I gave an opinion on the subject.

Severe attacks of jungle fever compelled me to postpone my visit and now I am ordered off to Sea for 3 months.-

2.- I have paid great attention of late to the growth of the Teak in our Conolly plantations and also to the growth of the same tree in all Teak tracts in the plains on the West side of the chain of ghats from Canara down to Cape Comorin, and a comparison between the Teak of the plains and that of our mountains is very much in favor of the latter both as to quality and size of growth. The best Teak that I have seen in the plains is in Travancore but there even the Teak grown at no elevation rarely reaches 9 feet in girth and seldom more than 7 feet and the timber is said to be so inferior to that of mountain Teak that it goes by quite a different name in the market. The mountain Teak reaches a girth of 16-18 and even 22 feet. These facts should lead us to consider whether it would not be more advantageous to extend our mountain plantations - where we can get land for nothing than to pay a high price for land in the plains.-

3.- I have not of late taken such a sanguine view of the value of the Conolly plantations as most persons visiting them have done, considerable portions will be failures, and at my last visit I saw signs of premature decay

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I had hoped were not more than 2/3rs
towards maturity, I trust that this
latter was owing to exceptional causes
and that it may be confined to a
few trees but it made me anxious
and I looked forward with great
interest to my proposed visit this
year, in any case I feel pretty sure
that the yield per acre taking all
round will be much less than it
has generally been estimated at, and
when we come to calculate the cost
for the very long period that is re-
quired for the maturity of the timber
and the compound interest upon the
charges and superintendence over
a period of 40-60 or even 80 years
as

as the case may be, I am afraid
that there will be little left as profit
4.— Our tenure up to date is only
a seigniorage of 1 Rupee on each tree
cut at maturity or when felled as
timber (we have paid nothing for the
land) I believe and trust that the
plantations will really pay all ex-
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rules and a slightly increased
outlay on Conservancy &c.-

Shave &c. &c. &c.

Signed R. H. Beddome Maj.
Conservator of Forests.-

A true Copy/

R. H. Beddome Major
Conservator of Forests.-

Original

Govt. of 1872 Madra

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

&c., &c., &c.

30-10-15
4-6-15

JUNE

Nos. 252-320.

Ordered, That Proposition 2 submitted with Board's proceedings of the 4th instant be forwarded to Government for their sanction.

Rc 2118

Rev. 1872. Sept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 18TH JUNE 1872, No. 1,036.

Despd 21 June 72

Encl.

Received 24th June 1872

JUNE.

No. 1,036.

Conolly Teak plantations—in Malabar District.—Letter from Conservator of Forests reporting his views with reference to proposed purchase of certain land from Eddawana Rajah, for extension of —, submitted to Government.

Read Order.

No 926 of 28th June 1872.

Encl. G. A. Turton.

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