Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th October 1873.

No. 140. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1873, No. 1,619, Forest No. 43 :—

Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Tinnevelly, 12th July 1873, No. 1,835 :—

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have lately visited the Coimbatore Range.

2. I met the Collector at Coimbatore and discussed the operations and working plans for the year with him and Mr. Douglas the Deputy Conservator.

3. I visited the Annamallay Teak forests with the Deputy Conservator, and spent some days in going over the Forests, examining depôts, last year's operations, etc., and I furnished the Collector with a Memorandum of all subjects requiring attention.

4. Much credit is due to Mr. Douglas for the manner in which he has cleared these forests of the very large stock of outlying timber, it has now nearly all been conveyed to the different depôts, at the head of the timber slip, at the foot of the slip, and at Annamallay, there is very little now outlying in the forests.

5. The Bombay Marine have lately intimated that they will not require further supplies of Teak from this forest, as they can procure all that they require from the North Canara Forests, the loss of this market will be most serious to this forest which has been worked almost exclusively for the Bombay Dockyard and the Bombay Marine, since operations were first commenced, upwards of twenty years ago. There is a very large demand for Teak in Bombay, and the ruling prices for Malabar Teak are very high. I would strongly recommend that Mr. Douglas should visit that city next January or February, with a view to ascertaining full particulars as to the market and its requirements.

6. The Board of Revenue have struck out a considerable sum from the expenditure for working operations in this forest for the present season ; beyond some rosewood, actually indented for by the Madras Gun Carriage Department, no felling is contemplated, and the charges are for conveying the timber to a market without which it cannot be sold ; the reduced expenditure therefore cannot be viewed as economy, so I have requested the Board to apply for a supplemental grant.

7. The Collector has reserved a considerable tract of jungle (on the plains and lower slopes of the hills) lying to the west of our timber slip, and between that and the Village of Chamnampaddy, as a Fuel Reserve for village purposes ; this has quite my approval.

8. The Deputy Conservator had lately collected some odds and ends of timber at Coimbatore for auction, but getting an offer of 2,000 Rupees from the jail authorities for the whole lot, he at once sold them : the Collector cancelled this sale as the Jail Superintendent was not able to pay for the timber at the time of delivery, but promised to do so, as he worked it up ; the result was that a Government Department had to procure its timber elsewhere, and our timber remained unsold. We have always had a rule that all timber should be paid for before delivery, but this only applied to the public and merchants, etc., and not to

Government Departments; every inducement should be given to all Government Departments to indent on the Forest Department for their timber requirements.

9. The Head Overseer of the Annamallays, a Mr. Taylor (an European), has suffered much from fever, and a change to another range was, I believe, absolutely necessary for him; the Collector, however, without any reference to Colonel Morgan, Mr. Douglas, or myself, effected a change between Mr. Taylor and a Native Overseer at Collegal. Colonel Morgan in charge of Collegal represents that his Native Overseer there is required almost entirely for Sandal-wood planting, operations requiring considerable experience and much tact, and which have taken the man some years to acquire, and that Mr. Taylor will be almost useless to him. Mr. Douglas states that this Native who cannot write English will be of little or no use to him. The Annamallay range more than any other forest requires a responsible trustworthy European Overseer, and it has always been supposed to have one hitherto; if Collectors can make changes of this nature without any reference to the Inspector or the Range Officers, a very unsatisfactory state of things must be the result. I have addressed the Collector on the subject, and he has now asked me to try and effect another exchange for Mr. Taylor, but I have not now the means of knowing the acquirements, behaviour, etc., of the different Overseers, nor do I even know what Overseers we have. I would here again observe that I do not think our Range Officers can be expected to do justice to their plantations and reserves, or to carry out conservancy operations generally, in an efficient way, unless they have trained subordinates.

10. The Madumallay Teak Forests in the northern side of the Nilgiris is at present under this Collector; he can have no jurisdiction in it, as it is in Malabar; and he can scarcely be expected to visit it, as long as the Forest remains under Colonel Morgan; it does not much matter, but if it came into the hands of an inexperienced Forest Officer it might be of serious importance; the Collector of Malabar does not wish to take over this forest; but I think that it would be better that it should be placed under him or the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, as they might, either of them, occasionally visit it; the forest is certainly rather distant from the Malabar Collector's beat, but it is a continuation of the Wynad Teak belt, and a great portion of Colonel Morgan's operations are actually within this belt.

11. Mr. Ross has taken charge of the Mettapolliam, Bolampatty and Sholaykarray forests and a portion of Walyar as far as the Malabar boundary (not clearly known) but the rest of Walyar and Chenat Nair which are both within Malabar, still remain under Mr. Douglas; these latter had much better be added to Mr. Ross' range as they are a continuation of his present tract and along the same range of hills, and very remote from the Annamallays and Mr. Douglas' work.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The class of material supplied by the Annamallay Forest establishment is the Board believe too fine and too dear for the ordinary market, and if it is not taken by the dockyards in England and at Bombay, it will become a serious question whether the cost of working the forest in the present manner should be incurred. The Board recommend that Major Beddome and Mr. Douglas should visit Bombay together and ascertain whether a market for the Annamallay timber can be re-established there in any way. With regard to the Home dockyards, the Board await a communication from the Inspector of Forests in answer to G. O., 16th July 1873, No. 733.

3. The retrenchment in the Annamallay budget has been rectified in Board's Proceedings, dated 14th July 1873, No. 1,280. The budgets of the several districts will be further revised when the replies to Official Memorandum Forest No. 151-1,069 have been received.

4 The Collector will report the reason of his interference with the supply of timber to the Coimbatore Jail. It seems to have been injudicious.

5. With regard to paragraph 10 the Board are entirely in accordance with the Inspector. They consider the arguments used in the Memorandum recorded with G. O., 15th March 1873, No. 322, unanswerable, and every day seems to them to make it more certain that the system described in the order under which men are to be clerks one day and Forest officers the next and *vice versa*, and there is no way of promoting a good Range Officer in one district to a better paid range in another, will not work. The Board have already addressed Government on the subject in Board's Proceedings, 29th April 1873, No. 670, and they now resolve to submit Petition No. 1,307 of 1873, which seems to them to confirm their view.

6. The Madumallay Forests have been placed under the Commissioner of the Nilgiris and Colonel Morgan in G. O., 2nd July 1873, No. 678, R. D.

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 15th October 1873, No. 1,118.

Forests, No. 6.

THE Governor in Council has already sanctioned* the proposed visit of the Inspector of Forests to Bombay, and is now pleased to permit Mr. Douglas to join him there for the purpose of making inquiries regarding a market for Annamallay timber if the Collector of Coimbatore can spare his services.

* G. O., dated 10th October 1873, No. 1,087.

2. The explanation of the Collector of Coimbatore as to his interference with the supply of timber for the Coimbatore Jail should be submitted for the information of Government.

3. The Board of Revenue do not notice the Inspector's suggestion that those portions of Walyar, which are within Malabar and the Chenat Nair forests, should be included in the Mettapolliem and Bolumputty Range; but it is observed that orders have been already passed in regard to these forests in G. O., under date 15th March 1873, No. 328, and the Collector of Malabar should be called upon to report what steps he has taken for their conservation.

4. The Board's Proceedings, under date 29th April 1873, No. 670, which are now under the consideration of Government, have already raised the question

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th October 1873.

referred to in paragraph 9 of the Inspector's letter, and paragraph 5 of the Board's Proceedings, and the petition, No. 1,397 of 1873, will accordingly be returned to the Board for disposal.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Inspector of Forests.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.

Revenue Dept.

No. 1118

Pros. of the Madras Government.

Under date the 15th October 1873.

Read the following

Pro. of the Bd. of Revenue

Submitting to Govt. with remarks report of Inspector of Forests on his visit to Annamallay Teak forests.

R.t. 21 Augt. 1873, No. 1,619.

The Governor in Council has already sanctioned the proposed visit of the Inspector of Forests to Bombay, and is now pleased to permit Mr. Douglas to join him there for the purpose of making enquiries regarding a market for Annamallay timber.

2. The explanation of the Collector of Coimbatore regarding

regarding his injudicious
interference with the supply
of timber for the Coimbatore
Jail should be submitted
for the information of Govt.

3. The Board of
Revenue do not notice the
Inspector's suggestion that
those portions of Waliyar
which are within Malabar
and the Chenat Nair Forests
should be included in the
Mettapollium & Bolampatty
Range, but it is observed
that orders have been al-
ready passed in regard
to these Forests in G.O.
under date 15th March 1873
No. 328, and the Collector of
Malabar should be called
upon to report what steps
he has taken for their
conservation

4. The Board's Proc.
under date 29th Apl. 1873.
No. 670 which are now under
the consideration of Govt.
have already raised the
question referred to in
para 9 of the Inspector's letter
and para 5 of the Board's
Proc., and the Petn. No. 1394
of 1873 will accordingly be
returned to the Board for
disposal.

Despd in M.S. to the
Bd. of Revenue. Insp. of Forests.
& Coll. of Coimbatore
15th
PC disp 23 to 73.

9-0

Refused until after the Rs of Trust to Bombay

29/11/1873

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 15th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 15th October 1873, No. 1,118.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 140-141.

Market for Annamallay Timber in Bombay—Permitting Mr. Douglas to join the Inspector o Forests at Bombay for the purpose of makin inquiries regarding a — if the Collector of Coim batore can spare his services, and requesting th submission of the Collector's explanation wit reference to his interference with the supply o timber for the Coimbatore Jail.

Vide No 3619 of 1873 from Bd of Rev Dy 15 Octo-

Vide No 4107 of 1874 from the Bd of Rev Dy 30 Nov 174.

Vide No 6[illegible] of 1873 dt 13 Oct