1145

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd October 1873.

No. 192. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th September 1873, No. 1,921, Forest No. 54 :—

Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 14th August 1873, No. 1,881 :—

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have just completed a tour in the Madura and Tinnevelly Districts.

2. In the Madura District I met the Deputy Conservator at Pulney, and we visited together the forests at the western side of the Pulney Hills which I had not been over for some years, after which I inspected the plantations at Kodinkarnal and subsequently met the Collector of the district at Madura and laid before him a plan of working operations for the year, which was approved of.

3. Owing to there being nine Zemindars holding or claiming large tracts of hill forests which dovetail in and out of the Government tracts, and which are worked indiscriminately without any conservancy and the timber sold at much below its value, we have little or no demand for timber from our tracts, and our operations and revenue are small. The settlement of the boundaries and the demarcation of these Zemindari tracts is a matter of great moment now that the railway is entering the district. The railway will be opened in two years or thereabouts, and the run upon many of these forests will be very great, and they will at once increase fourfold in value and unless Government interfere there will be

districts, and Overseers in future and unless Government interfere there will be Conservators, which able men have done hitherto.

8. From Palamcottah I proceeded with the Deputy Conservator to explore the Singamputty Forests, a large tract on the ghaut chain between Courtallum and Cape Comorin. These forests are now under the Court of Wards and worked by our department for the minor; but, as they have hitherto belonged to a Zemindar, I had not previously explored them. We spent some days up in these hill forests, and I furnished* the Collector with a report on them. The chief importance of these hill tracts is that they protect the water-supply of a very large portion of the plains of this district, and many lakhs of revenue and the welfare of the district may be said to depend upon their proper conservancy. They should be acquired by Government at any cost. The Collector, I may add, does not acknowledge the Zemindar's right to all these hills. Something between 100 and 200 square miles are claimed, whereas no usufruct has ever been exercised except in a limited area near the estate in the plains, which, I believe, only measures some eight or ten square miles; the rest might well be treated by Government as neuter ground.

* *Vide* paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, recorded in G. O., No. 685, of 4th July 1873.

No. 1,882.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue.

OOTACAMUND, 14th August 1873.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Major,
Inspector of Forests.

To the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

attention is given to fencing in these tracts I feel certain the yield of fuel will make them most profitable. The Collector is, I am afraid, rather opposed to fencing as being expensive, and he considers that it is sufficient to entertain kavalgars as watchers, paying them on the result system. This, I fear, will not answer. We found some of the tracts overrun with cattle even where our visit was expected, and there was every sign of much damage from this cause. Some of these tracts are under Local Conservancy; but all are under the same Forest Overseer and all paid at present from Imperial Funds. This should, I think, be altered, and the tracts which are reserved for local purposes should be under a native maistry and paid from Local Funds. The Forest Overseer's time can be most fully occupied in the imperial or railway plantations and reserves, as their extension is most important now that the railway will shortly be opened. I believe that we shall in time be able to meet all the railway fuel requirements from these reserves and plantations, and they should receive an ample budget grant each year.

7. Both the Forest Overseers came up to complain to me that their prospects were blighted by the new arrangement that placed them entirely under the Collector, and they asked permission to sign a memorial on the subject. I referred them to the Collector. Under the new system a newly-appointed man in one district may jump at once into a salary of 100 Rupees a month on a death occurring, whilst in another district an Overseer may never have a chance of rising above 60 Rupees a month there being no higher appointments in some of the [illegible] great probability of serious mischief accruing to the water-supply and climate of the district. I talked the matter over with the Collector and also with the Sub-Collector of Dindigul, in whose division some of the chief forests are situate, and they both agreed with me that it was likely to become a very serious question and that Government should do everything to secure the forests whilst their value is comparatively small and before the destruction certain in the face of railways commences. The latter officer was very strong on the subject, and stated that he believed most of the forests could be secured at once on a comparatively small diminution in the peishcush. I trust that Government will consider the great importance of the question in both this district and in Tinnevelly, and that, if necessary, an Act may be passed to empower the taking over of all these hill forests, on the preservation of which so much depends.

	RS.	A.	P.
Saptur	8,813	7	4
Kanavady	38,139	14	2
Ammanaikenoor	13,969	8	6
Bodenaikenoor	15,347	2	0
Tarvaram	1,100	14	3
Yarasakanaikenoor	2,061	15	8
Gantamanaikenoor	13,414	13	3
Ayagoody	16,785	2	3
Rettayambady	11,978	11	2

4. I annex in the margin the names of the Zemindaries to which hill forest is attached in the Madura District and the peischcush paid by each.

5. In Tinnevelly I met the Collector of the district at Palamcottah, and we discussed the operations contemplated for the year, etc.

6. I then proceeded with the Deputy Conservator to inspect some of the river-channel bank and tank-bed—plantations and reserves. These are almost entirely of the babul and umbrella thorn trees (*Acacia Arabica* and *Acacia planifrons*), and the growth is certainly wonderful and most promising. If due

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd October 1873.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. As regards the Madura Forests and their acquisition there has already been protracted discussion. The Board are now awaiting proposals on the subject. (Board's Proceedings, dated 20th August 1873, No. 1,614).

3. Major Beddome's report as to the plantations and reserves in Tinnevelly is satisfactory.

4. The Board have already submitted to Government their opinion regarding the status of the subordinate officers of the Forest Department.

Proceedings, No. 1,619, dated 21st August 1873.

No. 193. ORDER THEREON, 22nd October 1873, No. 1,145.

Forests, No. 8.

THE report on Mr. Deputy-Conservator Williams's inquiry into the value of the Zemindari forests of Madura must be submitted before any orders can be passed as to their acquisition;* but final orders have already been issued regarding the similar forests in Tinnevelly.† The Inspector's suggestion that the *jungle* reserves of the latter district should be managed by the local department, which has not been noticed by the Board, should be carried out.

* G. O., 12th September 1873, No. 975.

† G. O., 4th July 1873, No. 685.

The question referred to in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings is under the consideration of Government.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

G 04 July/73 N° 29-80

Revenue 1873 Dept
3046

1873.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH SEPTEMBER 1873, No. 1,921.

Dup. 26 Sept. 73.
Encl.

Received 29 Sept 73

SEPTEMBER.

Forest No. 54.

Forests of Madura and Tinnevelly.—Report of Inspector of Forests on results of his tour of inspection to —, submitted to Government with remarks.

With Order
No 1145 - 22 Oct/73 -

14 To the Bd of Rev
2 - do Mr of Forests } Dec 29 Oct/73 -

c. 12 Oct 73 N 22 Oct

To the Board of Revenue
Madras

No 1145 dated 22 Oct 73

Sir

Re report on Mr Deputy Conservator Williamson's
inspecting visit to the Travancore Forests &
Madura Forest Range, that before any action
can be known on Mr Meer Assan Ullah's proposal
to allow him privately to convert certain Teak
O.S. 4484 Sanctioned grants in Tinnevelly. * Re Inspectors
P.23 No 685. suggestion that the Tinnevelly Range of the Tuticorin District
be managed by the present Asst. who has not been
noticed by the Bd, should be communicated.
2. Re question referred to in para 4 of the Bd's Pro 2nd inst The