Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st March 1873.

No. 1. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1871, No. 3,585.

Read the following Replies of Collectors to the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th July 1870, No. 4,961 :—

Letter from	Acting Collector of	Ganjam,	dated	3rd Dec.	1870,	No. 1,551.
,,	Officiating ,,	Vizagapatam,	,,	24th Aug.	,,	,, 653.
,,	,,	Godavery District,	,,	20th Oct.	,,	,, 334.
,,	,, ,,	Kistna District,	,,	16th Aug.	,,	,, 3,767.
,,	,, ,,	Nellore,	,,	27th ,,	,,	,, 2,227.
,,	,,	Cuddapah,	,,	15th May	1871,	,, 96.
,,	Acting ,,	Bellary,	,,	3rd Aug.	1870,	,, 274.
,,	,,	Kurnool,	,,	2nd Nov.	,,	,, 378.
,,	,, ,,	Chingleput,	,,	29th ,,	,,	,, 401.
,,	,,	Salem,	,,	24th ,,	,,	,, 247.
,,	,, ,,	North Arcot,	,,	30th Jan.	1871,	,, 57.
,,	,,	South Arcot,	,,	2nd Sept.	1870,	,, 224.
,,	,,	Tanjore,	,,	2nd Aug.	,,	,, 253.
,,	,, ,,	Trichinopoly,	,,	29th Oct.	,,	,, 239.
,,	,, ,,	Madura,	,,	3rd ,,	,,	,, 289.
,,	,, ,,	Tinnevelly,	,,	30th Sept.	,,	,, 498.
,,	,, ,,	Coimbatore,	,,	7th ,,	,,	,, 214.
,,	,, ,,	South Canara,	,,	13th Dec.	,,	,, 1,588
,,	,,	Malabar,	,,	3rd Feb.	1871,	,, 29.
,,	Commissioner, Nilgiris,		,,	16th Aug.	1870,	,, 116.

THESE reports on the proposal of the Conservator of Forests to create a monopoly of forest-produce under the Forest Department will be submitted to Government with reference to G. O., 23rd June 1870, No. 934.

2. The Conservator seems to think that Government have an absolute right to forest-produce, but this theory was never held before the formation of the Forest Department.

3. In 1847 the State right was thus defined by the Government of India,

From the Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, 6th November 1847, No. 1,042.

"The products of unreclaimed and unappropriated plains and forests are as fairly subject to a Government tax or contribution to the State funds as the cultivated fields on which the capital and labour of the subject are expended, and, however trifling the income derived from such sources may be, the President in Council would not be disposed to renounce the right of Government to a portion of the profits derived from their natural productions if its enforcement can be prevented from being oppressive and, therefore, injurious to the general prosperity. For instance, grass lands, the exclusive property of the State, may legitimately yield a revenue for the benefit of grazing them, and the forests which produce timber, wax, honey, etc., being the property of the State, the State may be fairly entitled to a rent for the liberty to collect their produce."

4. It is evident from this extract that the Government of India did not consider forest-produce the property of Government any more than crops on Government land, even when the forests were State property.

5. It was with reference to this letter that the Government of India after some hesitation sanctioned the abolition of several "Hill Farms" in 1854. The Government of Madras stated the case thus, "The localities, however, in which the taxes on jungle produce recommended by this Government for revision obtain—the Wynaad jungle in Malabar, the Pulney Hills in Madura, the Chinnamallie forests lying between Coimbatore, Malabar, and Cochin, the belt of rock, hill, and wood intervening between South Arcot and the districts of North Arcot and Salem—are tracts of dense forests, many square miles in extent. They are inhabited by races, gatherers of the jungle produce, under various appellations of Erulers, Polliers, Mulliers, etc., in the lowest state of physical and mental debasement. In many cases they have not even the rudest kind of hut or wigwam, but dwell in caves or hollow trees, their food being often insufficient and always scanty. They cannot with safety leave their forests or hills to come to the plains, nor can the inhabitants of the plains venture during a large part of the year near the feverish localities in which they reside. The utter ignorance of these wretched, helpless classes, their outcast condition, with their isolation, wholly preclude them from resorting to the authorities for redress when ill-used, and deprive the Government of the means of protecting them from any amount of oppression, to which either a renter or a Native Revenue Officer empowered to collect a tax from them may choose to inflict. These taxes would appear, therefore, to fall within the proviso of the orders of the Government of India of 1847, whilst the extreme poverty of these jungle tribes might also be urged as a ground for exempting them from taxation."

From the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, 14th July 1854, No. 823.

6. This, it must be remembered, was written after the Contract and Amani systems, which the Conservator proposes to revive, had been tried and had failed.

7. It was in accordance with this policy, deliberately adopted by the Government of Madras and urged on the Government of India with earnest persistence and ultimate success, that Government abolished several more Hill and Jungle Farms in 1864. The only farms to which notice was then called which were allowed after 1864 were the Soapnut Jungle Farms in Kistna, where there had been no complaint of oppression.

Govt. Order, dated 7th July 1864, No. 1,181.
Do. ,, 22nd Aug. ,, ,, 1,525.

8. In spite of these orders, however, Lieutenant-Colonel Morgan, Deputy-Conservator of Forests in Coimbatore, leased out a contract of Gallnuts and bark in 1865. The Collector requested instructions from the Board, and the Board at once stopped the revival of the obnoxious system. This, however, had but little effect on Colonel Morgan, for in 1869 he again "gave contracts to certain parties to collect forest products" in the forests which were in his charge. In due course a Sub-Magistrate reported to the Collector that a Forest Overseer had brought parties before him charged with collecting and drying Gallnuts. The Sub-Magistrate could not tell under what provision of the law this was punishable, and requested instructions. Afterwards "a number of the Mulcers and other Hill tribes" appeared before the Collector "with a complaint of the Forest Contractor's

Board's Procs., dated 5th June 1865, No. 2,977.
Do. ,, 26th Oct. 1869, ,, 7,934.
Do. ,, 25th March 1870, ,, 1,989.

interference with their ancient privilege of collecting Jungle produce." The Collector in reporting to the Board, pointed out that if the Forest Department were permitted to monopolize these jungle products, the half savage tribes who lived in the Hill ranges would be deprived of almost their sole means of subsistence, and said that if they were handed over to the mercies of a Jungle Contractor, backed by Government authority, he anticipated their being driven to commit robberies and other offences to eke out a livelihood.

9. The Board referred to Government Order, 9th April 1869, No. 970, in which, alluding to Salem Reserved Forests, Government had said, "The Government are of opinion that it will not be advisable for the Forest Department to collect jungle products of any description by the aid of the Hill men in the Reserves. There is no reason to suppose that these semi-savage tribes would be better treated by the subordinates of the Forest Department than they were by the agents of the merchants who formerly rented from the Collector the privilege of collecting Jungle products, and the mere fact of persons being engaged for the Forest Department in making these collections will afford an opening for persons not so employed to trespass on the area of the reserved tracts. These reserves should be accessible only to Government servants, and other persons found within their limits should be regarded and treated as trespassers."

10. It followed from this that such farms as Colonel Morgan had created in the forests under his charge could not be permitted, and the Board issued orders accordingly.

11. It was on these orders that the Conservator, fearing a loss of what he calls forest revenue, made the reference to Government, which is now under discussion.

12. The first thing to be noticed in Major Beddome's letter is his assumption that the order of the Board is a *new* order. It has been shown that it is in accordance with the settled policy of Government, and is a mere repetition of an order of Government passed a year before.

13. After pointing out that forest products may be divided into two sorts—one, that can be collected without injury to trees, and one the collection of which often involves the destruction of trees,—Major Beddome states that the orders of the Board prevent his department from interfering in the collection of either class, "even where they are the yield of dense uninhabited tracts and are collected by no one." This is a complete misapprehension. The orders of Government and the Board do not abate the Conservator's power to prevent injury to trees in any respect whatever, and they leave him free to collect as much Jungle produce as his employés can, provided that other gatherers are not prevented from pursuing their ordinary avocation.

14. The statement that the incidental recognition in the Board's order of collection by *ryots* is "a new feature" shows that the Conservator chooses to ignore the fact that for centuries before the British Government entered on the possession of its Indian territories, the ryots in the neighbourhood of all forests were in the habit of using their produce. The fear that when the ryots get to know the order of the Board lamentable consequences will issue is a result of the erroneous hypothesis that the order is something *new*. In a letter written by a

Deputy Conservator, and submitted to the Board by Major Beddome in 1869, it is stated that "formerly the real collectors of Forest produce were *villagers in the vicinity of forests*, who were employed by merchants, and these alone reaped the benefit from our forests."

15. Major Beddome proposes to collect Forest-produce through the Hill men, when there are a sufficient number, and through contractors when there are not. The proposal is, therefore, one to revive in its minutest details the Contract and Amani systems, which have been found to be full of evil and have been deliberately abolished by Government, whilst, so far from submitting new facts or arguments the Conservator does not even seem to be aware that the subject has already been discussed and settled.

16. The points on which the Conservator most insists are as follow :—

1. That, unless the Forest Department collects Forest products through the Hill men in large tracts of reserved forests, much of the products will be wasted.

This is answered by the statement in paragraph 4 that there are many places in which the Hill men are so few that contractors must be employed.

It is useless thus to disguise the fact that neither the Forest Department nor its contractors would enter the depths of the primeval forests. Their efforts would be confined to jungles near villages and markets, and consequently beset with communal and tribal rights.

2. That the condition of the Hill tribes would be ameliorated.

The fact that their condition is not ameliorated by Government monopolies and contracts is shown by long experience, as summarized in the Board's letter to Government, dated the 6th June 1853, No. 244. There is nothing in the constitution of the Forest Department, or the theories which it holds with regard to the Forest rights of the people, which justifies a hope that monopolies and contracts would be less oppressive under their superyision.

The Hill men are now free to carry their goods where they can get the best value for them. As a matter of fact they deal with only one class of traders, and get small prices because those dealers alone will conduct the peculiar barter which is wanted, make the required advances, and keep accounts open for long periods. These advances, necessary as they are with tribes living from hand-to-mouth for family ceremonies, subsistence in adverse seasons, and the like, the State could not supply, and the result would be that the Hill men would have to smuggle.

The Conservator's visions of giving Hill men regular employment, cumblies, and land for cultivation are not consistent with the description of them, given above, in paragraph 5.

3. That, if the collection is not under the control of the Forest Department, conservancy must suffer.

The Conservator does not say *how* it must suffer, and though "all his officers are aware of it, and the subject is continually brought to his notice," the Board doubt it, for, under the proposed system, the gatherers of products will not be more trustworthy, and the power to do mischief will not be diminished, nor the power to prevent it increased.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st March 1873.

As pointed out by Government, in Government Order, 9th April 1869, No. 970, portions of forest which are reserved and closed must be entered only by Government servants. Directly others are allowed to enter, all the dangers to conservancy which the Conservator complains of will exist, whether he is allowed a monopoly of Forest produce or not.

4. That, if the collection of Forest products were placed under the Forest Department, the revenue derived would be considerable, and would fully cover the cost of Forest establishments in many ranges.

The Board question this. The petty figures which indicate the value of the old Jungle Farms when they were abolished, and the reports of the Collectors received when inquiries were made in 1864 and again on this occasion, show that the revenue would be of no importance to Government, though it might be appreciable in the list of the receipts of the Forest Department.

17. The Board will now direct attention to the reports from Collectors which they have to lay before Government.

18. Of the fourteen who have given opinions, eight are absolutely opposed to the Conservator's proposal, on the ground that the revenue gained by it would be petty in the extreme, and the hardship to gatherers of Forest produce great. The Collector of South Arcot draws attention to the fact that the Hill Polygars of his district have hitherto abstained from interfering with the rights and privileges of their Hill tribes, and fears that they would imitate the proceedings of Government if the Conservator's proposal is adopted. This remark is of wide application.

Ganjam.	Cuddapah.
Vizagapatam.	North Arcot.
Godavery.	South Arcot.
Kurnool.	South Canara.

19. The Collectors of Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly approve of a system of renting under the orders of the Collector.

20. In Kistna and Nellore the Forest Department is not at work. The Collector of Kistna, however, approves of the Conservator's proposal.

21. The Collector of Madura thinks the Forest Department might collect Hill produce *on uninhabited hills where no one has a customary right to it.*

22. The Collector of Coimbatore accepts the proposal, but with the proviso that the Hill tribes who collect the produce must be dealt with directly by the officers of the Forest Department and not through middlemen.

23. The Collector of Salem thinks the Forest Department should arrange for collecting Hill produce only in reserves.

24. The Conservator's proposals do not apply to the districts of Bellary, Chingleput, and Tanjore.

25. The Collector of Malabar sees no objection to the proposed system there, because the vast area of the private forests obviates "the danger of oppression resulting from the creation of a monopoly, which is to be feared where the Government is the sole owner, and where, therefore, the mere possession of Forest produce comes to be regarded as an offence and is made an excuse for domiciliary visits and oppression in various ways."

26. The Commissioner of the Nilgiris thinks that the interests of conservancy require that Forest produce should be collected under permits from the Forest

Department and sold exclusively to them, but he rightly observes that this cannot be done without a Forest Act.

27. On this ground alone the proposal of the Conservator must be negatived pending the discussion of the Forest Bill, on which the Board have reported in their Proceedings of the 5th August 1871, No. 3,284. Even under that Bill it is only aftercompensating existing rights that the Conservator can acquire the power with which he imagines he can be invested by an order of Government.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1873, No. 240.

Forests, No. 1.

THE recent transfer of the control of Forest Administration in their districts to the Collectors will, it is hoped, facilitate the satisfactory disposal of the question raised in these papers on which the Governor in Council proceeds to make the following remarks.

2. The Government entirely concur with the Board of Revenue in condemning altogether any approach to a recurrence to the old abandoned system of Jungle farms or leases, or monopolies of Jungle products, and desires that it may be distinctly recognized by the Collectors of Districts in which any Forest establishment is employed, that the object in view in regard to them is, the development of the resources of the forests, by ensuring to the wild tribes who derive a livelihood from collecting Forest produce, entire freedom from oppression or fraud in exercising their petty traffic, and as good a market as possible for the fruits of their labours; while, at the same time, they must be prevented from injuring the forests in their pursuits.

3 As regards this last point, the Government see no reason, from any of the reports which have reached them at sundry times on the subject, to believe that any injury to the forests does result from leaving these uncivilised tribes to follow the course which, from time immemorial, they have pursued in the matter, but if such should be found to take place any where, it will probably be very easy for the Collectors to check it. The habit of looking on these aborigines as trespassers and intruders in the primeval forests which they inhabit, is most repugnant to every sense of justice and humanity. The honest pursuits open to them are few, their wants are simple. They will probably be generally found very amenable to kindly influence when once they have learnt to look upon the Forest Officer as a friendly and just representative of the Government.

4. How far the estimate, by the Inspector of Forests, of the value of the wild products is correct, and how far it may be possible to develop their collection, are matters on which the Government can form little opinion. Vague, general, assertions on the subject are hazarded, and it seems not unreasonable to suppose that much of possible value is produced in the tracts of forest which constitute so considerable a proportion of many of the districts; but the Government have no reason to believe that any valuable source of State Revenue is relinquished by leaving the Forest tribes free to gather these uncultivated products, and certainly none commensurate with the injury which would be inflicted by instilling a sense of fear and oppression into the minds of beings so low in the scale of humanity.

5. What the Government desire is, that when the trade is really of any importance, these people should be encouraged, by fair and liberal treatment, to look for their best market at the hands of the Forest Officers, and that when there is reason to believe that valuable resources can be developed, they should be similarly induced to undertake the collection of the desired products.

6. But even this amount of interference is to be deprecated if it is likely to expose these people to petty tyranny at the hands of Forest Subordinates who cannot be efficiently controlled, and it is only when the superior officers can personally supervise the experiment, that the Government would wish to see it tried.

7. On the other hand, attention should be constantly given to prevent interested parties from creating the impression in the minds of these simple tribes that they can be bound, by any claim on the part of outsiders to a monopoly of the products, or by any exclusive contracts to collect them.

8. Much of evil has resulted from this cause in time past, and the main reason why Government contemplate any measure of interference in the matter is, lest their abstention should afford opportunity for others to abuse the license left to them.

9. In brief, what the Government would wish Collectors to do is, to obtain accurate information, so far as the subject admits of it, as to the description and amount of valuable forest products in their districts, and as to the nature, extent, and direction, of the trade in them, as to the position of the forest tribes in relation to those with whom they deal, and as to the necessity or advisability of interference, whether for the protection of these people or of the forests, or of State rights, or for the development of any valuable material resource.

10. The special agency now at the disposal of Collectors will allow of this being done more completely than has hitherto been the case while the change of system has, the Government trust, removed all antagonism of objects.

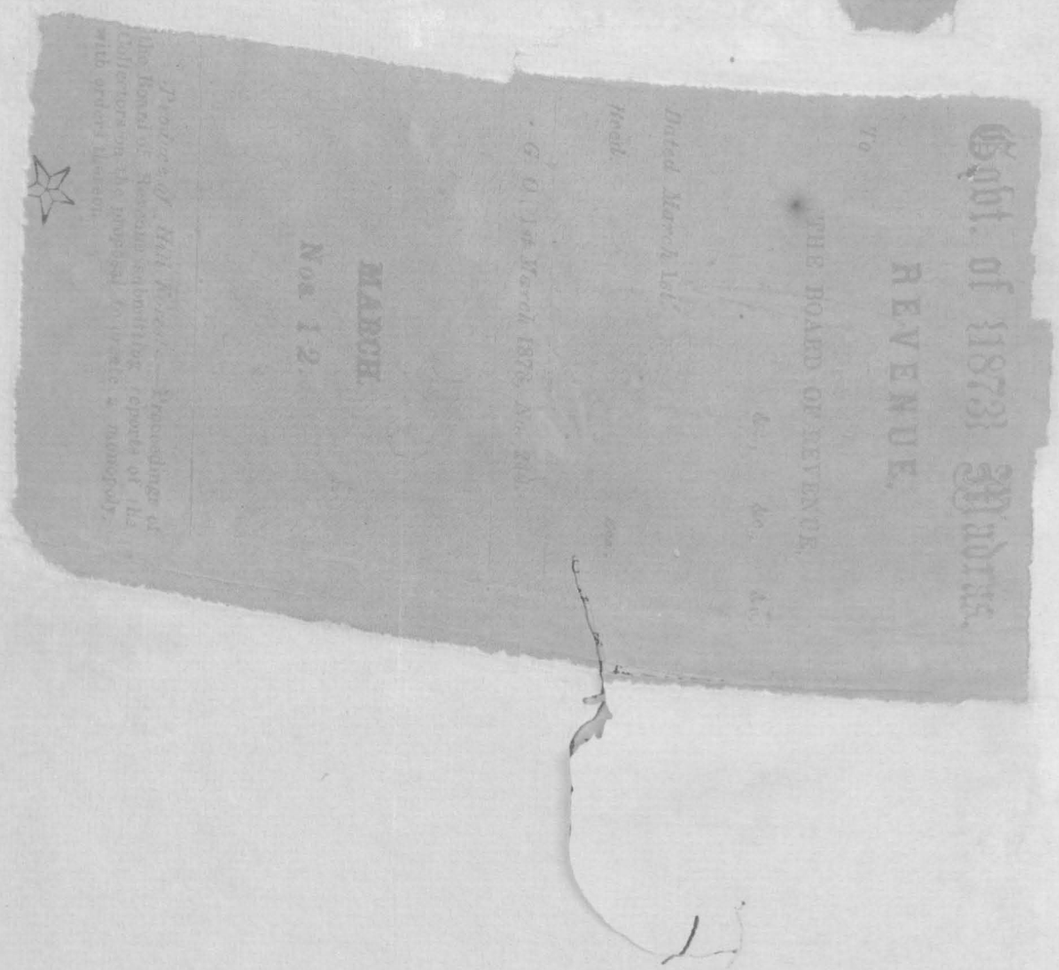
11. It only remains to add that the solicitude of Government extends solely to the real jungle tribes, such as the Yanadies of the East Coast, the Khaders and Mulcers of Coimbatore and the like. As regards inhabitants of the plains, making periodical incursions into the Forests and Jungles, for natural products, Collectors will consider, as respects each such tract, whether a moderate license fee might not fairly be demanded for the privilege. Of course in the *reserved* tracts none but actually resident Jungle tribes should be admitted without license.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. G. A. Turton.


Govt. of 1873 Madras
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
MARCH
Nos 112.

No. 4,961.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th July 1870.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 23rd June 1870, No. 934, Revenue Department:—

No. 292. Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 13th April 1870, No. 2,050 —

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,989,* of the 25th March last, I have the honour to inform you that I consider it most important that Government should take the subject of *hill-produce* into consideration.

*Herewith forwarded.

2. *Hill-produce* besides honey, wax, roots, fruits, gall-nuts, ginger, turmeric, cardamoms, dye-powder, and such like products, which, though they might under proper management be made to yield a large profit to Government, might yet be collected without injury to the forest, also includes resins, kino, wood-oils, bark for tanning or distillation, and certain fibres, the collection of which in many cases necessitates the destruction of the trees which yield the products.

3. By the orders of the Board now alluded to, it would appear that our department can interfere in no way in the collection of any of these articles by the hill-men or even by ryots, and that our department cannot collect or utilize any of these articles even where they are the yield of dense uninhabited tracts and are collected by no one. If the collection is in no way under our control, conservancy must suffer to a very great extent; all our officers are aware of this, and the subject is continually brought to my notice. Ryots being allowed to collect is a new feature; hitherto the collection may be said to have been confined to the hill-men, who are in almost all cases in the pay of merchants in the low country. If this order of the Board becomes generally known, there are many rich royts, I believe, who would be glad to enter upon a large trade in all these articles, cardamoms and bark particularly, the result of which it is impossible to foresee. The fact of our department not being allowed to collect in the large tracts of reserved forests, through the agency of the hill-men, can only result in the greater portion of these products rotting in the forests or being burnt, which can hardly be the intention of Government. Our establishments are too small to do much departmentally in this way, and we can only attempt it on the contract system or through the agency of the hill-men.

4. As Colonel Morgan points out that there are not five hill-men to the square mile in Collegal, and still less in Bhowani and Suttiamungalum, and there are dense tracts, such as the South Canara ghauts and portions of the Tinnevelly ghauts, etc., where there are no hill-men or inhabitants at all, it is very clear that, if the collection is to be left entirely to the hill-men, only a small portion of the produce can ever be collected, the large bulk must be burnt or rot in the forest.

5. The Board appear to think that there is no question of the long enjoyment of the right to collect; if I am not mistaken, it was a Government monopoly previous to 1854, and a regular tax was paid even by the hill-men.

6. I would be far from wishing Government to impose any tax upon the collection by hill-men, but I think by judicious management the condition of these men might be greatly ameliorated, and the control of all hill-produce brought entirely under the Forest Department, which there can be little doubt it ought to be. All our officers have more or less made complaints that the hill-tribes are cheated to a very great extent by the Chetties in the plains; and it will be seen by a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, recorded in the Proceedings of the Board already alluded to, that he makes the same complaint. If the hill-men collected systematically under the Forest Department, they would be regularly employed and at remunerative rates. I would however go further than this; I would get them, as far as possible, into the regular employ of the department; provide them with cumblies and grant them small tracts of land for cultivation within the limits of the forests.

7. The subject is one that has remained in an undecided state for a very long time, and our officers are never certain how to act; I would strongly urge upon Government the necessity of sanctioning such arrangements as will enable our officers in time to place it on a satisfactory footing. This can only be done with the cordial assistance of Collectors, but with that I see little or no difficulty. No rules could well be laid down which would be applicable throughout the Presidency, as circumstances are very different in almost every district; I would therefore suggest that the arrangements in each district should be made by the Collector in consultation with the Forest Officer of the range, the former being responsible that the interests of the hill-men are cared for, and the latter that the forests are not needlessly injured or encroached upon, and that the hill-produce is utilized as far as possible. In some districts the Chetties will probably make out that the hill-men are greatly in their debt; this I know will be the case in the Annamallays, and cases of this nature will be best handled by the Collector, and may take some time to arrange satisfactorily whether the supposed debts are worked out under some supervision which will be necessary to secure fair treatment for the hill-men or whether they are paid off by our department. When once matters have been brought into fair training, I have no hesitation in saying that the advantage to conservancy will be very great, and that the condition of the hill-men will be improved. In time I believe that the sale of these products under judicious management would fully cover the cost of our establishments in many ranges. The Cochin and Travancore Governments and Mysore make exceedingly large profits out of cardamoms, but although we have valuable tracts of this article of commerce in the Tinnevelly Range, in the Annamallays and in South Canara, we make nothing by them. Certain portions of these tracts in Tinnevelly and the Annamallays are poached upon by the Travancore and Cochin Governments, or rather by hill-men in their employ, and in other portions the hill-men collect for outside merchants, and again in other portions there is no collection and the produce is not utilized.

No. 293.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1870, No. 934.

THE consideration of the foregoing paper will be deferred pending the disposal of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th March 1870, No. 1,989, relating to the proposed introduction of the new Forests Act.

Forests, No. 16.

2. In the meantime the Board of Revenue will be requested to submit any observations which they desire to make on Major Beddome's proposals.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

REFERRED to all Collectors for report.

(True Extracts.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MAYNE,
First Assistant.

To all Collectors.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government Revenue Department.
,, to the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

1870.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 20TH JULY 1870, No. 4,961.

Received

Encl.

JULY.

No. 4,961.

Hill-produce.—Proceedings of Government, requesting Board's observations on proposals of Conservator of Forests, relative to collection of —, forwarded to all Collectors for report.

From G. ELLIS, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 3rd December 1870, No. 1,551.

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,961, of the 20th July last, I have the honour to report that I am very averse to any interference with what has become almost the prescriptive right of these semi-savage people to gather for their own benefit the hill products in this district.

2. The amount of revenue to be derived will be very small, while the petty servants of the Forest department will not fail to avail themselves of the opportunity that will be afforded them of oppression and peculation.

From T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd November 1870, No. 378.

IN reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 4,961, dated 20th July 1870, I have the honour to state that in the Nallamallas (which are the only extensive forests in this district) there are no such rich products as turmeric, cardamoms, gall-nuts, and such like.

2. The only articles produced in these forests, of the description referred to by Major Beddome, are honey, wax, tamarind, charapapulu, (చారపప్పు) etc.

3. The tamarind and other fruits are now under the management of the Forest Department.

4. As regards the remaining articles I would regret to see them handed over to the Forest Department. Their value is inconsiderable, and the proposal of the Conservator of Forests would, I think, interfere with the only honest trade carried on by the tribes that inhabit these jungles, and would be without any appreciable advantage to Government.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th November 1870, No. 247.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Board's Proceedings of the 20th July last, No. 4,961, relative to the collection of hill produce.

2. The renting of the hill produce was discontinued in this district under orders of the Board, dated the 24th August 1864, No. 5,503, and 19th April 1869, No. 2,665.

3. As regards the Conservator's proposals I am of opinion that it should be left to the Forest Conservancy Department to make the necessary arrangements for the collection of hill produce *only in the Forest reserves*. In others the hill men should be left free to collect the products and to sell them to the Chetties as I proposed for Tinnevelly. Writing on this subject a late Collector, Mr. David Arbuthnott, says "the hill men would benefit by the monopoly being abandoned, as the merchants would be able to pay them better when relieved of the Government tax"—*Vide* paragraph 9 of letter to Board, No. 89, of the 12th May 1864. The Board in their Proceedings on the above letter (6th August 1864, No. 5,019) were strongly opposed to the renting of the monopoly.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Officiating Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 24th August 1870, No. 653.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,961, dated July 20th, 1870, I have the honour to report that the only hills from which Jungle products could be collected, are the Golgonda Hills, the other hills in this district being in Zemindary lands. Under the former Zemindars of Golgondah, the Doras who are the Mootahdars* of the hill country were allowed to collect and dispose of all jungle produce. On the resumption of the Zemindary in 1837, these proprietors were continued in their old possessions on the same terms.

* I am unable to supply an English equivalent "holder of Mootah" does not commend itself.

2. Any return to Government from such a source would be trifling, and would not certainly compensate for the discontent likely to be caused by what would be looked upon as an injustice.

From C. G. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th August 1870, No. 2,227.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,961, dated 20th July 1870, calling for a report on Major Beddome's proposals, relative to the collection of Hill produce.

2. The Jungle products, which yield a revenue to Government, are those collected in the Sriharikota Jungles, consisting of Cheyroot used for dyeing Cloths, Honey, Wax, Tamarind, Rattan, and certain barks called Suratichekka and Tangedu, as well as certain Medicinal drugs.

3. Some of these viz., cheyroot, rattan, the barks and drugs are rented every year. Tamarind, honey and wax are collected by the Sriharikota yandies, and sold by public auction.

4. Several applications have been received for renting the Tangedu bark in the talooks of Kavali, Atmakur and Rapur especially. The amount at which the applicants in Kavali and Atmakur proposed to rent the Tangedu, was so small, that I have not considered it necessary to introduce the system of renting the same. In the Rapur Talook, I have allowed the General Deputy Collector to notify the sale for the bark of Fusly 1280 in those villages where the jungles have not been reserved.

5. The wood Overseer in charge of the north Pennair range, has suggested the renting of certain hill products in the Udayagiri Talook. I have referred the question to the Divisional Officer for his opinion, and for an estimate of the probable receipts.

6. With the exception of the Sriharikota division, the jungles in the district have not hitherto been interfered with, as regards the collection of such products on behalf of Government. In the absence of any statistics, showing the state of the jungles in this district, which have not been placed under the Forest Department, I do not consider it possible to submit any definite scheme for the collection of hill produce at present. I would leave matters as they are, till more experience is gained in the working of the special Jungle Conservancy Establishments sanctioned for his district.

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pondicherry, 2nd September 1870, No. 224.

In acknowledgment of the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,961, of the 20th July last, I have the honour to state that the Hill-products noticed by Major Beddome form no sort of traffic in the few Hill ranges within this district. All of them are more or less known, but to a very limited extent. It does not appear that they are even brought down from the Hills for sale, but as required the ryots or others in the plains go and fetch the various articles mentioned, which I understand they purchase from the Maleyallies or Hill cultivators. The Poligars, who reside on the Hills, and who lay claim to the jungles, do not appear in any way to interfere with the rights or privileges of the Hill-people subject to them in obtaining or collecting these several articles, and no complaints have ever been made on the subject by any one.

2. I am not of opinion, so far as the very limited area of Hill ranges in this district is concerned, that it would prove either profitable or politic to interfere with the existing state of things; but, of course, the information before me is necessarily limited, and without a sort of survey or inspection by a competent officer, it would be difficult to estimate the real extent of the products indicated, and I presume that the Forest Department, through their Agents, might readily enlist the interest of the Hill-people in collecting for them, and no doubt, if fairly remunerated for their labour, they would use their best efforts to meet demands so far as their hills and jungles enabled them.

3. I shall, of course, be happy to render any officer of the Forest Department any assistance in the matter, but from what I know of the character of the Hill-tracts in South Arcot, I am not sanguine that their yield would repay the cost of any additional establishment to be employed in the work of collection; and it is more than probable that, if any attempts of the kind were made in these parts which are in the enjoyment of the Hill Poligars, the jealousy of these latter gentlemen would instantly be aroused, and instead of allowing their people as heretofore to appropriate all such jungle-products as a sort of perquisite, they would at once assert their territorial right, and in future monopolize to themselves both the collection and sale, in view to the profits, so soon as it was found that they had a marketable value. I therefore think that caution is called for in setting about any systematic operations for securing the Hill-products in question on behalf of Government.

Erd. T. Cartledge.

From C. G. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ghattu, 15th May 1871, No. 96.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 20th July 1870, No. 4,961, calling for a report on Major Beddome's proposal to assume the management and control of hill produce.

2. Major Beddome considers that where hill men or inhabitants are few, the great bulk of these products must be burnt or rot in the forests, and that where anything like a systematic collection is made it would benefit the hill men to pay them regularly instead of letting them be cheated by the Chetties, while the advantage to the Conservancy department would be very great if the sale of the products in question was conducted by, and the proceeds credited to, his department.

3. The principal jungles in this district are those on the Palconda hills, which lie to the south of the Pennair, dividing the sub-division talook of Royachoty from the Cuddapah and Sidhout Talooks in the principal division; the Lankamalas and Nallamalas north of the Pennair, dividing Budwel from Proddatur and Cuddapah; and the Codoor jungles to the south-east of Pullempet on the borders of the North Arcot District. These are all, nominally at least, under the control of the Forest department.

4. The products referred to by Major Beddome are, the Sub-Collector believes, to be found in but small quantities sufficient only for local consumption, while the collection of them does not form the sole means of subsistence of any class of people. They are collected by the lower classes on no systematic plan, and brought for sale to the villages. No contracts are ever given by the Comaties for their collection. Most of the products are utilized except in some of the jungles very remote from villages.

In the talooks* forming the charge of the Head Assistant Collector the products are gathered by hill men and other poor people on their own account and not on contract. Little or nothing is left to burn or rot. In Sidhout the wild honey used to be farmed out, but the practice ceased in 1864.

* Pullempet, Sidhout, and Budwel.

5. Mr. Boyle, the Assistant Collector, who made a thorough inspection of the Palconda range in 1869, is of opinion that few of the products mentioned by Major Beddome are to be found in the jungles of this district. Of those which are gathered the supply is but scanty. The few Yanadis who still linger in the eastern ghauts have ceased to collect them as a means of subsistence. Excellent honey is no doubt to be had, but it is doubtful whether the profits from this source would be of much importance. Bark is gathered for the Cuddapah market from the Palconda hills, but only in small quantities.

6. The General Deputy Collector, A. Sudarsana Row, in speaking of the Nallamalas and Lankamalas thinks that the hill produce in these localities is not all utilized. The "Chenchu" people pick up a very precarious livelihood by collecting the products in the most accessible spots and selling them in the neighbouring villages. From personal knowledge of the Nallamalas in the Kurnool District the Deputy-Collector is of opinion that even a systematic collection could never be very profitable, though the remoter parts of the jungles which are infested by wild beasts may contain a greater supply than has heretofore been brought to the market. The gathering of them under such circumstances would probably be found a very expensive business.

7. The Sub-Collector is of opinion that the re-imposition of petty restrictions on the collection of these products would not be attended by any satisfactory results, whether regarded as a financial measure or as a proceeding calculated to lead to the better conservation of the jungles.

8. The contract system has already been condemned both by the Board of Revenue and by Government as a source of oppression.

9. On the whole, I am of opinion that while a revenue of a certain kind *might* be derived from a systematic collection of honey, bark, and the like, it would not be such as would make it worth the while of the Forest department to collect it, nor do the circumstances of the people who are now engaged in the casual gathering of hill produce need any special interference in the way of protection or remuneration. Restrictive measures would more likely lead to the oppression and inconvenience of these poorer classes.

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 29th October 1870, No. 239.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge extract from the Proceedings of the Board under date the 20th July 1870, No. 4,961, forwarding for report a letter from the Conservator of Forests regarding the expediency of again introducing a system of conservancy as regards hill produce.

2. As the Board are aware the farming of these products was, under the orders of Government marginally noted, discontinued from the Fasli 1274, and the statement herewith annexed shews the sum obtained by the farming of them for five years previous to the issue of these orders:—

No. 1,181, dated 7th July 1864.

Farms.	Fasli 1269.	Fasli 1270.	Fasli 1271.	Fasli 1272.	Fasli 1273.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
Thondamanthorai ...	360	360	360	720	2,200	4,000
Laudapuram	408	408	408	510	1,200	2,934
Pachamallai	812	812	1,850	1,850	1,850	7,174
Total...	1,580	1,580	2,618	3,080	5,250	14,108

3. So far as I have been able to ascertain no complaints of injustice or oppression were ever made in this district by any of the hill men; these are, however, but few in number, and with the very low rate of assessment fixed by Mr. Puckle on the lands brought by them under cultivation their position cannot by any means be considered a hard one. Moreover, they are constantly in the habit of resorting to and visiting the plains, and in their dealings are proverbially sharp-witted and shrewd.

4. I do not, therefore, consider that the abandonment of the farming out of these products has, in this district at least, ameliorated in any way the condition of these people, and in my judgment the leaving of such products to be gathered at will by any one, or left to rot on the ground as the case may be, without any attempt to renew or conserve them, must in the end prove a very wasteful policy. I am, therefore, inclined to think with the Conservator of Forests that the conservation of such products is worthy of attention, and that a reversion to the old system of farming them out, combined with systematic and careful attention, to their increase and re-production, could be made without injury or annoyance to the hill people. I would, however, strongly urge that in this case the leasing out be left in the charge of the Collector and not under a separate department working independently of the control of the local officers.

From the Honourable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd October 1870, No. 289.

IN reply to the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,961, dated 20th July 1870, I have the honour to report that I see no objection to the Forest Department being permitted to collect the hill products from hills that are uninhabited, or on which no parties have established by long custom a right to collect such products. We have no ginger, turmeric, or cardamoms growing wild in this district, although all these products are grown by ryots who pay land tax to Government.

From J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 20th October 1870, No. 334.

IN obedience to the instructions of the Board, contained in their order of the 20th July last, No. 4,961, communicating the Proceedings of Government, dated 23rd June last, No. 934, relative to the collection of hill produce, I have the honour to report that I consulted the Sub-Collector who has the charge of the taluqs comprising the hilly tracts. The products are of an ordinary kind, such as honey, tamarind, soapnut, and wood-apples, and are of a trifling value, besides being included in the rents on which system the hill villages are settled.

2. I concur with the Sub-Collector in his opinion that the "value of the products is comparatively trifling, and would not repay the cost of establishment required for the collection."

From J. A. C. BOSWELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 16th August 1870, No. 3,767.

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th July 1870, No. 4,961, I have the honour to state that I consider the proposal of the Officiating Conservator of Forests an excellent one, that in each district the arrangements for the collection of Hill produce should be made by the Collector, in consultation with the Forest Officer of the Range, (if there is one), the former being responsible that the interests of the Hill-men are cared for, and the latter that the Forests are not needlessly injured or encroached upon, and that the Hill produce is utilized as far as possible. There can be no doubt that these Hill products are often collected with much reckless waste, and that there are many useful products, the existence of which is not known, or which are not yet systematically collected, or turned to any account. Where a Forest Department exists, they would have peculiar facilities for advising the Collector as to the best means of collecting and dealing with forest and hill produce, and of supervising the operations.

2. In the Kistna District there are no forests, and the jungles and hills are chiefly in the western talooks of Palnad, Vinukonda, Sattanapalli, and Narsarowpett. In these jungles, honey, wax, and various sorts of roots used for medicinal purposes are collected without restriction, and brought in and sold by the Yánadies, Koyavondlu, and others, who procure them, to the merchants in the villages.

3. White Tumma bark (*Acacia Cucophlea*) is also collected in the jungles in the Bezwada Talook, and sold by those who bring it in to the Abkarry Contractors, who make use of it in distilling spirits. It is also used for tanning purposes.

4. The privilege of cutting Rattan and Osiers for baskets and mats, etc., used formerly to be leased out, and the proceeds credited to the head of "Sundry small Farms and Licenses," but this practice was put a stop to some years ago, and there is no restriction existing at present.

5. At Kondavid and Kondapalli, the privilege of gathering the wild fruit on the Hills is leased out for the benefit of Government. The most abundant fruit is the Custard-apple, but other edible fruits are also collected as the Yita (*Pœhnix farmifera*) a sort of sago, *Pala Pandlu* (*Minusops hexandra*) Vaka Pandlu (*Caripa carandas*) Jana Pandlu (*Grewia rotundifolia*) Regupandlu (*Zizyphus jujulsa*), etc.

6. It would be a great service if the Conservator of Forests could prepare a list of hill products with the Botanical names and native equivalents, and the uses to which each are applied, stating the prices they ordinarily fetch in the market. For the development of our present resources we must ascertain first, what there is a demand for, and where the article can be best procured, and then according to circumstances in each district, arrangements may be made either for collecting such produce for the benefit of Government, and disposing of the stock by periodical sales, or else, the right of collecting particular products may be leased out. As we have no Forest Conservancy Establishment in this district, I should consider the latter course the most feasible here, but there are only a limited number of products for which at present any demand exists, and that demand is ordinarily limited to local wants. The public need information as to the localities where particular wild products are procurable, and this the Forest Department could best furnish. Trade in its ordinary course will be found ready enough to avail itself of opportunities, if it is only directed to the existence of a supply.

From J. H. MASTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd August 1870, No. 274.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th ultimo, No. 4,961, calling for a report as far as the same affects this district, on the proposals of the Conservator of Forests relative to the collection of Hill produce, etc., I have the honour to state that the hills in this district are to a great extent utterly bare of vegetation, so that the markets are seldom, if ever, locally supplied with what may be strictly designated "Hill produce."

From G. LEE-MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tritrapundi Talook, 2nd August 1870, No. 253:—

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th July 1870, No. 4,961, I have the honour to report that there are no hills or forests in this district, and therefore no Hill produce.

From J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 16th August 1870, No. 116.

I have the honour to reply to Proceedings of the Board, No. 4,961, dated 20th July 1870, regarding Major Beddome's proposals to place the collection of *Hill produce* uder the control of the Forest Department.

2. The preservation and reproduction of forest throughout the Presidency seems to me a matter of vital importance, and sooner or later must be taken up in earnest by Government.

It has been remarked again and again that there is nothing in which men, even in civilized Europe, evince greater improvidence than the felling of forests. In India, the Jungle tribes (and Ryots too) will hack a tree down for honey or fruit, or for a single plank or a rafter, or for any, the most trifling object conceivable. They never use a saw; and so destruction reaches further and further every year into the forest.

The effects are often not seen until matters have gone so far as to be without remedy.

3. Whether trees have or have not anywhere an important influence on rainfall may be a question, but it is, I take it, certain that in many cases where the forests have been felled off, the floods, the winds, and the sun, have in due time, turned the face of the country into a wilderness.

4. It is quite time I think for Government to turn their attention to what remains of the primitive forests of this Presidency, and to enforce by law some sort of provident management.

In mountainous tracts, Nature, if given fair play, will propagate trees; in inhabited parts, the Forest Department should plant.

5. It is a pleasant thing to protect the interests of Hill tribes, and to advocate their rights to collect and sell unrestrained, the spontaneous products of the forest. Immemorial customs of this kind, had their reign in parts of the United States, until the country began to be denuded of trees, when they ceased.

I am persuaded from my short experience of forest management in this district, that efficient preservation of forests is incompatible with such unrestrained license.

6. There may be no question as to the long enjoyment of such rights by the Jungle tribes, but the time has come when the interests of the Empire demand that some restriction should be placed upon a privilege which, as at present exercised, leads to the devastation of forest tracts.

7. I would have a Forest Act, making it trespass for any one to collect Jungle produce without a Permit from the Forest Department, who should be bound to give Permits to every Hill man, on the express condition that he brought all his collection to the department, and was paid for the same, at a fixed remunerative price.

Rules for the guidance of the Hill man should be carefully framed and explained to him. He should also be made to understand that his operations would be subject to the supervision of Government Officers, and his Permit would be cancelled if any rule was infringed.

8. In this way by careful management and a little trouble at first, the advantage to conservancy would by and bye be great, the profit to the Forest Department would be considerable, and it is by no means improbable "that the condition of the Hill men would be improved" as Major Beddome says.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

From W. T. BLAIR, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 29th September 1870, No. 401.

In reply to the Board's Proceedings of the 20th July last, No. 4,961, I have the honour to report that, as this is not a forest district, the only "hill-produce" obtainable is tanning bark which yields an annual rent of Rupees 116.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th September 1870, No. 498.

I have the honour to reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 4,961, dated 20th July 1870, on the proposals made by the Conservator of Forests for renting out the hill-produce.

2. In Tinnevelly, hill-products were rented out up to 1854, when the practice was discontinued under the orders of Government—Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated the 7th September 1854.

3. It is not ascertainable when the forest-products were first rented. Since the discontinuance of the rent on behalf of Government, the former renters have carried on a trade with the hillmen in some cases, and, where these are few and sparse, have employed Shanars, Tatiars, and other men to collect the products, giving in exchange rice, betel-nut, tobacco, cloths, chillies, and salt. My opinion is strongly in favour of renting out the right to gather the hill-products to the former planters (Chetties). This would do away with the necessity of keeping any establishment.

4. Major Beddome's proposal of collecting the products through the hillmen, and taking them under the protection of the Forest Department, would not answer in the Tinnevelly forests, as there are very few hillmen left, most having emigrated into Travancore territory.

5. Copy of the Acting Sub-Collector's letter on the subject is herewith forwarded.

Enclosure No. 1.

From A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Nannagaram, 25th August 1870, No. 283.

In reply to your endorsement upon Board's Proceedings, No. 4,961, dated 20th instant, I beg to report that it appears from inquiries made by the Tahsildar of Ambasamudrum that, in that taluq alone, about 1,000 people have been employed in gathering forest-products, of which there are many kinds; the following being the principal with the estimated quantity gathered in the year, and its value:—

	Rs.
Cardamoms, 50 tulams of 600 Rupees weight, valued at ...	1,500
Nangu seed, 100 kotahs	700
Honey, 200 measures...	100
Gall-nuts, 10 kotahs	40

Dammer, ginger, vembadem, tanikai, saffron, cinnamon, tetang kottei, sarsaparilla, mural-fibre, jack-fruit, plantain leaves, nullikai, mangoes, gooseberries, tamarinds, wood-apples, and eacham-fruit are also gathered, but apparently in very small quantities.

2. I cannot see any weight in the argument brought forward by the Conservator of Forests, and based upon the fact that the Chetties impose upon the gatherers of these products. If it is thought necessary to protect them from imposition, the simplest way of doing this would be to purchase the products from them on behalf of Government at a fair rate, and for this no extra establishment would be required. Of the hill-men there are very few in our mountains now. Most of them it is said migrated to Travancore, when they were prevented from cutting down the forests on this side; the classes chiefly engaged in this business are thus given by the Tahsildar: Malapalingars, Thottiars, Maravars, Vellalas, and Barbers, Valayers, Odders, and Shanars; the latter are probably the most numerous.

They gather on their own account, and sell to the Chetties, and, probably, get a fair price; it is only the hill-men who can be easily imposed upon, and not people of this sort who live in the plains.

3. It will be seen that there is a considerable number of persons at least partly depending upon this business for their livelihood; and I very much doubt if the products, at all events the more valuable kinds, would be better known, and more thoroughly gathered, if the Forest Department took up the collection, while the terms they would impose upon the gatherers would certainly deprive

them of a considerable share of what they have for many years enjoyed without molestation. At all events, as regards this district, I think the Forest Department have to prove what they seem to have assumed, viz., that a great deal of these products is wasted before any interference is called for. The climate, seasons, and extent of mountains and forest are very different in Tinnevelly and Travancore, so that it is most probable that what brings in a large revenue on the west side would produce comparatively little on the east side of the range; and I strongly suspect that but a small return would be obtained in the shape of revenue for a measure that would interfere seriously with the habitual pursuits of a considerable class of poor persons; and I see no reason why the Forest Department should not follow the ordinary rules in raising their departmental revenue, viz., by taxingthe rich and avoiding fresh imposts upon the employments of the poor.

4. If, however, it is decided that a revenue should be derived from forest-products, it appears to me that the cheapest and easiest way of collecting it would be, by renting out the right to gather them to merchants, whose interest would probably ensure that there was no waste. This would take away the necessity for keeping up any establishment, and competition would doubtless keep up the revenue to the full amount that the quantity of products in the hills would warrant.

On the whole, I would deprecate any interference with the collection of hill-products in this district; at all events, until it is satisfactorily proved that large quantities are yearly wasted. It may not be out of place to observe that, when such products are not specially taxed as they came out of the hills as they are in Travancore, they contribute to the taxable property of the country to a greater degree than if they are taxed when gathered, and that the Income-tax, if properly administered, will reach all the profits made thereby, which ought, on the principle of taxing the rich, only to pay anything to the State, while the profits made by the poor in this as in any other measure would be left free.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. T. LONGLEY,
Acting Collector.

From H. E. SULLIVAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1870, No. 214.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th July last, No. 4,961, forwarding Major Beddome's letter of the 13th April, on the subject of hill-produce, for report.

2. From paragraph 3 of the Conservator's letter, it appears that he has slightly misapprehended the orders hitherto issued by the Board on the subject. The Forest Department was not therein prohibited, as stated by Major Beddome, from collecting the produce of the jungles in common with other persons; the orders were merely directed against the department monopolizing the right of collection to the exclusion of others, who had exercised the right from time immemorial. It was quite open to the officers of the department to secure this monopoly by making it worth the while of the Collectors of the produce to sell to them alone; but the course pursued was to sell the exclusive right of collection (which has never been vested in the department, and which they, therefore, could not dispose of) to the highest bidder, and it was then sought to protect the interests of the contractors, by charging the hill-tribes and others before the Criminal Courts with theft, if they collected the products of the jungle, and sold them in the best market they could find.

3. I concur with Major Beddome in thinking that there would be great advantage to conservancy, and a considerable gain to the revenue, if the produce of the jungles could be collected systematically under the Forest Department, through the agency of the hill-tribes. But in order to secure their interests the officers of the department must deal directly with them; there must be no middle-men. If this is done, I think with the Conservator that, besides the advantages above referred to, the condition of these semi-savage tribes will be considerably ameliorated. I should recommend the experiment being first tried in this district on the Anamalays, where the produce is the most valuable, and where the Kaders and Pooliars are acquainted with, and have confidence in the officers of the Forest Department.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

From W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 30th January 1871, No. 57.

I HAVE the honour, in reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th July 1870, No. 4,961, to observe that in this district there are no hill men properly so called, and jungle products are not collected in large quantity for sale, except in the northern jungles on the borders of the Cuddapah District.

2. With regard to the general question raised by Major Beddome, no doubt the views he expresses in his letter, No. 2,050, dated 13th April 1870, are plausible enough at first sight, and it would appear that both the interests of the hill men and the Forest Department would alike benefit by the change he advocates so strongly, but, before we decide on making that change, it will be well to notice one or two points that strike one on reflection.

3. Major Beddome's proposition virtually amounts to this, that his department shall henceforward be the absolute and permanent authority throughout the jungles and forests of this Presidency. The trees are very properly already in the charge of the Forest Department, and Major Beddome now desires to extend his authority over the collection and sale of all forest produce of every description, including barks, cardamoms, dyes, fruits, gall-nuts, ginger, honey, kino, resins, roots, turmeric, wax, wood-oils, and fibres of various descriptions.

4. The grounds upon which Major Beddome bases his recommendation are, as I read his letter—

(1). That the collection of these jungle products is not now exclusively in the hands of the hill men, but that ryots from the low country are competing with them by directing their time and attention to the business.

(2). That if the low country men are allowed to take part in the collection of forest produce forest conservancy must suffer.

(3). That the hill men, who earn a scanty subsistence by the collection and sale of these jungle products, are much cheated by the Chetties who purchase the articles they collect, and that their condition would be vastly ameliorated by placing them under the Forest Department, which shall exercise authority over them so far as to take and pay them for all their collections of forest produce, give them cumblies, and also *make them grants of land for cultivation in the forests.*

5. With regard to the first and second objections I would observe that the Government have always strongly insisted on the protection of the village and communal rights to enjoy certain privileges in regard to the use of wood and other forest produce, and have resisted many attempts of the Forest Department to curtail those privileges, and I consider that if the change Major Beddome now desires to carry out is sanctioned a very great stride will have been taken in the way of suppressing those rights and privileges. Government have abstained from making any revenue out of the collection of these forest products, and have liberally left them open to all comers. I altogether fail to see why there should be any greater objection to ryots from villages bordering on those hills, where forest produce is collected, occasionally employing themselves in gathering such articles than there is to hill men collecting the produce throughout the year. I do not see why such occasional gatherings by ryots should be a whit more injurious to the forests than systematic collection by hill men all the year round, or why forest conservancy should suffer at all by either.

6. I am inclined to think that the jealousy with which the officers of the Forest Department notoriously regard the entrance of all forests in their charge by villagers not under their immediate control is really at the bottom of this reference. If the forest produce is once placed in the charge of Major Beddome's Department it will follow as a consequence that the forests will be forthwith and for ever closed to all villagers or ryots. The subordinates of the department will regard every man who attempts to enter the jungles as a possible thief of the produce in their charge, and the result will be constant interference with the movements of the people, and

very great and general annoyance. The proper and legitimate duties of the department are the protection of the forests and the extension of plantations in their charge, and I do not see why those duties cannot be successfully carried out without placing in the hands of the department those products with which Government have always declined to interfere.

7. As regards the alleged cheating of the hill men by the low country Chetties it is no doubt a laudable desire of Major Beddome's to put them in the way of getting a fair price for their little commodities, but I question very much whether their condition would be so greatly ameliorated as he seems to imagine by handing those poor people over to the custody of his subordinates. The hill men earn a precarious existence by selling the articles they collect to Chetties in the low country, who no doubt will cheat them as unscrupulously as they do anybody else. I should not, however, suppose that the petty subordinates of the Forest Department will be found very much more tender of their interests than the Chetties, and by the transfer the hill men would be absolutely the subordinates of those subordinates. They would not be allowed to take the hill produce down to their former employers in the plains, and would be effectually under the thumb of Major Beddome's people. If the superior officers only of the department were authorized to purchase and pay for the forest produce collected much hardship would be entailed on the hill men by compelling them to carry their goods long distances to the individuals empowered to trade with them, while if every one of the servants of the department were allowed to take charge of such collections incessant fraud and peculation of every kind would go on, and the condition of the hill men would be even worse than it is now. They would certainly not be "paid regularly or at remunerative rates."

8. I would here draw the attention of the Board to the concluding words of paragraph 6 of Major Beddome's letter, and inquire since when, and under what orders of Government, have the lands on which forests stand been placed in that officer's sole charge and control so that he is able to promise to make grants of land therein for cultivation. I have hitherto been under the impression that the authority of the Forest Department extended solely over the trees in those forests specially handed over for conservancy. Major Beddome would seem to entertain, however, a different opinion, and if he is mistaken it would, perhaps, be advisable to point out to him that the Forest Officers must carefully abstain from constituting rights in the soil by in any way sanctioning the occupation or enclosure of lands within the forest limits by private individuals. Grants of land, as contemplated by Major Beddome, would eventually be found most inconvenient to Government, and certainly far more detrimental to forest conservancy than the casual wanderings of the few poor ryots of which he now so bitterly complains.

9. In the foregoing remarks I have referred especially to the articles derived from those hills where there is a tolerably abundant population, and jungle produce is regularly collected. Major Beddome alludes in his letter to extensive forests in various parts of the country where vast quantities of forest produce, such as cardamom, etc., year by year fall to the ground or rot uncollected, owing to the absence of any inhabitants. These tracts of forest appear to me to be deserving of special consideration, and not to fall within the scope of my observations above recorded. It certainly is inadvisable to allow the valuable products of such forests to be constantly wasted simply for want of labour to collect them, and I think that the right to gather them might, without hardship to any one, be rented out by the State on triennial leases through the Revenue Officers in charge of the district where forests are situated, and this plan would, I consider, be preferable to making over charge of the forest produce for collection to the subordinates of the Forest Department. The collections would be made by a few scattered and poorly paid men, who would assuredly not be indisposed to improve their income by occasional sales of produce on their own account, while by leaving the collections in the hands of renters the State would derive a certain amount of revenue, which would increase as the value of the lease becomes known, and we need entertain no doubt that the produce gathered would go only to the persons entitled to profit by it.

From A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Someshwar, in Udipi Talook, 13th December 1870, No. 1,588.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 20th July 1870, No. 4,961, I have the honour to state that the question of the collection of hill produce must be considered with reference first to reserved tracts of forest and secondly to other jungles.

2. With regard to large reserved forests, such as the Annamalies, it is most desirable that the collection of hill produce should be entirely in the hands of the Forest Department, under whose supervision the jungle tribes would work. In addition to the advantages to the men themselves in having their interests better looked after and in obtaining a fairer market for the produce, the Chetties would be altogether excluded from the jungles.

3. Unless, however, the inducement held out to the jungle tribes is sufficient, they would still sell to the Chetties, and we should have great difficulty in enforcing any monopoly rules that might be made. As far as the Annamalies are concerned, from what I noticed when I was in the jungles last year, coercion should not be resorted to. The effect of any harsh measures would, I am afraid, be to drive the Khadars into native territory.

4. As regards this district, the Forest Department have not, as far as I am aware, specially reserved any tract of jungle. Owing to the ruinous license and voucher system under which the timber contractors were allowed to fell in the jungles, our forests do not contain a sufficient quantity of timber to make it worth while to work them systematically. The operations of the department are confined to cutting isolated trees throughout the district. That it would be expedient just now to reserve tracts of jungle merely for the purpose of establishing a monopoly of jungle products I very much doubt. I do not consider that the common rights now possessed by the inhabitants should be restricted. If the Forest Department consider that the collection of hill produce would be a profitable undertaking, they should make arrangements for carrying it out; but they should work with, and not to the exclusion of, the inhabitants.

5. With reference to Major Beddome's remarks in paragraph 4, I beg to state that there are hill men in our jungles, Malakudies in the south, and Mahrattas in the north. The former are even wilder in their mode of living than the Khadars of the Annamalies, although they do occasionally work for hire on the coffee plantations.

6. With the exception of one important farm, viz., that of the privilege of manufacturing catechu in the Kundapur Talook, no regular monopoly for collecting any hill or jungle produce has existed in this district. The sale of the privilege of manufacturing sandalwood oil is more a tax on firewood used in the manufacture than on the monopoly. The "shat gutta," or the farm for collecting honey and wax, was unknown in four out of the five talooks of this district, and in the Kundapur Talook, where it existed, it realized but a trifling sum, viz., an average annual rent of Rupees 8. The privilege of collecting wild pepper and drawing the juice of the Baini Palm existed only in four villages of the Kundapur Talook, and was held for an annual rent of Rupees 15-4-0. These small farms were abolished under the orders of Government, dated 7th July 1864, No. 1,181, and I am of opinion that their renewal would be an inexpedient infringement of the common rights of the people. The catechu farm continues to be worked on contract under the special supervision of the Forest Department, and no further restrictions as regards this farm are necessary.

7. As regards the cardamom jungles in this district I beg to state that we have only one extensive farm including four jungles in the Uppinangadi Talook. These jungles were claimed by one Venkappa Hebbara as belonging to him by proprietary right; but, after a lengthened inquiry, the Board decided the jungles to be the property of Government. Taking into consideration the length of time during which the farm was in the possession of Venkappa Hebbara's family, I am of opinion that, now that the right of Government has been asserted, it is inexpedient to

Peraje Male, Yellia Male, Amate Male, Cabbina Male.

deprive the family of the jungles they have held for a long series of years. Even were the Forest Department to take these jungles under their management, I feel confident that they would not work them without the aid of the present lessee. The rent paid for the farm, viz., Rupees 800 per annum, is not, however, an adequate amount, considering the large profits which it is said are derived by the lessee, and a fair rent will have to be charged when the present lease expires. This matter will form the subject of a separate report in connexion with Board's Proceedings, dated 7th September 1870, No. 5,635.

8. Another cardamom jungle was discovered in 1864 near Someshwar, in the Udipi Talook. It was at first supposed that it would yield a considerable revenue if worked on contract; but, after careful inspection and after some expenditure had been incurred in collecting the produce, the crop was found not worth the trouble and expense of picking, and the idea of leasing it was abandoned.

9. There are no other cardamom jungles worth notice in the district, although there are a few localities where cardamoms could be reared if attention was paid to the cultivation. It is open to the Forest Department to commence operations in any of these localities but the first at any time, but I cannot promise that the experiment will prove a success.

From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 3rd February 1871, No. 29.

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to Board's Proceedings of the 20th July 1870, No. 4,961, that I see no objection to the adoption in this district of the plan proposed by Major Beddome under which forest products are to be collected by hill tribes under the superintendence of the Forest Department, who are to purchase the articles at a fair price.

2. Compared to the area of private forest land the Government forests of this district are of no great extent, and they lie everywhere side by side with private forests, in which from time immemorial the most absolute proprietary right has been exercised by the land-owner. There are, therefore, no rights on the part of villagers or hill tribes to be considered, nor is there the danger of oppression resulting from the creation of a monopoly which is to be feared where the Government is the sole owner, and when, therefore, the mere possession of forest produce comes to be regarded as an offence and is made an excuse for domiciliary visits and oppression in various ways.

Revenue Department.

No. 240

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 1st March 1873.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submg to Govt with remarks Reports of Collectors on proposals of Conservr of Forests to create a monopoly of Produce of Hill Forests under Forest Dept — with recommendation that proposals must be negatived pending discussion of Forest Bill

M. J. 21st Augt 1871 No. 3585

I heartily concur in this draft & agree to the addition suggested by Mr Sim, except that part which I have placed between brackets.

The best encouragement to the Hill Tribes is the creation of confidence in the efficient protection of the Revenue Authorities. They will gradually acquire new wants & be stimulated to industry, when they come to bear intercourse with strangers. This has been the case with the Wynaad & the Ceded districts. The penalties on the East Coast

The recent transfer of the control of Forest administration in these districts to the Collectors will, it is hoped, facilitate the satisfactory disposal of the question raised in these papers on which the Governor in Council proceeds to make the following remarks.

2 His Govt entirely concurs with the Board of Revenue in condemning altogether any approach

Papers with Mr Ellis

to recurrence to the old abandoned system of Jungle farms or leases - or monopolies of Jungle products - and desires that it may be distinctly recognized by the Collectors of Districts in which any Forest Establishment is employed, that the object in view in regard to them is, the development of the resources of the Forests, by securing to the wild tribes who derive a livelihood from collecting Forest produce, entire freedom from oppression or fear in exercising their petty traffic - and as good a market as possible for the fruits of their labors - while, at the same time, they must be prevented from injuring the forests in their pursuits -

3. As regards this last point, the Govt see

no reason, from any of the reports which have reached them at sundry times on the subject, to believe that any injury to the Forests does result from leaving these uncivilized tribes to follow the course which, from time immemorial they have pursued in the matter - but if such should be found to take place any where, it will probably be very easy for the Collectors to check it - The habit of looking on these aborigines as trespassers and intruders in the primeval forests which they inhabit, is most repugnant to every sense of justice and humanity - The lowest pursuits open to them are few - their wants are simple - they will probably be very

amenable to kindly influence when once they have learnt to look upon the Forest officers as a friendly and just representative of the Govt.

4 How far the estimate, by the Inspector of Forests, of the value of the intd products is correct - and how far it may be possible to develope their collection. are matters on which the Govt can form little opinion - Vague, general, assertions on the subject are hazarded, and it seems not unreasonable to suppose that much of possible value is produced in the tracts of Forest which constitute so considerable a proportion of many of the Districts - but the Govt have no reason to believe that any valuable source of State revenue is relinquished by leaving the Forest

Forest tribes free to gather these uncultivated products and certainly none commensurate with the injury which would be inflicted by instilling a sense of fear and oppression into the minds of beings so low in the scale of humanity

5. What the Govt desire is, that when the trade is really of any importance, these people should be encouraged, by fair and liberal treatment to look for their best market at the hands of the Forest officers - and that when there is reason to believe that valuable resources can be developed, they should be similarly induced to undertake the collection of the desired products.

6. But even this amount of interference is

to be deprecated if it is likely to expose these people to petty tyranny at the hands of Forest Subordinates who cannot be efficiently controlled - and it is only when the superior officers can personally supervise the experiment, that the Govt would wish to see it tried.

7. On the other hand, attention should be constantly given to prevent interested parties from creating the impression in the minds of these simple tribes that they can be bound by any claim to a monopoly of the products, or by any exclusive contracts to collect them.

8. Much of evil has resulted from this cause in time past - and the main reason why Govt contemplate any measure of interference in the matter is, lest their abstention should afford opportunity for others to abuse

abuse the licence left to them.

9. In brief, what the Govt wants wish Collectors to do is, to collect accurate information - so far as the subject admits of it - as to the description and amount of valuable forest products in their districts - and as to the nature, extent, and direction of the trade in them - as to the position of the forest tribes in relation to those with whom they deal - and as to the necessity or advisability of interference, whether for the protection of these people or of the forests - or of state rights - or for the development of any valuable material resource.

10. The special agency now at the disposal of Collectors will allow of this being done more completely than has hitherto

hitherto been the case — while the change of system has, the Govt. trust, removed all antagonism of objects.

I would add that the Rl. extends only to the real jungle tribes, such as the Ganadies of the East Coast - the Khaders & Mulcers of Coimbatore & the like. As regards inhabitants of the plains, making periodical incursions into the Forests & Jungles, for natural products - Collectors will consider, as respects each such tract whether a moderate license fee might not fairly be demanded for the privilege. Of course in the Reserved tracts none but actually resident jungle tribes should be admitted without that license (and the privilege even to the tribes should, if practicable be withheld by remunerative prices, to collect these naturally for sale, so that none may be wasted) but

11. It only remains to add that the solicitude of Government extends solely to the real jungle tribes, such as the Ganadies of the East Coast, the Khaders & Mulcers of Coimbatore and the like. As regards inhabitants of the plains, making periodical incursions into the Forests and Jungles, for natural products, Collectors will consider, as respects each such tract whether a moderate license fee might not fairly be demanded for the privilege. Of course in the Reserved tracts none but actually resident jungle tribes should be admitted ~~in that~~ without that license.

14 To the Board of Revenue
3 " the Inspector of Forests

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st March 1873.

No. 5. Read the following letter from the Inspector of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 18th February 1873, No. 1,697:—

With reference to the Government Order, No. 134 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward correspondence as per margin. Colonel Morgan states that there is no difficulty about delivering Locomotive Fuel on the banks of the Cauvery close to Passoor, but that it cannot be delivered at the Railway line without an expenditure of Rs. 4,320 on the construction of a road from the river to the Line. Is this road to be made by the Railway Department or by the Forest Department?

Letter No. 539, dated 12th February 1873, from Colonel Morgan, to the Inspector of Forests.
Copy of letter No. 397, dated 27th November 1872, from Colonel Morgan, to Collector of Coimbatore.
Copy of letter No. 406, dated 30th November 1872, from Colonel Morgan, to Collector of Coimbatore.
Copy of letter No. 45, dated 7th December 1872, from Collector of Coimbatore, to Colonel Morgan.
Copy of letter No. 1,377, dated 10th December 1872, from the Assistant Engineer, Bhowani, to Colonel Morgan.

No. 6. Order thereon, 1st March 1873, No. 242.

Forests, No. 2.

Communicated to the Public Works Department, with reference to the Order in this Department, dated 26th October 1872, No. 1,488. A firewood depôt will be established near Passoor in the event of the Great Southern of India Railway Company taking the fuel on the banks of the Cauvery.

2. There being a depôt at Errode the Government are not prepared to incur an expenditure of Rs. 4,320, for a road only a few miles further down the river.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department.
,, the Inspector of Forests.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.