No. 177. Read the following letter from the Inspector of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Ootacamund, 23rd December 1872, No. 1,601 :—

With reference to the G. O. No. 1,554 of the 14th November last, I have the honour to forward letters from the Collectors of Malabar and Coimbatore as per margin.

Letter from the Collector of Malabar, to the Inspector of Forests, No. 2,405, dated 2nd December 1872.
Letter from Deputy-Conservator of Anamallay, to Collector of Coimbatore, No. 658, dated 29th November 1872.
Letter from Collector of Coimbatore, to Board of Revenue, No. 197, dated 7th December 1872.
Letter from Collector of Coimbatore, to Inspector of Forests, No. 49, dated 21st December 1872.

2. Mr. Macgregor, the Collector of Malabar, thinks that within his portion of the range there will, for the present at least, be no operations necessitating any special departmental knowledge, and he proposes to place the forests entirely under the Tahsildar, with an Overseer or Native Assistant Conservator as his Assistant.

3. This plan would, in fact, be reverting to the old system in force before forest conservancy was introduced in 1857, and would, I fear, be very likely to lead to results similar to what occurred in North Arcot three years ago. The Tahsildar would, I am sure, never go into the forests, and his subordinates and the Native Assistant would be on intimate terms with the timber-merchants; and the chances are they would all play into one anothers hands. At any rate, the present admirable double check of the Forest Department carrying on the executive and the Revenue Department receiving all payments would at once cease to exist.

4. The Collector thinks that no departmental knowledge will be required in this range at present; but this is not the case. We have just purchased some 2,000 or 3,000 acres of land, and most extensive and important planting operations are necessary; this cannot be supervised in any way by the range officer of the Anamallays, as the working season and planting season are the same in both ranges (*i.e.*, June till December), and the Anamallay officer can hardly leave the Anamallay range during this season.

5. It is an error to suppose that the Chenat Nair forest has been nearly worked out. It has been greatly impoverished as far as the supply of *valuable* timber goes, the teak and blackwood having been nearly all felled out* before our department took charge; but the forests are still rich in firewood and the better sorts of jungle-timber (these having, I believe, been scarcely touched), and it is probable that we shall have extensive firewood operations in connection with the supply of fuel to the locomotives.

* By a gentleman resident at Palghaut who had a contract for these forests.

6. The Collector of Coimbatore considers that if the newly proposed range were also to include the forests along the Bhowani river from near its source down to the junction of the Moyar, including, of course, the forests of the lower slopes of the Nilgiris (*i.e.*, those worked down to the plains and not up to the plateau); at present under Colonel Morgan, the appointment of a separate officer would be advisable.

7. In my letter recorded in the Government Order now under reply, I did not fully explain the importance of this newly proposed range even as it then appeared to me, as I did not, in the first place, anticipate any objection to one of our unemployed officers being placed in charge. Since that time, however, I have had conferences with the Collector of Coimbatore and with Colonel Morgan and the officer of the Anamallay range, and I think its importance can hardly be over-estimated; and I am more than ever convinced of the necessity of having a separate officer for this range, which, in addition to the forests already attached to it, should also comprise the forests of the Upper Bhowani, *i.e.*, the forests on the left bank of the Bhowani from a little above Soondapatty down to its junction with the Moyar, including, of course, all the slopes of the Nilgiris (which are worked down to the plains and not up to the plateau) at present under Colonel Morgan.

8. The forests along the lower slopes of the south-eastern portion of the Nilgiris will become of very great importance, now that a railway is about to be opened to Mettapolliam. They have already been partly explored by Colonel Morgan, and several fuel-reserves (about nine or ten square miles ?) have been demarcated, and a map of the same has been published at the Revenue Survey Office (November 22nd, 1871). More reserves and considerable planting will still be necessary, and Colonel Morgan himself says that it is impossible that he can give sufficient time to this tract, unless he neglects his very important duties in the forests of Mudumallay, Collegal, Seegoor, etc., all tracts situate on the other side of the Nilgiris. The officer in charge of these forests cannot reside on the Nilgiri plateau, nor could he well be under the Commissioner of the Nilgiris. All the tracts alluded to will be worked towards the railway in the Coimbatore District, and it will, I think, be necessary that the officer should be under the Collector of Coimbatore, and he will have occasionally to locate himself at Mettapolliam for lengthened period.

9. Colonel Morgan has hitherto only had charge of the forests on the left bank of the Bhowani. Beyond one demarcated fuel-reserve he has had no jurisdiction whatever on the right bank. The forests on the Lampen's Peak range (marked on the trigonometrical map as "Unsurveyed Tract," just to the east of Guddalore on the road from Coimbatore to Mettapolliam) are very fine, and so are some tracts near Copanairy and to the south and south-west of that hamlet. All these should be thoroughly explored and surveyed by the forest officer, and proper charts should be drawn up which will occupy a long time. I have lately learnt from the Survey officers that since the railway has been nearly completed a considerable amount of smuggling has sprung up from the forests about Copanairy and Lampen's Peak range, and that the smugglers elude our Tannah stations. It would be very difficult for the Anamallay officer to prevent this when his more important duties keep him at Anamallay during all the healthy portion of the year. These tracts must, I think, be worked by the same officer who has charge of the upper Bhowani tracts and lower slopes of the Nilgiris; it would greatly hamper operations and conservancy, and greatly facilitate smuggling if they were under different officers; but it would be still worse to have different officers working under different Collectors in what may be said to be one and the same forest. This would, I think, render conservancy almost impossible.

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

10. Again to the south-west of Copanairy and to the west of Bolumputty there are fine tracts of forests which are, I believe, private property, as they are situated in Malabar. The more easterly portions of these can never be worked to the westward, and we should endeavour to purchase or obtain leases of these. They will be increasing in value immensely year by year, though in Malabar, if worked by our department to the eastward into Coimbatore, the operations should be under the Collector of Coimbatore not the Collector of Malabar. The forest officer should explore all these tracts, and, with the assistance of the Collector and Survey Department, he should ascertain what is private property and what belongs to Government, and charts should be drawn up.

11. As far as regards Sholaykaray and Chenat Nair the forest officer would be under the Collector of Malabar; but this has always been the case. These tracts are quite separated from the more northern portions of the range, and they are all worked into Malabar.

12. Considering the importance of this range I think it is more than any of our junior officers could undertake. Captain Walker will very shortly be returning (April next, I believe), and I would then propose to place this range under Lieutenant Williams (as he will be relieved at Madura); he is a good surveyor, and in every way competent to this charge. In the meantime, I would place one of our juniors (at present without employ) in charge under Mr. Douglas's orders, and, of course, those of the Collector of Coimbatore.

13. The Commissioner of the Nilgiris is naturally anxious that the revenue from the forests of the slopes of his mountains should be credited to his range. I see no difficulty in this, and would propose that all collections from the left bank of the Bhowani should be so credited. If we are to look to future requirements the whole of these proceeds, and probably much more, will have to be expended on the planting up of the reserves already formed by Colonel Morgan and on the formation of further reserves, etc.

14. When the Deputy-Conservator of the Anamallays wrote his letter No. 658, addressed to the Collector of Coimbatore, he had not consulted with me on the subject, and he was not aware of the great importance that will now attach to the forests in the vicinity of Copanairy to the south-west of Mettapolliam; he has never explored or even visited these tracts, and, until the sanction for this branch line of railway from Coimbatore to Mettapolliam, they have been quite a closed tract of no value, as there has, of course, been no market.

15. When the Collector of Coimbatore wrote his letter No. 197, addressed to the Board, he had not taken into consideration the fact that the six months of working season on the Anamallays (*i.e.*, June till September, or the period of the monsoons), when the officer of that range is obliged to be on the Anamallays, will also be the working season in this range. No planting can take place during the other six months, and the range will be more or less unhealthy during these dry months.

16. I am quite certain that if the range is formed as I now propose, it will, at no distant date, become a most remunerative as well as a most important one. In Salem, Arcot, Cuddapah, etc., conservancy was not commenced until long after the railway had been opened, and the forests had consequently suffered fearfully.

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

Here we now have very fine tracts of almost untouched forests, and it would be a great mistake to postpone conservancy till they have been partially deforested.

No. 178. ORDER THEREON, 15th March 1873, No. 328.

Forests, No. 12.

THE Malabar forests should be left under the Collector of Malabar with such subordinate aid as he needs.

2. One of the Supernumerary Assistants should be attached to Coimbatore to look after Bolumputty, etc., and railway fuel-reserves generally.

(True Extract.)

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

Office of Inspector of For

No. 1601. Ootacamund 23rd Decr 187

From

Major R. H. Beddome
Inspector of Forests.

To,

D. F. Carmichael Esqre
Secretary to Government

Sir,

R. D.

With reference to the

Government Order No. 1554 of the

Letter from the Collector of Malabar to the Inspector of Forests No. 2405 dd 2nd December 1872.
—do— from Dy. Conservator of Anamallay to Collector of Coimbatore No. 658 dated 29th November 1872.
—do— from Collector of Coimbatore to Board of Revenue No. 197 dated 7th December 1872.
—do— from Collector of Coimbatore to Inspector of Forests No. 49 dated 21st December 1872.

14th November last, I have the honor to forward letters from the Collectors of Malabar and Coimbatore as per margin.

2. Mr. Mac Gregor the Collector of

of Malabar thinks that within his portion of the range there will for the present at least be no operations necessitating any special departmental knowledge and he proposes to place the forests entirely under the Tasildar with an Overseer or Native Asistant Conservator as his Asistant.-

3.- This plan would in fact be reverting to the old system in force before Forest Conservancy was introduced in 1857 and would I fear be very likely to lead to re-sults similar to what occurred in North Arcot 3 years ago. The Tasildar

Tasildar would I am sure never go into the forests and his subor-dinates and the native Asistant would be on intimate terms with the timber merchants and the chances are they would all play into one anothers hands, at any rate the present admirable double check of the Forest Department carrying on the Executive and the Revenue Department receiving all payments would at once cease to exist.-

4.- The Collector thinks that no departmental knowledge will be required in this range at present, but

but this is not the case, we have just purchased some 2 or 3,000 acres of land and most extensive and important planting operations are necessary. This cannot be supervised in any way by the range Officer of the Anamallays as the working season and planting season are the same in both ranges (i.e. June till December) and the Anamallay Officer can hardly leave the Anamallay range during this season.-

5.- It is an error to suppose that the Chenat Nair forest has

has been nearly worked out, it has been greatly impoverished as far as the supply of valuable timber goes, the Teak and black-wood having been nearly all felled* out before our Department took charge, but the forests are still rich in Firewood and the better sorts of jungle timber (these having I believe been scarcely touched) and it is probable that we shall have extensive Firewood operations in connection with the supply of Fuel to the Locomotives.-

*by a gentleman resident at Palghat who had a contract for these forests.-

6.- The Collector of Coimbatore considers that if the newly proposed range

Range were also to include the
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from near its source down to
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-cluding of course the forests of
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forests

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the year. These tracts must I think be worked by the same Officer who has charge of the upper Bhowani tracts and lower slopes of the Nilgiris, it would greatly hamper operations and Conservancy and greatly facilitate smuggling if they were under different Officers, but it would be still worse to have different Officers working under different Collectors in what may be said to be one and the same forest this would I think render Conservancy almost impossible.

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I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servt

R. H. Beddome Major
Inspector of Forests.

14 November /72 No. 63-64

Rev 1872-73. Dept.

Forest Department.

No. 4103

From

The Inspector of Forests

To,

The Secretary to Govt. R.D.

Dated 23d. December 1872.
Received

No. 2601.

Enclosure No. 4. R.D.

Subject

Replies to G.O. No. 1554 of 14th November 1872.—

Forwarded

S.O. No. 328 - 15th March /73

C.8: Jany /73 R.12: March

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
15th March /73

No. 4103

From Inspector of Forests

Dated 23d December 1872.

FOR ORDERS.

No. 328.

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from the Collector of Kurnool - with its enclosure, on the subject noted in the margin.

2. I am of opinion that the Rules proposed in the Collector's letter should be carried out as far as practicable.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant,

[illegible]

23 X/12 : March

C. No 4103

FOR ORDERS.

(Honble Secy of State)

look after Balances held by Local and Railway Boards

Colonial Secretary

I. G. S.

3. Inspector of Forests. Dec 17th 1873
14. Board of Rev: — S
6. Asst Gen'l S

C. 8th Jany/73 R 12: March

Vide Board's Pro.
19th Sept/74 6. N. 1406

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

REVENUE.

To THE INSPECTOR OF FORESTS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 15th.

Read. Encl.

G. O., 15th March 1873, No. 328.

MARCH.
Nos. 177-178.

Malabar and Coimbatore Forests.—Passing orders with reference to the former being left under the Collector with the needed subordinat aid and a Supernumerary Assistant being attache to the latter to look after Bolumputty, etc., forest and railway fuel-reserves.

