G.O. No: 685
Dt: 4.7.73

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th July 1873.

No. 29. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th May 1873, No. 826, Forest No. 23 :—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 4th April 1873, No. 174 :—

In reply to Board's Proceedings, dated 28th March 1873, No. 477, I have the honour to forward a rough sketch of our hills and to furnish the information called for.

2. It is the southern block only, as yielding our water-supply, that I care to conserve, and the Board are aware that nothing can be done with the only Zemindar (Singampatti) who claims any portion of these hills as he is at present as minor under the management of the Court of Wards.

3. I am anxious to conserve the Kattalei Malei, but that is the property of a pagoda, and I have in my letters, Nos. 54, 210, 296, 442, 456, and 591, dated 4th February, 20th May, 11th July, 12th and 24th October 1871, and 11th December 1872, urged that this hill should be rented or other land given in exchange.

4. There are four Zemindari forests on the northern range—Chokampatti, now split up into numerous small mittahs; Sivagiri, hopelessly involved in litigation and likely soon to be similarly divided; Settur, the Zemindar of which place declines to part with his forest; and Saptur, whose Zemindar has just gained his suit in the Madura Court and is unlikely to come to terms. This northern range is altogether inferior to the other and yields no water-supply of any consequence to Government villages; I do not, therefore, think it worthwhile taking any steps to acquire the forest lands on this northern range of hills. The forest claimed by Singampatti, on the southern range, lying, as it does, at the head of our principal river, is, with the small block known as Kattalei Malei, all that the Board need consider. The former cannot be acquired for the next four years, and for the latter I have already submitted alternative proposals of rental or exchange.

Enclosure No. 1.—Sketch of Hills.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings dated 28th March 1873, No. 477.

2. The acquisition of the hill forests belonging to the four northern Zemindaries of the Tinnevelly District appears to be of little importance; the forests are inferior to those of the southern group of hills, and no streams descend from them on the Tinnevelly side; lastly, the owners of two of the forest ranges are unwilling to part with them, and of the other two properties one is already subdivided among a number of owners and the other will soon be similarly dealt with. The small portion of the southern hills known as the Kattalei Malei can be acquired by exchange or by a yearly payment of 4,000 Rupees. The Board considered this sum excessive, and more than once called on the Collector to support his estimate and to explain why Major Beddome put the yearly value of timber, etc., from the hill at no more than Rupees 500.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th July 1873.

3. Mr. Puckle seems to have done what he can to arrive at a just estimate, but has said nothing on the subject of Major Beddome's computation. The truth is that the Kattalei Malei has a factitious value to whoever owns or leases the adjoining Singampatti Forests. It is open to the Government to lease these forests from the Court of Wards, but they cannot be acquired during the proprietor's minority. If, therefore, as seems very desirable, the Government lease the Singampatti Forests the Board recommend that the Kattalei Malei be also leased or acquired on the terms proposed by Mr. Puckle. They give the preference to a lease, being unwilling to compel Government ryots to hold their lands under the Inamdar.

4. If the Government approve these proposals the Collector will be desired to value the lease of the Singampatti Forests in communication with the Inspector of Forests.

5. Mr. Puckle has still to report whether the instructions in paragraph 4 of G. O., dated 24th October 1872, No. 1,475, have been carried into effect.

No. 30. ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1873, No. 685.

Forests, No. 3.

As the acquisition of the northern forests seems in no way imperative in the interests of Government, nothing further need be done regarding them.

2. The Government approve the Board's proposals regarding the southern forests, and authorize their being leased in the manner suggested by the Board.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 1523

Pros: Board of Revenue—
Zemindari Forest Tracts in the
Tinnevelly Dt.

For orders
17th May 73. No. 826.

In their Proc. dated 9 Jan
/22 No 22 quoted in G.O
24 Oct /22 No 1475, the Bd
of Rev recommended that
the Coll. of Tinnevelly
should be authorized to
lease certain forests on
the northern & southern
ranges of hills which
separate that District
from Travancore. They
were the Sivagiry Zemindari
Forests & the Chokampatti
Zemindari Forests, both on
the northern range, for
Rs 5000 & Rs 200 respectively,
& the Kattalei & Mahendra
Giry Hills, on the southern
range, for Rs 4000 & Rs 1000.
Also the Singampatti

I would be content with the Southern Forests

J. D. S.

Commissariat Fronts, on the same range, which rotate year under the management of the Court of Wards.

The Collr now reports that in his opinion it is unnecessary to lease any of the Fronts on the northern range, as none of the rents of the District take them nor these, and the Bd support his proposal that the Kattalamalai Hill and the Sirugampatti Fronts on the southern range are the only important ones. They accordingly recommend that the latter Fronts be rented from the Court of Wards after valuation by the Collr & Inspector of Fronts, and that

Kattalamalai Hill be rented on the terms proposed viz Rs 4000 per annum, though Mr Pinckle has not dealt with Major Beddome's low estimate of its value.

WB.

Memo for Collrs

Zemindari Inam Estate

Tinnevelly District

Revenue Department.

No. 685.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 4 July 1873.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly District reporting on the proposed acquisition of certain Zemindari Inam Tracts lying adjacent in that District

} B.R. 17th May 1873 No. 826.

In the acquisition of the Northern Inam Estates seems in no way imperative in the interests of Government, nothing further need be done regarding them.

2. The Government approve the Boards' proposals regarding the Southern Inams and authorize their being leased in the manner suggested by the Board.

Lat

3 Folio Desp of Forests Dec 15 July 73
14 " Bds of Revenue "

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Under date 1 June 73 R 2 July

Further Ct. to G.O. 13 June 1873 No. 1262

Further from R. 18 April 1874 No. 918.

Govt. of {1873} Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE INSPECTOR OF FORESTS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated July 4th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 4th July 1873, *No.* 685.

JULY.

Nos. 29-30.

Zemindari Forest Tracts in the Tinnevelly District.—Intimating that nothing further need be done for the acquisition of the northern forests and authorizing the leasing of the southern forests.

No. 29-30

No. 685 4 July 1873