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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th August 1874.

Read the following papers :—

No. 213. From Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 4th April 1874, No. 4.

I HAVE the honor to report that I have just completed a tour of inspection in the South Arcot District, and paid a casual visit to Trichinopoly and the Elemanore plantations.

2. I did not unfortunately meet Mr. Garstin, who was engaged in another part of the district, but I have written to him demi-officially, and shall forward an extract of the Inspection Report as usual.

3. I met Mr. Wooldridge, the Deputy-Conservator, at Tindevanum on the 28th February 1874, and visited with him the Gingee reserves, Multar, etc., plantations, Trinomalay, Chengum, and the Moodenai reserve, leaving the district on the 11th March via Singarpettah, Tripatur, and Salem, halting at each place and inspecting the timber depôt and Singarpettah reserve (Salem District).

The Sub-Forester, Khader Hoossain Sahib, joined our camp at Gingee, and remained with us till we left the district. This man has been recently appointed from the Collector's Office, and appears active and intelligent. Mr. Wooldridge speaks highly of him, and he appears well qualified for promotion to a higher grade for which there will probably be an opportunity when the district establishment is [illegible] organised.

4. *Gingee.*—I find that, although the whole of these jungles were ordered to be placed under the charge of the Special Department in 1869 (*vide* Mr. Reade's letter, No. [illegible], recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 6,512, dated 31st August 1869) such has only been partially done, and the arrangements made and orders passed on my report in that year have not been borne in mind or acted upon until recently when Mr. Wooldridge [illegible] the matter up. In fact, it may be considered that during the time in which Mr. [illegible] and Mr. [illegible] were in charge, no progress was made, and matters rather retrograded; the same may also be said with regard to a considerable part of the time during which Mr. Nisbet was in charge, owing to that officer's bad health. Mr. Wooldridge took charge in November 1870, but it naturally took some time for him to become acquainted with the district and his duties; and his attention was for some time mainly directed to the hill-forests near Chengum, which accounts for many of the arrangements formerly made or proposed being entirely lost sight of. The whole expenditure connected with the preliminary demarcation, watching, and planting up portions of the so-called reserves, amounting to Rs. [illegible],000 in round numbers, has been met from Imperial Forest Funds, whilst all the revenue has been credited to [illegible] Conservancy, with the exception of some deadwood recently collected [illegible] by the Deputy-Conservator. The supply-tracts and tracts for free felling referred to in my report have never actually been marked off, and none of the reserves have been enclosed. This state of things is not satisfactory, and I shall submit a separate report and proposals with regard to it and planting and conservancy operations in this district generally, through the Board of Revenue. A large quantity of fire-wood is probably still removed to Pondicherry and elsewhere without paying seigniorage as, so far as I can learn, the whole amount of Jungle Conservancy

receipts throughout the district does not come up to what ought to be realised from the Gingee jungles alone. The whole area of Gingee jungles is estimated very roughly at 20 miles by 5, or, say, 64,000 acres; that of the seven *close* reserves originally proposed in 1869 was estimated at 6 square miles (3,840 acres), whilst the existing six reserved tracts which I shall class as *open* reserves, as [illegible] fenced in and [illegible] grazing is permitted, are estimated to contain some [illegible],000 acres including the Gu[illegible]varam reserve in the Villapu[illegible] Taluq; but I am inclined to think this estimate is in excess of the actual extent: the expenditure from the commencement up to 31st December 1873 has been Rupees 4,000, excluding any share for supervision by the district forest officer. The system adopted has been to prevent all felling or damage, and to enclose several portions at a time, with a view to natural re-production aided by planting up of bare spaces. I am satisfied with the results obtained, though they are not what they might have been under more systematic supervision and guidance, and if the expenditure had not, on several occasions, been curtailed or suspended at the most important season. The temporary establishment now employed, consisting of two maistries, two rangers, and ten gardeners, costs Rs. 70½ per mensem. One lakh of pits have been dug, 84,000 of which have been planted up, and 18,000 yards of temporary fence have been constructed. The casualties re-placed in the pits have numbered some 16,000. The young trees on the whole, and considering the almost utter failure of the last monsoon, look wonderfully well, and the growth, in some instances, has been very good, strong healthy sapling of 10 to 12 feet high, at 15 to 18 months old, being [illegible] common. The natural re-production is also encouraging, especially in the parts temporarily enclosed in which seedlings are springing up in every direction. In short, the reserves contrast very favorably with those recently visited and reported on in the Salem District, even although the latter are *close* (fenced in) reserves.

The cause may be looked for in superior soil or a moister air owing to comparative proximity to the sea, but I believe is mainly attributable to the exclusion of fire, which, Mr. Wooldridge informs me, has been quite kept out of Gingee reserves since he has had charge. The grass has been eaten down by cattle, and the result tends to show that their admission, under carefully considered and enforced restrictions, is a positive advantage in these jungle reserves; goats being carefully excluded and the portions in which planting is being carried on closed *pro tem.* Rules on the subject prepared by the Collector of South Arcot are now before [illegible], referred by the Revenue Board, and the whole subject of open and close [illegible]ves shall have [illegible] consideration, and form subject of report to the Reve[illegible] Board in the report already alluded to. It may be well to point out here that [illegible] of Rs. [illegible]400 referred to in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 1, dated 13th January 1874, was never allotted and has not been expended, and that the sum of Rs. [illegible]0,000, which form subject of the Proceedings, is *in lieu* of the 11,[illegible]00, and not an additional charge as might be inferred. I think, the whole should be met from Imperial Forest expenditure, as will be explained, in my communication to the Board.

5. *Multar, etc., Plantations.*—These plantations originally proposed by myself [illegible] charge of the range (Board's Proceedings No. 6,312 of 1869) have

recently (1872-73) been undertaken on a large scale, the funds having hitherto been provided from Local Jungle Conservancy. The area handed over for planting, most of which has now been surveyed, is close on 3,000 acres, whilst the existing plantations and sites in the Cuddalore and Tindevanum Taluqs exceed 1,600 acres in extent; and Mr. Wooldridge informs me that more land suitable for the growth of the Casuarina is available in the two latter taluqs. The Multar plantations, including those at the Pooniar anicut, contain, in round numbers, two lakhs of Casuarina trees, covering some 280 acres. The plants are put out at 6 feet apart, and, allowing for vacant spaces for wells, etc., may be reckoned at 700 to the acre, and cost about Rs. 5,000 in 1872, and upwards of Rs. 6,000 up to end of 1873. Mr. Wooldridge tells me there are 75,000 trees in the Cuddalore and 35,000 trees in the Tindevanum plantations (Merkanum, etc.), portions of which were commenced several years ago. The total expenditure on all these plantations from Local Funds was close on Rs. 5,000 in 1872, and upwards of Rs. 10,[illegible]00 in 1873.

The proposed expenditure in the official year 1873-74 is Rs. 27,0[illegible], including office establishment, batta, etc., for which sum upwards of 1½ lakhs of trees would be planted out.

The growth is excellent in most cases; trees of the season of 1872-73 running up to twelve and fifteen feet in height, and covering the ground, whilst those put out last working season are from two to four feet high, and, as a rule, look healthy and strong. Some patches have failed or show only a poor growth, which must be expected [illegible] some cases it appears due to peculiarity of soil, depth of the water from the [illegible]ce, etc., but in many it is attributable to the plants being put out too young and weak owing to an insufficient supply of mature plants in the nurseries. I pointed this out to Mr. Wooldridge, who, I was glad to find, had already observed it, but stated that the [illegible] deficiency in well-grown plants was mainly due to uncertainty and curtailment of [illegible] which rendered it difficult to estimate and provide for requirements beforehand. This cannot be too carefully guarded against in future. I went through all the plantations which are at present in patches in the abandoned channel extending over some eight or ten miles; and I consider the general management good. The expenditure on nurseries might, I think, be curtailed, and I called Mr. Woo[illegible]'s attention to several points in which I consider there may be room for improv[illegible]dgment and the introduction of changes at [illegible] in a tentative manner.

I consider that planting on this scale should be an Imperial [illegible] not a local fund undertaking, and there would, I imagine, be no difficulty in obtaining sanction for the expenditure as "*Extraordinary*" under the recent orders of Government of India, if we submit carefully prepared estimates of proposed operations [illegible] expenditure which should, in any case, be drawn up. I shall make definite proposals on this point in my letter to the Board.

6. *Trinomalay.*—I inspected the timber-yard at this place [illegible]ntained a small stock of timber about to be exposed to auction [illegible] (Chinnas[illegible] stock. Mr. Wooldridge informs me that the demand here is very satisfactory, and everything appears to justify our putting the yard in thorough repair, building a shed for small wood, and a yard-keeper's office. The yard has been planted [illegible]

growing trees which are doing well. There is a piece of private land, adjoining which the owner is ready to part with for Rs. 30, which should, I think, be bought and a proper office for the forester erected on it, plans and estimates being first submitted. The old office at Chengum has fallen down, and, owing to the recent extreme unhealthiness of that place, the forester has been allowed to transact his office work at [illegible]alay, the cusbah of the taluq. A small office building is, therefore, much required, and should not cost much if the department erect it themselves taking the timber at cost-price. A portion of the existing timber shed at Chengum will suffice for an office there. At present the forester transacts business at his own house, which I deprecate exceedingly in all cases.

I regretted to observe that here (and at the neighboring [illegible] forest depôt of Singarpettah), the timber was not marked in accordance with [illegible] Circular No. 29, [illegible] dated 7th April 18[illegible], of the Conservator of Forests, issued in [illegible] with the orders of Government. A Circular Order on the subject of departmental felling, storing, marking, and sales of timber from depôt appears very necessary to ensure uniformity and necessary precautions. I shall prepare one and submit for the approval of the Board and Government, based on the rules issued in Madura and Tinnevelly in 1871, copies of which appear to have been circulated, but not acted upon in other ranges.

It must be understood that these depôts, open daily for the supply of the public in small quantities, differ entirely from the ordinary forest or market depôt in which timber is stored previous to sale by auction or private contract. They are much more convenient for the people, and more generally satisfactory when the supply and demand is local and limited, but, at the same [illegible] cause a little more trouble and expense.

The present system, recently introduced, of preparing and submitting statements of timber felled, etc., appears [illegible] complicated, and takes up far too much of the forester's time, besides [illegible] or [illegible]ich, in this district at least, they never go further than the Deputy-Conservator's or at most the Collector's Office. The statements formerly submitted of timber felled and sold, were very clear and simple, and if properly checked and compared in the Conservator's Office with working charges bills and revenue realised, afforded a complete check, unless, of course, accounts were cooked and timber entered as in depôt, which did not exist, which can only be guarded against by the employment of honest subordinates, and frequent inspections and [illegible] by the controlling officer. I shall inquire further into this matter of supervision [illegible] and sold statements, and endeavor to arrange for the introduction [illegible] timber felled and more effective form for their preparation and submission of the simple [illegible] of jungle at the base of the Trinomalay Hill, a few miles out. There is a piece [illegible] road, which should be formed into an open reserve as suggested in the Chengum [illegible]. It is the only piece of good jungle remaining near the cusbah, Mr. Wooldridge. [illegible] and contains a considerable number of trees of the better description such as Vengay (Pterocarpus marsupium).

7. [illegible] depôt from Imperial [illegible] There was no timber in the depôt at the period of my visit, [illegible] communication to the Board [illegible] for auction sale. The office, as stated [illegible] removed to Trinomalay [illegible] good timber-shed and yard-keeper's room, all having [illegible] above, has fallen down, but there is a [illegible] the daily sales from this timber-yard and Mr. Wooldridge proposes giving up

having them only casually to meet local requirements. I think a small stock should always be kept in depôt, and, if the range is re-organised and the forester's head-quarters fixed permanently at Trinomalay, there should be a sub-forester or duffadar who would effect sales at *fixed rates* on certain days of each month, the money being, as usual, paid into the Deputy-Tahsildar's cutcherry. There is a small experimental plantation or tope adjoining the timber-yard which should be retained, but expenditure should be restricted to establishing the existing [illegible], or replacing them by others found to grow best.

8. I visited the Moodenai reserve which is situated at the base of the Tenmullay, some 5 or 6 miles northeast of Chengum. It has been partially fenced with [illegible], and patches taken up in a few places for planting up and natural reproduction. The estimated area is 4,000 acres, [illegible] the expenditure from Imperial funds has been Rs. 374 up to 31st December last. This reserve is so situated as to protect the forests and jungles in the neighboring ravine leading up to the Tenmullay, and for this reason is very important. Mr. Wooldridge informed me that fire had been kept out for two or three years; but when we were there the upper portion (*i.e.*, up the side of the hill) was in a blaze and the maistry in charge did not appear to consider it matter for his attention or intervention. We saw the Gramam Munsifs of the neighboring villages and pointed out to them that a recurrence of fire would, unless they could detect the parties who caused it, probably lead to the tract [illegible] a *close* reserve, and their cattle entirely excluded. There is already an order by the Collector authorising the exclusion of cattle during six months of the year if required; this has not hitherto been [illegible] necessary. We also detected felling of reserved timber, supposed to be on license issued in the neighboring Polur Taluq of the North Arcot District and traced it so far as the village of Poodopolliem, part of which is within the latter district. I have addressed the Collector of North Arcot on the subject, and hope the plan of operations in each district may be assimilated, and measures taken to prevent such abuses. I think it will be found advisable to stop the felling on license in these forests (which is now allowed for unreserved timbers only in South Arcot) except at certain seasons of the year, when a limited amount of permits for marked trees might be issued to the inhabitants of neighboring villages, and, if possible, make a forest reserve of the whole Tenmullay under the supervision of the South Arcot—and not as now, partially under the Salem—Forest Officer. Proposals on this point also will be submitted through the Board.

9. The existing forest establishment in the Trinomally and Kallacurchy Taluqs and probably in the neighboring taluq of Polur, are notoriously inadequate to check felling on license or exercise any control over the large extent of forest and jungle. The Board refer to this in the Forest Administration Report for 1872-73, and it has been brought to notice for years; but the small revenue has hitherto debarred any increase. I think it is capable of great development without any detriment to the forests.

There are two other fuel-reserves in this part of the taluq (Chinnasamudram and Peringulathoor) on which Rs. 65[illegible] and Rs. 36[illegible] respectively, have been expended from Imperial Forest funds. A further sum of Rs. 861-3-5 was expended from Local Funds in demarcating and partially fencing in the Chinnasamudram reserve which is situated at the base of the Jevadis and has an estimated area of 6,400 acres. No revenue has as yet been realised from these reserves, but that from the surrounding jungles is credited to Imperial Forest. The Peringulathoor reserve [illegible] situated in what is locally known as the Chekadies, and has an estimated area of 4,800 acres. All these should, I consider, be constituted *forest reserves* in conjunction with portions [illegible] hill slopes, cattle grazing being permitted under certain restrictions and conditions, except in the portions taken up from time to time for re-planting, etc., but goats and fire rigidly excluded and no felling allowed except under the immediate orders of the officer in charge.

10. I have every reason to be satisfied with Mr. Wooldridge's [illegible] and the efforts he has made to carry out the orders he has [illegible] and make the best of it with very [illegible] establishments and want of system [illegible] supervision and guidance. I have no doubt that, when a definite and comprehensive plan of operations is agreed upon and settled for the future, Government will have every reason to be pleased with his mode of carrying it out. The Collector has recently placed him in charge of all the public jungles and plantations in the district, whether imperial or local, which is a step in the right direction, and cannot fail in the course of a few years, to produce greatly improved results both as regards conservancy, extention of area under wood, and revenue. The only thing required is to decide what is imperial and what is local, and so apportion the revenue and expenditure.

I gave Mr. Wooldridge numerous [illegible] hints and instructions which it is unnecessary to recapitulate here.

11. *Trichinopoly.*—I met the Collector, Mr. Pennington, on the 13th at Trichinopoly, and we proceeded the next day to Elemanore, which we inspected with Mr. Hadfield, the Assistant Conservator in charge, who returned with us to Trichinopoly, where we discussed and settled various matters connected with the management of the plantations and reserves.

Elemanore is the piece of padugay land selected in 1871 for the experimental growth of quick-growing trees under irrigation, as prescribed in paragraph [illegible] of G. O., No. 1,297, dated 19th August 1870 (*vide* also G. Os. No. 502, dated 21st March 1871, paragraph 2, and No. 1,064, dated 15th June 1871, paragraph 3). I am extremely sorry to say that these instructions of Government appear to have been entirely lost sight of, and that all the trouble taken in the shape of preliminary arrangements, estimates for [illegible] widening channel, etc., and three years of most valuable time have been lost. How this has happened I do not know; but, of course, no blame attaches to Mr. Hadfield, the officer now in charge. In paragraph [illegible] of G. O., No. 1,064, dated 15th June 1871, Mr. Morgan was specially entrusted with the work, and the several Government Orders quoted above and my own instructions, as supervising officer, before I proceeded on furlough afforded ample information for guidance. Mr. Wi[illegible] the Madura Deputy-Conservator, appears to [illegible] considered the supervising officer for some time after I left, and ought to have seen that the wishes of Government were attended to; but, as he was even newer to the work than Mr. Morgan, much could not be expected [illegible]. In short, the mistake appears to have happened from ignorance and want of attention on the part of the executive and absence of

any supervision by an officer of experience and standing, and such will, I fear, often recur unless the control is separated from the executive and plans and operations more systematically carried out. I would now advocate the experiment being undertaken *de novo*, and I am sure if Mr. Pennington and Mr. Hadfield are entrusted with it, and the former officer authorised to take up a piece of land for the purpose, there will be every guarantee for [illegible], *provided* that both officers remain in the Trichinopoly District. It will be difficult, but I trust [illegible] possible, to find a piece of land so well adapted for the experiment. The Collector should be authorised to buy if no suitable waste is available.

12. It now remains to state what has been done at Elemanore and the other [illegible] originally selected padugay plantations. A very small portion of the [illegible] delay, which is always and arranged for appears to have been handed over, and the delay, which is always dangerous, has resulted in numerous objections, claims to compensation, etc., being raised by the Department of Public Works and villagers, all of which matters I settled on the spot three years ago with the officers of the Public Works, the Tahsildars, and villagers themselves. Much of the work will now have to be done over again, and I have requested Mr. Pennington to give the matter his attention, which he promised to do. I trust that all may be settled and the tracts handed over and surveyed during the current year so as to enable us to see our way and make definite arrangements for our planting in 1875. A considerable area has recently been handed over on the north bank of the river which was not inspected in 1871; but I do not know what has been done with regard to the Coleroon banks, which formed subject of Board's Proceedings, No. 5[illegible]8, dated 6th April 1872. The Elemanore plantation, as now constituted, consists of 65 acres stated to contain upwards of a lakh of trees permanently established, which have cost the very large sum of Rs. 7,333. The decrease in area from the original estimate of 95 acres is stated to be caused by the reservation by the Department of Public Works of a broad belt on the sides of the channel and embankment. I cannot consider such reservations necessary if we undertake to keep them planted up as the Range Officer desires, allow the Department of Public Works free access, and supply all that is wanted for repairs, etc. There is a great dislike amongst the subordinates of every department to hand over anything to another, as they consider it affects their position and patronage; but this should not, I venture to suggest, be allowed to stand in the way of efficiency and making each department perform its own work.

13. The growth in the plantations has been very irregular owing to peculiarities of soil, distance from water (which [illegible] as a rule, raised by picottahs), and liability of the portions of the ground to be flooded during the monsoon. The Babul (*Acacia Arabica*) and Karu[illegible]alli (*Inga dulcis*) show the finest growth; some portions, where they have grown up close together and covered the ground, being all that could be wished and perfect models of what a fire-wood plantation ought to be. The Vaghay (*A[illegible] [illegible]bbek*) also shows a rapid growth. Wherever the planting has succeeded at all,—and it has succeeded on the whole,—the growth is marvellous, patches of several acres being covered with fine young trees from 15 to 20 feet high and three or four inches diameter at the age of eighteen to twenty-four months!

The *Acacia amara* does not suit the soil at all, and Mr. Hadfield is re-placing all that has been planted by other descriptions. I have no doubt that there are fully the estimated number of trees in the plantation, and that the blank spaces will be covered this year, except where there is very long rank grass, where, I fear, we must abandon the attempt until the surrounding growth of trees causes it to die away, as it probably will. The large expenditure, which does not include per-centage for supervision, is stated to have been chiefly caused by the difficulty of clearing the ground and extirpating prickly-pear. These difficulties in the way of an ordinary plantation were all taken into account and formed part of the arrangement which induced me originally to recommend the expenditure of the Rs. 5,000 for levelling the whole area, widening the channel, and bringing the land under irrigation; and had this been done the total expenditure would probably not have been greater than now with infinitely more valuable results. I am inclined to think much of the expenditure has been caused by want of systematic operations and personal supervision at the outset; in fact, that much money has been wasted and work paid for which was never performed or carried on in such a desultory way that it had to be repeated over and over again. I may be wrong but in no other way can I account for the large amount. Watering seeds or seedlings put out too late in the season has doubtless also formed a heavy charge.

14. The other padugay plantations, which I did not visit, have been much cheaper and are stated to present even better results.

At Kulitala there are 48 acres stocked with a lakh of trees, chiefly Babul, which cost Rs. 4,259. This and Elemanore are the only two stated to be wholly planted up.

Altogether we have 370 acres, of which 282 are planted, and contain 486,913 trees at a cost of Rs. 19,380, not including the cost of supervision, office establishment, etc.

15. The whole matter of the Trichinopoly plantations and reserves must be gone into much more thoroughly at the time of my annual inspection. This was merely a casual visit to satisfy myself what was doing, and I am very glad I went, as I was able to give Mr. Hadfield some hints as to thinning, pruning, watering, etc., and method of conducting his operations in future, which will, I think, prove beneficial. I also brought to Mr. Pennington's notice the original orders and plan of operations proposed, which had never been done before, and he now understands thoroughly what the general system and aim [illegible] How the operations should be. Several other matters connected with conservancy [illegible] to [illegible] talked over and settled. [illegible] O., No. 1 [illegible] general throughout the district [illegible]

Here, as in South Arcot, I was the [illegible] glad to find Mr. Pennington employing Forest Officer as his Assistant in [illegible] matters connected with forest and [illegible] management.

We agree that, under these circu[illegible] new estates, and as Mr. Hadfield will have a good deal to do in future on the Di[illegible] connection with the railway reserves (the Punjuntangy reserv[illegible] would be taken over from Madura on 1st April 1874), his head-quarters should [illegible] In short, the [illegible] transferred from Elemanore to Trichinopoly. I do not know how it can [illegible] tion on the p[illegible] to be fixed at the former place except as a temporary arrangement, as it is al[illegible] ays advisable that the Forest Officer's head-quarters and

me.
much c[illegible]
from ig[illegible]

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office should be at the same place as the Collector, and the plantations are all easily accessible by rail.

I trust the Government will approve of and sanction the change in head-quarters. Mr. Pennington appeared to think that he could provide office accommodation in his cutcherry.

16. There is a proposal to extend conservancy operations and introduce the license and voucher-system in the Putcha Mullays, which will require consideration in due course. Meanwhile, an Overseer (third class) will be required for the fire-wood reserves, for whose entertainment the sanction of the Government of India has already been obtained. I request that the necessary orders may be issued, and, with the Collector's concurrence, I consider that the present Sub-Overseer or Maistry, who has served in the district since the commencement of operations and given great satisfaction, be appointed to the post. He is reported qualified in every way.

No. 214. MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

MUCH of this report is to my mind unsatisfactory. The tracts of woodland in question seem to have been closely "reserved" out of hand—without, so far as I can gather, any prior arrangement being entered into in respect to the grazing, fuel, manurial, and other immemorial rights and easements of the people. They are simply excluded from their ancient privileges and easements. Other extensive areas are called "open reserves," and the Inspector of Forests writes (paragraph 8) as if the expulsion of cattle from customary grazing grounds and the foreclosure of forest and common rights are things that may be done at discretion. Such is not, however, the policy of the State as may be gathered from the Draft Forest Law—still undealt with; and I submit that, pending the passing of that law, we should abstain, as far as possible, from seeming aggression on the rights of the people and villagers.

2. This should be noticed in the order, and the Board directed to report what has been done in these cases.

21st *May* 1874.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

No. 215. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I AGREE with the Hon. Mr. Robinson. We have no right to allow this arbitrary appropriation on the part of the Government of tracts of forest-land wherever the Inspector happens to think fit, without any regard to the existing rights and privileges of the people. The forests of this Presidency are so vast that they may almost be said to be inexhaustible; and with such a field before us, there can be no [illegible] of necessity for establishing "reserves" in particular places where villagers or others are or may be injured by their action. I would ask the Board to report carefully and precisely to what extent any existing privileges (such as those of grazing or felling timber) are affected by the proceedings to which the Acting Inspector's report refers.

22nd *May* 1874.

(Signed) HOBART.

No. 216.

MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.

The paper with which we have to deal is merely the report of the Inspector of Forests on the condition, *etc.*, of the tracts reserved for fuel some years ago with the concurrence of the district officers and the sanction of Government. I can see no ground whatever for the assumption of my Honorable Colleague Mr. Robinson that private rights have been ruthlessly invaded. On the contrary, I believe that a just and reasonable consideration has been shown to the ryots, and that a sufficiency of waste has been left untouched to satisfy their prescriptive privileges of pasturage, leaves for manure, and wood for fuel and agricultural purposes. If any doubt exists on this point, nothing is easier than to call for a statement showing the cultivation and waste (exclusive of these reserves), the population, and number of cattle of every village, any portion of which has been included in these reserves. The interests at stake are very large; for the railway will soon pass through the district, and if reserves are not formed and if planting is not undertaken at once, the usual result will follow (as in other railway districts): the rapid denudation of the country, increase in the price of fuel, and the use, as fuel, of substances required for agriculture.

2. A forest law is not required for any such purpose as the acquisition of land. A fuel-reserve is a public purpose in every sense of the word, and therefore any land we require for such an object can be taken up under the Land Acquisition Act, and every right connected with it can be as carefully investigated and as fully satisfied as are the far more valuable rights in houses, cultivated lands, *etc.*, which are being daily acquired under that Act for railways, *etc.* But it seems to me hazardous in the extreme thus to lay down the principle that Government waste cannot be applied by the Government to public purposes without the consent of every ryot who may have happened to graze his cow on it or gather a bundle of sticks wherewith to cook his dinner. If the ryot has his prescriptive rights and privileges, so has the State; and as the guardian of the interests of the public at large, it is bound to preserve and protect these. No one can be more anxious than I am to respect privileges; but if the doctrine enunciated by my Honorable Colleague is correct, there is an end at once to all jungle and even forest conservancy.

3. I may remark that some thirty-five years ago the Government gave a lease of large tracts of jungle in South Arcot to the Porto Novo Iron Company at a rising rent without consulting the ryots at all. The latter had the concurrent privilege of cutting [illegible] but had the Iron Company succeeded, they would soon have consumed every stick, and the ryots' privilege would have been reduced to a nullity. This occurred thirty-five years ago, when surely popular rights were as well known as they are now; and if the Government could do this then, surely there is nothing so cruel or unjust in our now setting aside enough to satisfy communal rights and reserving the over-plus for a purpose by which the ryots themselves will benefit, when, as must be the case before many years elapse, the increase of population and extension of cultivation have denuded the country of fuel.

17th June 1874.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

No. 217. ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1874, No. 1,067.

Forests, No. 13.

THIS Report will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for such observations as they may wish to offer.

2. In connection with the subject of reserves, the Government desire to be informed what steps are taken to ascertain and adjust beforehand the prescriptive privileges of the neighboring villagers in the tract to be reserved. So far as may be possible, places for the formation of forest reserves should be selected so as not to interfere in any way with the rights or privileges of village population.

3. The question as to the classification of the reserves and the forests from which they should be maintained has already formed the subject of a separate communication from the Board, and is now before the Government.

Board's Proceedings, dated 28th October 1873, No. 2,203, and 13th January 1874, No. 49.

4. The Government learn with displeasure that their orders regarding the institution of an experimental plantation on irrigated land in the Trichinopoly District have been wholly disregarded. In his remarks on this subject the Acting Inspector has overlooked the fact that the new organization of the Forest Department nowhere came into force until October 1872, and that the (late) Conservator had, therefore, fifteen full months in which to see that the wishes of Government were attended to. Colonel Beddome will be called upon for an explanation of his inaction.

5. The matter should now receive the early attention of the Collector, and he should report whether it is still possible to carry out the experiment without making it too costly. The assessment on the land to be occupied is an item that must not be omitted from the calculation.

6. The remarks of Government in paragraph 10 of their review of the Forest Report for 1872-73 have anticipated the Acting Inspector's observation regarding fuel plantations in this district.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of (1874) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c. &c. &c.

Dated August 28th

G. O. Dt. 28th August 1874, No. 1,0[illegible]

AUGUST

Inspection Report by the Deputy Inspector of Forests on the South Arcot and Trichinopoly Districts.—Communicating to Revenue Board the — for such observations as they may wish to offer; desiring to be informed what steps are taken to ascertain and adjust [illegible] the prescriptive privileges of the neighbouring villages on [illegible] to be reserved; calling upon Colonel Beddome to explain his inaction in respect to the orders of Government regarding the institution of an experimental plantation on irrigated land in the Trichinopoly District; and directing the Collector to report whether it is still possible to carry out the experiment without making it [illegible]

Revenue 1874-75. Deptl

Forest Department

No. 1122

From
The Offg. Inspector of Forests

To
The Dy. Secy. to Govt. R. D.

Dated 4 } April /74
Recd. 9 }

Reports upon the tours of inspection in the S. Arcot Dt. and the casual visit to Trichinopoly & the Casuarina plantations.

2135

RC 12th Augt/74. R 17th

RC 15th R 21st RC 23rd R

C 12th May/74. R 15th

SO 25 August/74 No. 1067

Proofs for [illegible]

81

MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.

THE paper with which we have to deal is merely the report of the Inspector of Forests on the condition, *etc.*, of the tracts reserved for fuel some years ago with the concurrence of the district officers and the sanction of Government. I can see no ground whatever for the assumption of my Honorable Colleague Mr. Robinson that private rights have been ruthlessly invaded. On the contrary, I believe that all just and reasonable consideration has been shown to the ryots, and that a sufficiency of waste has been left untouched to satisfy their prescriptive privileges of pasturage, leaves for manure, and wood for fuel and agricultural purposes. If any doubt exists on this point, nothing is easier than to call for a statement showing the cultivation and waste (exclusive of these reserves), the population, and number of cattle of every village, any portion of which has been included in these reserves. The interests at stake are very large; for the railway will soon pass through the district, and if reserves are not formed and planting undertaken at once, the usual result will follow (as in other railway districts): the rapid denudation of the country, increase in the price of fuel, and the use, as fuel, of substances required for agriculture.

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is not

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17*th June* 1874. (Signed) J. D. SIM.

Office of Inspector of forests.
Ootacamund 4th April 1874.

No. 4

From
Captain Campbell Walker
Offg. Inspector of forests.

To,
C. G. Master Esqre
Ag. Secretary to Government
Rev. Deptt.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have just completed a tour of inspection in the South Arcot District, and paid a casual visit to Trichinopoly and the Elemanore plantations.

2. I did not unfortunately meet Mr. Garstin who was engaged in another part of the District, but I have written to him demi-officially, and shall forward an extract of this Inspection

=spection Report as usual.-

3.- I met Mr. Wooldridge, the Deputy Conservator, at Tindevanum on the 28th February 1874, and visited with him the Gingee Reserves, multar &c. plantations, Trinomaly, Chengum and the Moodenai Reserve, leaving the District on the 11th March via Singarpettah, Tripatur and Salem, halting at each place, and inspecting the timber depôt, and Singarpettah Reserve (Salem District).-

The Sub Forester Khader Hossain Sahib joined our Camp at Gingee, and remained with us till we left the District. This man has been recently appointed from the Collector's Office, and

and appears active and intelligent. Mr. Wooldridge speaks highly of him, and he appears well qualified for promotion to a higher grade for which there will probably be an opportunity when the District Establishments are re-organized.-

4- Gingee. I find that, although the whole of these jungles were ordered to be placed under the charge of the Special Department in 1869 - Vide Mr. Reade's letter No. 63 recorded in Boards Proceedings No. 6,512, dated 31st August/69 such has only been partially done, and the arrangements made & orders passed on my Report in that year have not been borne in mind, or acted upon until recently when Mr. Wooldridge took the matter up. In fact it may be considered that, during the time in which Mr. Cadell and Mr. Knox were in charge, no progress was made and matters rather retrogaded; the same may also be said with regard to a considerable part of the time during which Mr. Nisbet was in charge owing to that Officer's bad health. Mr. Wooldridge took charge in November 1870 but it naturally took some time for him to become acquainted with the District & his duties, and his attention was for some time mainly directed to the hill Forests near Chengum, which accounts for many of the arrangements formerly made or proposed being entirely lost sight of.

The

The whole expenditure connected with the preliminary demarcation, watching and planting up portions of the so called Reserves, amounting to Rs. 4,000 in round numbers, has been met from Imperial Forest funds whilst all the Revenue has been credited to Jungle Conservancy with the exception of some dead wood recently collected and sold by the Deputy Conservator. The supply tracts and tracts for free felling referred to in my Report have never actually been marked off, and none of the Reserves have been enclosed. This state of things is not satisfactory and I shall submit a separate Report and proposals with regard to it and planting and Conservancy operations in this District, generally through the Board of Revenue. A large quantity of firewood is probably still removed to Pondicherry and elsewhere without paying seigniorage as, so far as I can learn, the whole amount of Jungle Conservancy receipts throughout the District does not come up to what ought to be realized from the Gingee jungles alone.— The whole area of Gingee jungles is estimated, very roughly, at 20 miles by 5, or say 64000 acres, that of the 7 *close* Reserves originally proposed in 1869 was estimated at 6 square miles (3,840 acres) whilst the existing 6 reserved tracts, which I shall class as *open* Reserves, as none are fenced in, and cattle grazing is

permitted

permitted, are estimated to contain some 16,000 acres, including the Gungavaram Reserve in the Villapuram Taluq, but I am inclined to think this estimate is in excess of the actual extent, the expenditure from the commencement up to 31st December 1873 has been Rs 4,000 excluding any share for supervision by the District Forest Officer. The system adopted has been to prevent all felling or damage, and to enclose several portions at a time, with a view to natural reproduction, aided by planting up of bare spaces— I am satisfied with the results obtained, though they are not what they might have been under more systematic supervision and guidance, & if the expenditure had not on several occasions been curtailed or suspended at the most important season - The temporary Establishment now employed consisting of 2 Maistries 2 Rangers and 10 Gardeners costs Rs 70½ per mensem. 1 lac of pits have been dug, 84,000 of which have been planted up, and 18000 yards of temporary fence have been constructed. - The casualties replaced in the pits have ~~been~~ numbered some 16,000. - The young trees on the whole, and considering the almost utter failure of the last Monsoon, look wonderfully well, and the growth in some instances has been very good, strong healthy saplings of 10 to 12 feet high at 15 to 18 months old being not uncommon - The natural reproduction is also encouraging especially in the

patches temporarily enclosed in which seedlings are springing up in every direction - In short, the Reserves contrast very favorably with those recently visited and reported on in the Salem District, even although the latter are close (fenced in) Reserves. -

The cause may be looked for in superior soil or a moister air owing to comparative proximity to the Sea, but I believe is mainly attributable to the exclusion of fire, which Mr. Wooldridge informs me has been quite kept out of Gingee Reserves since he has had charge. The grass has been eaten down by cattle, and the result tends to show that their admission, under carefully considered and enforced restrictions, is a positive advantage in these jungle reserves. goats being carefully excluded and the portions in which planting is being carried on closed pro tem. Rules on the subject, prepared by the Collector of South Arcot, are now before me, referred by the Revenue Board, and the whole subject of open and close Reserves shall have early consideration, and form subject of Report to the Revenue Board in the report already alluded to. It may be well to point out here that the sum of Rs 11400, referred to in Boards' Proceedings Forest No 1, dated 13th January/74, was never allotted, and has not been expended and that the sum of Rs10,000 which

which form subject of the Proceedings is in lieu of the 11,400, and not an additional charge, as might be inferred. I think the whole should be met from Imperial Forest Expenditure as will be explained in my communication to the Board.

[illegible] [illegible] available

5. Multar &ca plantations. These plantations originally proposed by myself when in charge of the Range (Boards' Proceedings 6,512, of 1869) have recently (1872-73) been undertaken on a large scale, the funds having hitherto been provided from local Jungle Conservancy. The area handed over for planting, most of which has now been surveyed, is close on 3,000 acres whilst the existing

plantations and sites in the Cuddalore and Tindevanum Talugs exceed 1600 acres in extent, and Mr. Wooldridge informs me that more land suitable for the growth of the Casuarina is available in the two latter Talugs.-

The Multar plantations including those at the Pooniar Anicut contain, in round numbers, two lacs of Casuarina trees covering some 280 acres, the plants are put out at 6 feet apart and, allowing for vacant spaces for wells &c. may be reckoned at 700 to the acre and cost about Rs. 3,000 in 1872, and upwards of Rs. 6,000 up to end of 1873.-

Mr. Wooldridge tells me there are 75,000 trees in the Cuddalore, and 35,000 trees in the Tindevanum plantations

(Mercanum &c.) portions of which were commenced several years ago- The total expenditure on all these plantations from local funds was close on Rs. 5,000 in 1872, and upwards of Rs. 10,000 in 1873.-

The proposed expenditure in the Official year 1873-74 is Rs. 27,000 including Office establishment, batta &c. for which sum upwards of 1 1/3rd lacs of trees would be planted out.-

The growth is excellent in most cases, trees of the season of 1872-73 running up to 12 & 15 feet in height, and covering the ground, whilst those put out last working season are from 2 to 4 feet high, and, as a rule, look healthy and strong,- Some patches have failed or show only a poor growth, which must be expected; in some cases it appears due to peculiarity of soil, depth of the water from the surface &ca but in many it is attributable to the plants being put out too young and weak owing to an insufficient supply of mature plants in the nurseries - I pointed this out to Mr. Wooldridge who, I was glad to find, had already observed it, but stated that the cause of deficiency in well grown plants was mainly due to uncertainty and curtailment of allotments which rendered it difficult to estimate and provide for requirements before hand - This cannot be too carefully guarded against in future - I went through all the plantations which are at present in patches in the abandoned

Channel

channel extending over some 8 or 10 miles, and I consider the general management good.- The expenditure on nurseries might, I think, be curtailed and I called Mr. Wooldridge's attention to several points in which I consider there may be room for improvement, and the introduction of changes, at first merely is a tentative manner.-

I consider that planting on this scale should be an Imperial, and not a local fund undertaking, and there would, I imagine, be no difficulty in obtaining sanction for the expenditure as "Extraordinary" under the recent orders of Government of India if we submit carefully prepared estimates of proposed operations & expenditure which should in any case be drawn up. - I shall make definite proposals on this point in my letter to the Board.

6. - Trinomaly. - I inspected the timber yard at this place which contained a small stock of timber about to be exposed to auction as balance of stock. Mr Wooldridge informs me that the demand here is very satisfactory, and every thing appears to justify our co putting the yard in thorough repair, building a shed for small wood, and a yard keeper's office - The yard has been planted with fast growing trees which are doing well. - There is a piece of private land adjoining which the owner is ready to part with for Rs 30, which should, I think, be

bought

bought, and a proper office for the Forester erected on it, plans & estimates being first submitted. - The old Office at Chengum has fallen down, and, owing to the recent extreme unhealthiness of that place, the Forester has been allowed to transact his Office work at Trinomaly the Cusbah of the Taluq. A small Office building is therefore much required, and should not cost much, if the Department erect it themselves taking the timber at cost price, a portion of the existing timber shed at Chengum will suffice for an office there. - At present the Forester transacts business at his own house, which I deprecate exceedingly in all cases. -

I.

I regretted to observe that here (and at the neighbouring Salem Forest Depôt of Singarpettah) the timber was not marked in accordance with Circular No. 20 dated 7th April 1869 of the Conservator of Forests issued in accordance with the orders of Government.

A Circular order on the subject of departmental felling, storing, marking and sales of timber from depôt appears very necessary to ensure uniformity and necessary precautions - I shall prepare one and submit for the approval of the Board and Government based on the rules issued in Madura and Tinnevelly in 1871 - Copies of which appear to have been circulated but not

acted

acted upon in other ranges. -

It must be understood that these depôts, open daily for the supply of the Public in small quantities, differ entirely from the ordinary forest or market depôts in which timber is stored previous to sale by auction or private contract. - They are much more convenient for the people, and more generally satisfactory when the supply and demand is local and limited, but at the same time cause a little more trouble and expense. -

The present system, recently introduced, of preparing and submitting statements of timber felled &ca appears very complicated and takes up far too much of the Forester's time besides which, in this

District at least, they never go further than the Deputy Conservators or, at most, the Collector's Office.– The Statements formerly submitted of timber felled and sold were very clear and simple, and, if properly checked and compared ~~with~~ in the Conservator's Office, with working charges bills, and Revenue realized afforded a complete check unless, of course, accounts were cooked & timbers entered as in depôt which did not exist, which can only be guarded against by the employment of honest Subordinates, and frequent inspections and supervision by the Controlling Officer.– I shall enquire further into this matter of timber felled and sold statements, and endeavour to arrange for the introduction of the

simplest

simplest and most effective form for their preparation and submission.–

There is a piece of jungle at the base of the Trinomaly Hill, a few miles out on the Chengum road, which should be formed into an open reserve, as suggested by Mr. Wooldridge.– It is the only piece of good jungle remaining near the Cusbah, and contains a considerable number of trees of the better description such as Vengay (Pterocarpus Marsupium)

7.– Chengum. There was no timber in the Depôt at the period of my visit, all having been removed to Trinomally for auction sale.– The Office, as stated above, has fallen down, but there is a good timber shed and yard keeper's room.–

Mr. Wooldridge proposes giving up the daily sales from this timber yard and having them only casually to meet local requirements.– I think, a small stock should always be kept in depot and, if the range is re-organized, and the Forester's head quarters fixed permanently at Trinomaly, there should be a Sub-Forester or Duffadar who would effect sales at fixed rates on certain days of each month; the money being as usual, paid into the Deputy Tahsildar's Cutchery– There is a small experimental plantation or tope adjoining the Timber yard which should be retained, but expenditure should be restricted to establishing the existing trees, or replacing them by others found to

grow

grow best.–

8.– I visited the Moodenai Reserve which is situated at the base of the Trinmullay hills, some 5, or 6 miles north-east of Chengum.– It has been partially fenced with thorns, and patches taken up in a few places for planting up & natural reproduction.– The estimated area is 4,000 acres and the expenditure from Imperial funds has been Rs. 374 up to 31st. December last.– This Reserve is so situated as to protect the Forests & jungles in the neighbouring ravines leading up to the Trinmullay, and, for this reason, is very important.– Mr. Wooldridge informed me that fire had been kept out for 2 or 3 years, but when we were there, the upper portion (i.e. up the side of the hill), was in a blaze, and the Maistry in charge did not appear to consider it matter for his attention or intervention. We saw the Gramum Moonsiffs of the neighbouring villages and pointed out to them that a recurrence of fire would, unless they could detect the parties who caused it, probably lead to the tract being made a close Reserve and their cattle entirely excluded; there is already an order by the Collector authorizing the exclusion of all cattle during 6 months of the year if required; this has not hitherto been deemed necessary. We also detected felling of reserved timber, supposed to be on License issued in the

neighbouring

neighbouring Polur Taluq of the North Arcot District and traced it so far as the Village of Poodopollium part of which is within the latter District. I have addressed the Collector of North Arcot on the subject and hope the plan of operations in each District may be assimilated, and measures taken to prevent such abuses. I think it will be found advisable to stop all felling on License in these Forests (which is now allowed for unreserved timbers only in South Arcot) except at certain seasons of the year when a limited amount of permits for marked trees might be issued to the inhabitants of neighbouring villages, and if possible, make a Forest

Reserve of the whole Tenmullay under the supervision of the South Arcot and not as now partially under the Salem Forest Officer.- Proposals on this point also will be submitted through the Board.-

9.- The existing Forest Establishment in the Trinomally and Kullacurchy Talugs, and probably in the neighbouring talug of Polur, are notoriously inadequate to check felling on License or exercise any control over the large extent of Forest and jungle - The Board refer to this in the Forest Administration Report for 1872-73 and it has been brought to notice for years, but the small Revenue has hitherto debarred any increase.- I

think

think it is capable of great development without any detriment to the Forest.-

There are two other fuel reserves in this part of the Talug Chinnasamudrum and Peringulathoor on which Rs 658 and Rs 36 respectively have been expended from Imperial Forest funds- A further sum of Rs 881„3„5 was expended from Local funds in demarcating and partially fencing in the Chinnasamoodrum reserve which is situated at the base of the Jevadis and has an estimated area of 6,400 acres. No revenue has as yet been realized from these Reserves but that from the surrounding jungles is credited to Imperial Forest.-

The Peringalathom reserve is situated in what is locally known as the Chekadies, and has an estimated area of 4.800 acres. All these should, I consider, be constituted Forest Reserves in conjunction with portions of the neighbouring hill slopes. Cattle grazing being permitted under certain restrictions and conditions, except in the portions taken up from time to time for replanting &c. but goats and fire regidly excluded and no felling allowed except under the immediate orders of the Officer in charge.—

10. I have every reason to be satisfied with Mr. Wooldridge's arrangements & the efforts he has made to carry out

the

the orders he has received and make the best of it with very inadequate Establishments, and want a systematic supervision & guidance— I have no doubt that, when a definite and comprehensive plan of operations is agreed upon, and settled for the future, Government will have every reason to be pleased with his mode of carrying it out.—

The Collector has recently placed him in charge of all the public jungles and plantations in the District, whether Imperial or local, which is a step in the right direction, and cannot fail, in the course of a few years, to produce greatly improved results both as regards Conservancy, extension of area under wood, and revenue. The only thing required is to decide what is Imperial and what is local and so apportion the Revenue and Expenditure.–

I gave Mr Wooldridge numerous verbal hints and instructions which it is unnecessary to recapitulate here.–

11.– Trichinopoly.– I met the Collector Mr Pennington on the 13th at Trichinopoly and we proceeded the next day to Elemanore which we inspected with Mr Hadfield the Assistant Conservator in charge who returned with us to Trichinopoly where we discussed and settled various matters connected with the managment of the Plantations and Reserves.–

Elemanore is the piece of Padugay land

selected

selected in 1871 for the experimental growth of quick growing trees under irrigation as prescribed in para 7 of G.O. No 1297 dated 19th August 1870 (Vide also G.O. No 502 dated 21st March 1871 para 2 and No 1064 dated 15th June 1871 para 3) I am extremely sorry to say that these instructions of Government appear to have been entirely lost sight of & that all the trouble taken in the shape of preliminary arrangements, estimates for levelling, widening channel &c and three years of most valuable time have been lost.– How this has happened I do not know, but of course no blame attaches to Mr Hadfield the Officer now in charge.– In para 3 of G.O. No 1064 dated 15th June 1871 Mr Morgan was specially entrusted with the work, and the several Government Orders quoted above and my own instructions, as supervising Officer, before I proceeded on furlough afforded ample information for guidance. Mr. Williams the Madura Deputy Conservator appears to have been considered the supervising Officer for some time after I left, and ought to have seen that the wishes of Government were attended to, but as he was even newer to the work than Mr. Morgan, much could not be expected of him - In short the mistake appears to have happened from ignorance and want of attention on the part of the executive, and absence of any supervision by an officer of experience

and

and standing, and such will, I fear, often recur unless the control is separated from the executive and plans and operations more systematically carried out.- I would now advocate the experiment being undertaken "*de novo*", and I am sure if Mr. Pennington and Mr. Hadfield are entrusted with it, and the former Officer authorized to take up a piece of land for the purpose there will be every guarantee for its success, *provided* that both Officers remain in the Trichinopoly District - It will be difficult, but I trust not impossible, to find a piece of land so well adapted for the experiment, the Collector should be authorized to buy if no suitable waste is available.-

12.- It now remains to state what has been done at Elemanore and the other Padugay plantations.- A very small portion of the 1100 acres originally selected and arranged for appears to have been handed over, and the delay, which is always dangerous, has resulted in numerous objections, claims to compensation &ca being raised by the D.P.W. & Villagers, all of which matters I settled on the spot 3 years ago with the Officers of the Public Works, the Tahsildars and Villagers themselves. Much of the work will now have to be done over again, and I have requested Mr

Pennington

Pennington to give the matter his attention which he promised to do. I trust that all may be settled, and the tracts handed over and surveyed, during the current year so as to enable us to see our way, and make definite arrangements for our planting in 1875.- A considerable area has recently been handed over on the North bank of the river which was not inspected in 1871, but I do not know what has been done with regard to the Coleroon banks which formed subject of Boards Proceedings No 538, dated 6th April 1872.- The Elemanore plantations as now constituted consists of 65 acres, stated to contain upwards of a lac of trees, permanently established, which have cost the very large sum of Rs. 7333.- The decrease in area from the original estimate of 95 acres is stated to be caused by the reservation by the D.P.W. of a broad belt on the sides of the channel and embankment. I cannot consider such reservations necessary, if we undertake to keep them planted up as the range Officer desires, allow the D.P.W. free access, and supply all that is wanted for repairs &c.- There is a great dislike amongst the Subordinates of every Department to hand over anything to another, as they consider it affects their position and patronage, but this should not, I venture to suggest, be

be

be allowed to stand in the way of efficiency, and making each Department perform its own work.-

13.- The growth in the plantations has been very irregular, owing to peculiarities of soil, distance from water (which is as a rule raised by Pecottahs) and liability of the portions of the ground to be flooded during the monsoon.- The Babul (*Acacia Arabica*) and Karakapilli (*Inga dulcis*) show the finest growth, some portions, where they have grown up close together, and covered the ground being all that could be wished, and perfect models of what a firewood plantation ought to be.- The Vaghay (*Albizzia Lebbek*) also shows a rapid growth – Wherever the planting has succeeded at all, and it has succeeded on the whole, the growth is marvellous; patches of several acres being covered with fine young trees from 15 to 20 feet high and 3 or 4 inches diameter at the age of 18 to 24 months! –

The *Acacia Amara* does not suit the soil at all, and Mr. Hadfield is replacing all that has been planted by other descriptions. – I have no doubt that there are fully the estimated number of trees in the Plantations & that the blank spaces will be covered this year, except where there is very long rank grass where I fear we must abandon the attempt until the

surrounding growth of trees causes it to die away as it probably will. –

The large expenditure, which does not include percentage for supervision, is stated to have been chiefly caused by the difficulty of clearing the ground and exterpating prickly pear – These difficulties in the way of an ordinary plantation were all taken into account, and formed part of the arrangement which induced me originally to recommend the expenditure of the Rs. 5,000 for levelling the whole area, widening the channel, and bringing the land under irrigation, & had this been done, the total expenditure would probably not have been greater than now with infinitely, more valuable results. I am inclined to think much of the expenditure has been caused by want of systematic operations and personal supervision at the outset, in fact that much money has been wasted and work paid for which was never performed, or carried on in such a desultory way that it had to be repeated over and over again. I may be wrong, but in no other way can I account for the large amount. Watering seeds or seedlings put out too late in the season has doubtless also formed a heavy charge.–

14.– The other Padugay plantations, which I did not visit, have been much

cheaper

cheaper, and are stated to present even better results.–

At Kulitata there are 48 acres stocked with a lac of trees, chiefly Babul, which cost Rs. 4,259.– This and Elemanore are the only two stated to be wholly planted up.–

Altogether we have 370 acres of which 282 are planted and contain 1,86,913 trees at a cost of Rs. 19,380 not including the cost of supervision, Office Establishment &c.–

15.– The whole matter of the Trichinopoly plantations & Reserves must be gone into much more thoroughly at the time of my annual inspection, this was merely a casual visit to satisfy myself what was doing, and I am very glad I went as I was able to give Mr. Hadfield some hints as to thinning, pruning watering &ca. and method of conducting his operations in future which will I think prove beneficial- I also brought to Mr. Pennington's notice the original orders and plan of operations proposed which had never been done before, and he now understands thoroughly what the general system and aim of operations should be- Several other matters connected with Conservancy in general throughout the District were talked over and settled.-

Here, as in South Arcot, I was glad

to

to find Mr. Pennington employing the Forest Officer as his Assistant in all matters connected with Forest and jungle management.-

We agree that under these circumstances and as Mr. Hadfield will have a good deal to do in future on the Dindigul road in connection with the Railway reserves (The Punjuntangay reserve will be taken over from Madura on 1st April 1874) his head Quarters should be transferred from Elemanore to Trichinopoly- I do not know how it came to be fixed at the former place, except as a temporary arrangement, as it is always advisable that the Forest Officer's head Quarters and Office should be at the same place as the Collector and the plantations are all easily accessible by rail.-

I trust the Government will approve of and sanction the change in Head Quarters- Mr. Pennington appeared to think that he could provide office accommodation in his Cutcherry.-

16.- There is a proposal to extend Conservancy operations, and introduce the License and Voucher System in the Putcha Mullays; which will require consideration in due course. Meanwhile an Overseer (3d. Class) will be required for the firewood Reserves for whose entertainment the sanction of the Government of India has already been obtained. I request that the necessary orders

may

may be issued, and, with the Collector's concurrence, consider that the present Sub-Overseer or Maistry who has served in the District since the commencement of operations, and given great satisfaction, be appointed to the post- He is reported qualified in every way.-

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servant,

Campbell Walker Captain
Offg. Inspector of Forests.

32/1067

The paper with which we have to deal is merely the report of the Inspector of Forests on the condition of the tracts reserved for fuel some years ago with the concurrence of the District Officers and the sanction of Government. I can see no ground whatever for the assumption of my Honorable Colleague Mr Robinson that private rights have been ruthlessly invaded - On the contrary I believe that all just and reasonable consideration has

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Forest Department.

No. 1122

From
The Offg. Inspector of Forests.

To,
The Ag. Secretary to Govt.
R. D.

Dated 4th }
Dated 9th } April 1874.

No. 4.

Enclosure None

Subject

Reports upon the tour of inspection in the S. Arcot District and the casual visit to Trichinopoly & the Elemanore plantations.—

2.13.

SO 25 August/74 No. 1067

has been shown to the ryots, and that a sufficiency of waste has been left untouched to satisfy their prescriptive privileges of pasturage, leaves for manure and wood for fuel and agricultural purposes. If any doubt exists on this point, nothing is easier than to call for a statement showing the cultivation and waste (exclusive of these reserves) - the population and number of cattle of every village, any portion of which has been included in these reserves. The

interests

interests at stake are very large, for the Railway will soon pass through the District, and if reserves are not formed and planting undertaken at once the usual result will follow (as in other Railway districts) the rapid denudation of the country, increase in the price of fuel and the use, as fuel, of substances required for agriculture.

A Forest law is not required for any such purpose as the acquisition of land. A Fuel reserve is a public purpose in every sense of the word, and therefore any land we require for such an object can be taken up under the Land Acquisition Act, and every right connected with it can be as carefully investigated and as fully satisfied as are the far more valuable rights in houses, cultivated lands, &c, which are being daily acquired under that Act for Railways, &c. But it seems to me hazardous in the extreme thus to lay down the principle that Government waste cannot

be

be applied by the Government to public purposes without the consent of every ryot who may have happened to graze his cow on it, or gather a bundle of sticks wherewith to cook his dinner. If the ryot has his prescriptive rights and privileges, so has the State, and as the guardian of the interests of the public at large, it is bound to preserve and protect these. No one can be more anxious than I am to respect privileges; but if the doctrine enunciated by my Honorable colleague is correct, there is an end at once to all jungle and even Forest conservancy.

I may remark that some 35 years ago the Government gave a lease of large tracts of jungle in S. Arcot to the Porto Novo Iron Company at a rising rent without consulting the ryots at all. The latter had the concurrent privilege of cutting fuel, but had the Iron Company succeeded they would soon have consumed every stick and the ryots privilege would

have

have been reduced to a nullity. This occurred 35 years ago when surely popular rights were as well known as they are now, and if the Government could do this then, surely there is nothing so cruel or unjust in our now setting aside enough to satisfy communal rights and reserving the overplus for a purpose by which these ryots themselves will benefit, when, as must be the case before many years elapse, the increase of population and extension of cultivation

have denuded the country
of fuel

J. D. Sl[illegible]

77.6.

Minute

GO 25 August / 74 No 1067

3 Copies sent to Hobbs J C Lin 21/9/76

Minute

Much of this Report is to my mind Exceedingly unsatisfactory. In the first place tracts of woodlands seem to be closely reserved out of hand without so far as I can gather any prior arrangement being Entered into in respect to the grazing, fuel, manurial and other immemorial rights and Easements of the people. They are simply expelled from their ancient privileges & Easements

Other extensive areas are called open reserves and the Inspector of Forests writes (Para 8) as if the expulsion of cattle from customary grazing grounds & woods and the foreclosure of forest and common rights are things that may be done at discretion. Such is not, however, the policy of the State as may be gathered from the Draft Forest Law — still undealt with — and I submit that pending the passing of that Law, we should abstain from possible aggression on the rights of the people & villagers.

This should be noticed

32/1067

noticed in the orders and the Board directed to report

21/5 W Robinson

I agree with the Hon'ble Mr Robinson. It has been no right to allow this arbitrary appropriation on the part of the Dept. of Forests & pieces of land wherever the Inspector happens to think fit, without any regard to the existing rights & privileges of the people. The forests of this Presidency are

so vast that they may
almost be said to be
inexhaustible: and
that ~~there would be~~
with such a field
before us, there can be
no kind of necessity
for establishing
'Reserves' in the
particular places where
villages or others are
or may be injured by
our action. I would
ask the Board for to
report carefully & generally
to what extent any
existing privileges (such as those
of grazing or felling timber)
are affected by the proceedings to
which the A. Inspector's report refers

214-215 Hobart May 22 20/74

GO 25 August/74 No. 1067

3 Copies of each sent to H.H. the Govr & Hble Mr Robinson
21/9/74

38/1067

Revenue Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the May 1874.

READ the following letter from the Offg Inspector of Forests

Reporting upon the tour of inspection in the S. Arcot District, and the casual visit to Trichinopoly and the Elemanore plantations — H. E. 4 : April 1874 No. 4

The circulation of these papers was necessarily delayed [illegible] Beddome's letter [illegible] all subject [illegible] touched on [illegible] for any of territory they may contd. them

See my Minute
20/5

See Minute
WR 20/5

Sd
14/5.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. The Govt. are gratified at receiving such favorable accounts of the progress of the reserves & plantations in the South Arcot District, and observe that the Acting Inspector proposes to submit through the Board, a separate report regarding the future conduct of planting operations and forest

administration generally throughout the District

3. The question as to the classification of the reserves, and the funds from which they should be maintained, has already formed the subject of a separate communication from the Board, and is now before the Government.

See Bd. Prs. 28th Oct 72 No 2283

+13 January [illegible] No 4[illegible]

4. The Acting Inspector's remarks, as to the uncertainty and curtailment of allotments, should receive the attention of the Collector

See para 5 of his lett

It is the [illegible]
India [illegible]
that the Colle

5. The Govt. learn, with much displeasure, that their orders, regarding the institution of an experimental plantation on irrigated land in the Trichinopoly District, have been wholly disregarded - In his remarks on this subject, the Acting Inspector has overlooked the fact that the

[illegible] para 4 of his [illegible]

the new organization of the Forest Department never came into force until October 1872, and that the (late) Conservator had therefore fifteen full months in which to see that the wishes of Govt. were attended to - The Govt. must hold Col: Beddome responsible for the neglect that has occurred - Full particulars as to the mode in which the experiment should be conducted had been furnished to him, a special Officer had been placed at his disposal, he had been directed to inspect the operations at least once a year and to report annually on their progress, and yet when, in announcing to the Board of Revenue the relinquishment of his executive duties, he commented on the state of the District plantations generally and the

G.O. 19: Aug: 1870 No 1297
paras 7 - 12
& para 3 of G.O. 15 June 71 No 1064

TTT
See paras 6-12 of G.O. 16th August 70. No 1297.

See para 12 of his letter on the accompanying printed slips.

the requirements of the future, he made not the slightest allusion to this special and important subject.

6. Under these circumstances, the Acting Collector's ignorance of the orders of Govt. is not to be wondered at, but the matter should now receive his early attention.

7. The remarks of the Govt. in para X of their review of the Forest Report for 1872.73, have anticipated the Acting Inspector's observation regarding fuel plantations in this District.

Ex W.A.S

Revenue Department. 2

No.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the May 1874.

READ the following letter from the Offg. Inspector of Forests.

Reporting upon the tour of inspection in the South Arcot District, and the casual visit to Trichinopoly and the Clemanore plantations — H. E. 4th April 1874 No. 4

(but the note)

J.D.S.

I object to para 2 as put, but am quite favorable to Enquiry. See my minute.

I agree with Mr [illegible] that this para may be reduced to one of inquiry what measures

This report will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for such observations as they may wish to offer.

2. Their particular attention will be drawn to the fact apparent from the Officiating Inspector's remarks that tracts of woodlands are reserved

without any prior arrangements being entered into in respect to the grazing, fuel and other immemorial rights and easements of the people. Even where such areas are called 'open reserves' Captain Walker writes (paragraph 8) as if the expulsion of cattle from customary grazing grounds and woods and the fore closure of Forest and common rights are things which may be done at discretion.. The Board will report carefully and precisely to what extent any existing privileges are affected by the proceedings to which the Inspector's report refers.

3. The question as to the

are taken & ascertains and admits all such claims &c when Reserves are made & Protected but any existing privileges are affecting these measures the question is a very large one — on which the widest diff^ce of opinion exists and requires cautious treatment —

W.R.

12/1062

Bd's Pro: 28 Oct /73 No. 2203. & 13 January /74 No. 49.

~~Apparently [illegible]~~
Col^l. Cotton this put this wise very much more moderately & in the form of enquiry only & has not been carried out — with from the Collectors & Forest Dept.

I believe that the thing is out of the question — the purchase or rental of land fit for wet-crops — with remission of revenue for some 20 years & upwards — w^d. make the experiment costly beyond all fairness — My belief is that Major B: & the Coll^r. realized this the moment the thing had to be carried out in practice & dropped it — But this is a thing I should enquire & not angrily insist on executing the order until we know more about it — Of course Col^l B.

the classification of the reserves, and the funds from which they should be maintained, has already formed the subject of a separate communication from the Board, and is now before the Government.

4. The Government learn with much displeasure, that their orders, regarding the institution of an experimental plantation on irrigated land in the Trichinopoly District, have been wholly disregarded. In his remarks on this subject the Acting Inspector has overlooked the fact that the new organization of the Forest Department now here came into force until

October 1872, and that the (late) Conservator had therefore fifteen full months in which to see that the wishes of Government were attended to. The Government must hold Colonel Beddome responsible for the neglect that has occurred. Full particulars as to the mode in which the experiment should be conducted had been furnished[+] to him; a special[*] Officer had been placed at his disposal; he had been directed to inspect① the operations at least once a year and to report annually on their progress, and yet when, in announcing to the Board of Revenue

Ought to have reported that he was not executing the Order & why

[+] G.O. 19 August/70 No. 1297/paras 7-

[*] G.O. 15 June/71 No. 1064 paras.

① 19 August 1870 No. 1247/paras 6-12

Omit

the relinquishment of his executive duties, he commented on the state of the District plantations generally and the requirements of the future, he made not the slightest allusion to this special and important subject.

5. Under these circumstances, the Acting Collector's ignorance of the orders of Government is not to be wondered at, but the matter should now receive his early attention.

6. The remarks of Government, in para X of their review of the Forest Report for 1872-73, have anticipated the

Acting Inspector's observation regarding fuel plantations in this District.

42/1067

Revised G.O. —

Touring insp. of the Insp. of Forests in South Arcot and his visit to the Trichy plantations.

C. 23d May/74. Rd 16th July/74

45/1067

Revenue Department

No.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the August 1874

Read the following letter from the Off. Ex. Insp. of Forests

Reporting upon the tour of inspection in the S. Arcot District, and the casual visit to Trichinopoly and the Clemanore plantations,

H.C. 4th April 1874 No. 4.

Minute by His Ex. the Governor,
" Hon. Mr. Sim
" Hon. Mr. Robinson.

Here enter

IDS

MO
17/8

This report will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for such observations as they may wish to offer.

2. In connection with the subject of reserves the Government desire to be informed what steps are taken to ascertain and adjust before hand

the prescriptive privileges of the neighbouring villages in the tract to be reserved. When a proposition is made for the formation of a fresh reserve it should always be clearly stated how far such privileges will be affected by the measure.

3. The question as to the classification of the reserves and the funds from which they should be maintained, has already formed the subject of a separate communication from the Board and is now before the Government

4. The Government learn with displeasure that

In every proposition for the formation of a fresh reserve (or addition) the [illegible] made of such formation in any way affect, directly or indirectly the rights or privileges of the inhabitants of neighbouring villages [illegible] any exception to this rule the reasons [illegible] fully stated

Bds Pro: 28th Oct:/73 No. 2203 & 13th January/74 No. 49.

So far as may be possible, ~~[illegible]~~ places for the formation of forest reserves should be selected so as not to interfere in any way with the rights or privileges of village population

that their orders, regarding the institution of an experimental plantation on irrigated land in the Trichinopoly District have been wholly disregarded. In his remarks on this subject the Acting Inspector has over looked the fact that the new organization of the Forest Department no where came into force until October 1872 and that the (late) Conservator had therefore fifteen full months in which [illegible] so that the wishes of Government were attended to. The Government must hold Colonel

B

will be called upon for ~~Beddome responsible~~ an explanation of his ~~for the neglect that~~ inaction. ~~[illegible]~~ ~~has occurred.~~

5. The matter should now receive the early attention of the Collector and he should report whether it is still possible to carry out the experiment without making it too costly. The possible loss of assessment on the land to be occupied is an item that must not be omitted from the calculation.

6. The remarks of Government in para X of their review of the Forest Report for 1872-73 have anticipated the

'cting

Have we asked Col Beddome for explan^n? If not we had better [illegible] before continuing him

Acting Inspector's observation regarding fuel plantations in this District.

G

E.W.

G.O.

Tour of inspection of
Inspector of [illegible]
South Arcot & [illegible]

Revised G.O.

McCampbell

48/1107

Tour of Inspection of the Insp. of Forests in S. Arcot Dt. and the visit of the Trichy Plantations —

1067

CUC

R 2nd 213-217

C 12th May/74 P 15th R.C.

Revenue Department.

No. 1067. 48/1067

lu Pay July

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 25th August 1874.

Read the following letter from the Offg. Insp. of Forests-

Reporting upon the tour of Inspection in the S. Arcot Dist: and the casual visit to Trichinopoly and the Elemanore plantation. } H.C. 4th April 1874 No. 4.

Minute by His Ex: the Governor } (Here Enter) 7 Jun/74
" " Hon Mr. Sim. —
" " Hon Mr. Robinson

This report will be communicated to the Board of Revenue for such observations as they may wish to offer.

2. In connection with the subject of reserves the Government desire to be informed what steps are taken to ascertain and adjust before hand the prescriptive privileges

of the neighbouring villagers in the tract to be reserved. So far as may be possible, places for the formation of forest reserves should be selected so as not to interfere in any way with the rights or privileges of village population.

3. The question as to the classification of the reserves and the funds from which they should be maintained, has already formed the subject of a separate communication from the Board and is now before the Government.

4. The Government learn with displeasure

that

Bd's Pro: 28th October/73 No. 2203
and 13th January/74 " 49.

that their orders, regarding the institution of an experimental plantation on irrigated land in the Trichinopoly District have been wholly disregarded. In his remarks on this subject the Acting Inspector has overlooked the fact that the new organization of the Forest Department nowhere came into force until October 1872 and that the (late) Conservator had therefore fifteen full months in which to see that the wishes of Government were attended to. Colonel Beddome will be called upon for an explanation of his inaction.

The

5. The matter should now receive the early attention of the Collector and he should report whether it is still possible to carry out the experiment without making it too costly. The assessment on the land to be occupied is an item that must not be omitted from the calculation.

6. The remarks of Government in para X of their review of the Forest Report for 1872-73 have anticipated the Acting Inspector's observation regarding fuel plantations in this District.

No. 2 The Inspector of Forests } 7/11-9-74
14 Board of Revenue

List from orders

U. M.

Form of inspection of
Infantry of Foreign
[illegible] & Mechanics

1067

~~R/27/8/74~~
S/27/8/74