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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1115 Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 1-9.1874 196—.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st September 1874.

Read again G. O., 5th May 1874, No. 550.

Read also the following papers :—

No. 17. From Captain C. WALKER, Offg. Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 30th May 1874, No. 125.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to G. O., No. 550, dated 5th instant, to observe that the rights of the Government to the produce of such reserved or unappropriated State forests as the Anamallays do not appear to have been sufficiently borne in mind in the Board's Proceedings under reference.

2. I apprehend that the fact that the Government have such rights, either to the whole or a share in the produce of such forests, a large portion of which are leased from a private proprietor, never have and cannot be disputed; and Government have on more than one occasion held that the produce of reserved tracts should be collected on behalf of Government by their forest employés and the hill-tribes living in the forest, to whom alone the right of entry should be conceded. To leave the matter entirely in the hands of the collectors of the produce and the traders would be to sacrifice what ought to be a very important item of Imperial forest revenue.

3. I regret that I cannot agree with the Board that "the trade itself and its development may be left, with confidence, to the ordinary motives of the traders and the laborers of the country;" and I am glad to see from subsequent Proceedings, No. 82/2,062, dated 26th March 1874, with regard to a similar question in Salem, that they have since modified their views, and, after the most careful inquiry and consideration, approved of the collection and disposal of forest-produce by the Forest Department, working as much as possible through the medium of the hill-men resident in the forest.

This scheme was sanctioned by Government (G. O., No. 267, dated 27th February 1874), and is now being carried out as an experiment which, I have every reason to believe, will prove successful and to the benefit of all concerned. To leave the trade, or rather the collection, entirely in the hands of the traders or Chetties appears to me erroneous; for by so doing Government sacrifice their share in the profit, which is diverted into the pockets of a class of the community to the detriment of the general revenues of the State; the careful collection of the products is lost sight of, by which great damage is done to the State property; and it is notorious that they are brought to market in a most impure state, thereby greatly diminishing their value commercially or for officinal purposes, and the jungle-tribes, who are employed to collect them, are left entirely at the mercy of unscrupulous traders, greedy of gain.

4. There can be no doubt that the statement of prices and quantities furnished to Mr. Douglas falls far short of the actual amount and value of the products; and I can see no reason for the Board's surmise that the bulk of the Cardamoms sold at Pollachy, Anamallay, *etc.*, is grown in Cochin and Travancore and smuggled across the frontier. Both the Cochin and Travancore Sirkars keep a strict watch on such products, which are entirely in the hands of the State which derives a very large revenue from them.

5. It appears to me unnecessary to recapitulate here all that has already been written on the important matter of the collection and disposal of forest-products, the views regarding which, expressed in G. O., No. 240, dated 1st March 1873, are entirely in accordance with my own and I believe, I may say, with those of the departmental officers in general. I beg Government to believe that there is no feeling on the part of this department that "the hill-tribes are intruders in the primeval forests which they inhabit;" and that my personal experience in several districts tends to convince me that they are, as a rule, treated with fairness and consideration by our officers and subordinates, and are found, as the Government surmise (paragraph 3 of G. O. quoted above), "very amenable to kindly influence." I can give no better instance of this than exists in the Denkenicottah range of the Salem District, where the Poojaries, who are the hillmen of the range, have the most implicit and well-merited trust in the Forest Overseer, Mahomed Alli Sahib, for whom they work willingly, cutting Sandal-wood, collecting Gall and Soap-nuts, and dye stuffs,

by which means they have, in a great measure, emancipated themselves from the thraldom in which they were held a few years ago, and are, on the whole, well to do and contented, [illegible] all hillmen averse to regular work or settled habits. Of course, cases may occur in which they are treated with harshness and injustice by forest employés, but the same may be said with equal truth of the ordinary ryot and the employés of the Land-revenue Department. The hillman is, or should be, indeed the forest ryot. There is, I am aware, an impression that forest subordinates are uncontrolled and irresponsible, but I cannot see that they are so more than those of any other department.

All that seems to me necessary is to maintain and work out the principles laid down in the Government order already quoted, showing every solicitude in the case of real jungle-tribes, but not extending any unnecessary indulgence to the traders who can have no claim to it.

6. As regards Mr. Douglas's proposal I would respectfully suggest that any special orders be deferred until we see the results of the experiment in Salem, and can collect more accurate information of the quantity and value of forest-products throughout the Presidency, which, I have every reason to believe, is very great; but that meanwhile he may be permitted to employ the Kadars and Mulcers on their own terms in any way he can, including the collection of forest-products in the reserved tracts.

I have no doubt that there will be complaints from Salem: the Chettics who have so long held the trade in their hands, first as renters of the forests and then as creditors of the hillmen, are not likely to let it slip through their fingers without protest; but I think even they will not eventually suffer much, and will gradually become reconciled to buying from us at moderate wholesale rates at fixed places and times, and retailing the products at a considerable profit.

7. On two points I would request the attention and definite orders of Government, *viz*:—

(a.) What are the respective rights of Government and the jungle-tribes in the products first in reserved and second in unreserved forests?

(b.) What are the reserved tracts into which "none but the actually resident jungle-tribes should be admitted without license" (paragraph 11 of G. O., No. 240)?

Both these points appear to me of the greatest importance, and their legal settlement should no longer be deferred, as each year which elapses complicates the position and adds to its difficulties.

I do not know whether the Government wish it to be understood that the products belong in whole or part to the hillmen, or that they have merely a vested right to collect them when their numbers admit.

It appears to me that they are much in the same position as villagers who have rights to timber, fire-wood, *etc.*, for their own use, but not for sale; but that in order to deal liberally with them, we should employ them in collection, whenever practicable, at rates representing not only the value of their labor, but a share of the profit which arises from it. Acting on this liberal principle Government have already sanctioned their recultivation of old kumari lands, and granted Rupees 2,000 as Tuccavi to provide them with tools (G. O., No. 462, dated 18th April 1874). In this way both the State and the collector would get a fair share. Any other method besides departmental collection would necessitate the levying a seigniorage to represent the Government share, and this would, I fear, never do.

It is most important that no further time should be lost in defining, under the provisions of a legal enactment, what are reserves and what are not. In all countries forests divide themselves into, first, unappropriated State forests, such as the Anamallays, Mudumallays, *etc.*; second appropriated or communal which comprise the woodlands within village boundaries; and, third, forests, the property of private individuals. The State should work the first and supervise the management of the second [illegible] for the good of the country at large, having also certain powers to prevent the destruction of private forests.

The revenues derived from communal forests would be devoted entirely to communal or local purposes; a very interesting instance of the beneficial effects of such measures being given in Dr. Brandis's memorandum, at page 19 [illegible] Reports on Forest Management, *etc.*," where he

[illegible] that the communities in the Italian Alps north of Venice have built churches, school-houses, town-halls, and constructed roads from their surplus forest revenue. There is, I can assure Government no wish to advocate a system of confiscation or gnoring of rights—merely a desire to define them, and arrive at a firm basis on which to work, without which our officers are never sure whether they are doing right or wrong, and the people are harassed by constant changes consequent on the individual bias of the local officers for the time being.

I cannot do better than conclude by quoting the last paragraph of the Acting Collector of Salem's letter on the subject of forest-produce, recorded with G. O., No. 267, of 27th February 1874, which exactly expresses my views on the subject:—

* * * * *

"7. I can assure the Board that I have no such wish as to increase the revenue of the country by grinding down the hill people or treating them unfairly. I have seen a great deal of them, and admire their simplicity and comparative honesty; but, at the same time, I would respectfully submit that, when I think I see a means of making what has hitherto been either wasted or only gone to fatten designing traders a source of revenue, I am bound to bring it and the circumstances attending it to notice."

No. 18. From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Courtallum, 30th July 1874, No. 223.

I HAVE the honor to submit my Inspection Report of the Anamallay forest range under the charge of Mr. C. G. Douglas, Deputy-Conservator of the 3rd Class.

2. I entered the forests from Setamuddi, where a small bungalow for the officer has recently been erected and should be maintained, and rode up the ghaut constructed by the late Captain Gosling which is of an easy gradient throughout, and only requires a little blasting of the rocks and adequate maintenance to make it a very fair track for carts. There was no carting going on at the time of my visit, the working season having just commenced.

3. I met Mr. Douglas at Toonacudavoo, and he accompanied me throughout my tour of inspection which extended over ten days. The Overseers in this range have hitherto been massed at Toonacudavoo, which is in the middle of what is known as the Government reserved forest during the working season. Mr. Douglas now proposes to divide the forests into separate sections, and place an Overseer in charge of each: thus, one would remain at Toonacudavoo in charge of the Government forests; one be quartered at Thekady and supervise the leased forest; whilst another would be in charge of the forests worked on the license and voucher system, extending [illegible] base and slopes of the hills from Coochmullay to the boundary of the Madura District. There is a fourth Overseer whose services will either be dispensed with on the revision of establishments, or employed in superintending the large depôts at Anamallay, Ponany, *etc.*, and assisting the Head Overseer as required.

This plan of dividing the range recommends itself on every ground, and I hope we shall be able to mature and carry it out fully on the revision. Meanwhile, with the Collector's approval, it will be partially adopted by placing Mr. Theobald, the senior Overseer, recently transferred from Tinnevelly, who is giving satisfaction, in charge of the leased forest, and leaving Mr. Rodrigues at Toonacudavoo, the forests in the neighborhood of which require rest.

4. There are still a considerable number of mature Teak-trees, but not more than required for natural reproduction or self-sowing, which, I feel confident, may be relied on here instead of planting. All that is necessary is to exclude fire and cattle from tracts under treatment, and admit the necessary amount of light to facilitate the germination of the seed by clearing away gradually trees of the less valuable descriptions, and, if necessary, cutting the grass round the young trees for a year or so; but I do not think this will be required. Mr. Douglas had already cleared and enclosed one or two small pieces as a tentative measure in which the young Teak-trees were springing up on all sides; indeed, even [illegible] forests one can mark how young Teak-trees

strive to get ahead, though checked by the luxuriant growth of bamboos, grass, creepers, *etc.*, all of which, I am inclined to think, they would master were they not burnt down [illegible] forced to make a fresh start at the commencement of the next monsoon. In this manner one sees along side of almost every shoot the charred remains of two or three of previous years which have succumbed before the annual fires, which *must* be excluded if we are to make any real progress in conservancy and reproduction.

5. I explained to Mr. Douglas the general principles on which this natural reproduction is systematically carried on on the Continent of Europe, and pointed out the evils which must sooner or later result from felling the finest trees without any regard to the future; and he agrees with me that, provided we are permitted really to constitute the forest a reserve, we may hope gradually by adopting a system very similar to that in force in Germany to cover the ground with Teak, Rosewood, and other valuable timbers, to the exclusion of other worthless descriptions. The beginning must be small, and numerous experiments may be found necessary as to the amount of light required, what trees it is best to leave for shade, *etc.*; but I am, nevertheless, confident of ultimate success, now that Mr. Douglas thoroughly understands the principles which, modified to suit climate and other conditions, should guide his operations.

A small area has been planted in former years with some success, but I would not extend it, as the natural reproduction will, I think, prove far more effective and very much cheaper. The power to exclude men and beasts from time to time as found necessary is a *sine qua non*, and I am, therefore, addressing Government, through the Board, on the subject of their recent orders on this matter, which, if it be considered necessary or expedient to maintain them, render any attempt at systematic conservancy out of the question and a mere waste of time and money.

6. Mr. Douglas has done much during the past two years in getting the large number of logs lying in the forest brought to depôt. It appears to have been formerly the custom to include in stock accounts every tree felled and left lying in the forest. This practice, which has now been put a stop to, should be strictly guarded against in future; no logs being brought to account until they are lodged in a forest depôt (the number and situation of which should be fixed) measured up, and marked by the Overseer.

7. Mr. Douglas now proposes to clear the logs out of the leased forest in a similar manner, and afterwards to fell there as required. This course should, I think, be adopted and adhered to. At present there are large stocks both on the coast at Anamallay and in the forest depôts; but it is hoped that the sales this year will be considerable both to Bombay and the Madras Public Works Department, from whom I have just had a reference on the subject.

8. The system of roads in the leased forest will have to be attended to. Those in the Government forest appear particularly well planned, and should, I think, be extended in the shape, in the first instance, of broad inspection paths which might, at the same time, be made to serve as boundaries of blocks and act as fire-traces. Private contractors working in other portions of the Nambiddy's forests make use of the Government road and timber-slip in the leased forest through which they bring timber. It is, I think, matter for consideration how far this should be allowed and under what conditions. A system of chowkies or tolls may be found necessary to prevent felling in the leased tract. It is to be regretted that some regulations on this point were not prescribed when the lease was renewed, when the important question of the use of the roads, *etc.*, appears to have been lost sight of altogether.

9. I see no reason why a system of forest tramways and simple machinery for converting the logs should not be introduced into these forests with advantage, and the subject shall have consideration on the receipt of reports, which I am daily expecting, of forest tramways in Switzerland, and when we see the results of the saw-machinery now being got out for the North Canara forests in Bombay. Meanwhile, Mr. Douglas's attention has been drawn to the matter.

10. In paragraph 11 of G. O., No. 503, dated 29th April 1874, reviewing the Administration Report for 1872-73, special attention is called to the necessity of selecting a more healthy site for the residence of the Anamallay forest officer during the working season. This shall not be lost sight of, and it would probably be found practicable, if the scheme for dividing the range is

[illegible] to build a hut at a much higher elevation than the present one in which the officer could reside when on the hills and generally supervise operations.

We visited one place between Vengolay and Paumbemmullay which might do, but it is little over 3,000 feet above the sea; the great difficulty to be overcome is want of water.

11. The license and voucher forests, which are gradually increasing in importance owing to the great scarcity of fire-wood, *etc.*, in the plains, where every available inch has been cleared and cultivated, have recently received much more of the Deputy-Conservator's attention than formerly, when his range was too extended, including as it did Bolamputty, Walliar, and Chenat Nair. Under the new arrangements proposed he will be free to exercise a much greater general control than hitherto, relying on his Overseers for the carrying out of executive details in accordance with his orders. The license and voucher forests should then receive a considerable portion of his time and the most strenuous endeavors be made both to realise the full amount of revenue derivable and conserve the remaining jungles.

Mr. Prager, the Overseer in immediate charge, who has been recently appointed, is showing much zeal and energy in improving the organisation of his charge, and I propose that he should be sent to Salem for a month (September would suit well) to learn the system pursued there under Mr. Brougham, obtain the forms for License Registers, *etc.*, with the manner of keeping, which he should render himself thoroughly acquainted.

Mr. Douglas thinks highly of this idea, and, if the Collector concurs, I shall, in communication with the Board, make the necessary arrangements for carrying it out. The system of checking the Tannah collections through contractors, which was proposed by Mr. Morgan for Bolamputty, is under consideration here.

12. The Collector fully agrees with me that the extreme limit of new cultivation has been reached both in the Polachy and Oodumulapettah Taluqs, and in order that no new puttas for jungle may be issued has taken the matter entirely into his own hands.

The extension of cultivation has, indeed, been marvellous, and the whole Anamallay valley which, twenty-five years ago, was dense forest, teeming with wild animals, is now brought under cultivation, extending, in some cases, even up the slopes of the adjoining hills. This is doubtless matter for congratulation; but it is evident that there must be a limit to it if the necessary supply of timber and fire-wood is to be maintained, and villages, which have thus cleared all the jungles within their limits, should clearly not be allowed to encroach on that of others or on the portion which Government deem it right to reserve in the interests of the community at large.

13. The only remaining patch of jungle in the plains is situated at the extreme northeast [illegible] between Coochmullay and Pundaramallay; and this we propose to constitute an *open reserve*. The Collector was at first in favor under the circumstances of making it a *close reserve*; but considering that there is a right of way through it, and that it is almost the only place which the villagers have left themselves for grazing their cattle, I considered that the course might be open to objection, and Mr. Wedderburn, on reconsideration, agrees with me. Marked trees only will be felled on license portions closed from time to time for reproduction, and fire excluded as much as possible. A legal enactment to enable us to enforce these rules is much required, and its want is daily felt.

14. Throughout the range portions of the forests will have to be laid off for felling unreserved timber and fire-wood, bamboos, and burning of charcoal on payment of seigniorage or free passes. Local rules and rates of seigniorage have recently been drawn up by the Collector in communication with the forest officers of the district, and are now before the Board for approval.

15. I examined the range accounts and records which are carefully kept, and exhibit clearly the operations of each year. Some of the forms prescribed require modifications, and Mr. Douglas finds it necessary to keep several others in explanation. I shall communicate with the Board on the subject at the conclusion of my present tour.

16. On the whole, I consider the prospects of the range very favorable, the establishment a joint depôt (with Mettapolliem, *etc.*, range) at Coimbatore will probably ensure a sale of the

smaller scantlings, and if the Public Works Department would inform us of their annual requirements, there would be no difficulty in supplying them with seasoned Teak, Vengay, Rosewood, etc., of which there is at present a very fine stock at Anamallay.

17. Mr. Douglas deserves credit for the manner in which he conducts operations, and only requires practical experience in the system of forestry and organisation pursued in the Canara countries and other districts to become a most valuable forest officer.

No. 19. MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.

MY views are quite in unison with those expressed by the Acting Inspector of Forests, and I strongly recommend that Mr. Douglas be permitted to try the experiment proposed in paragraph 20 of his letter to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 30th April 1873, for the attainment of the objects mentioned by him in paragraphs 15, 16, and 21 of that letter. Leaving revenue and forest conservancy out of consideration, I attach great importance to the reclamation of the Kadors of the Anamallays. Not many years ago, the Mulcers were in much the same condition: the exertions of Major Michael and his successors have been so far effectual that, according to Mr. Logan, they "may be said to have ceased to exist as a purely jungle-tribe." The superior condition of the Cochin Kaders (13th paragraph of Mr. Douglas's letter) is suggestive.

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of Captain Walker's letter, I have already pointed out in my Minute on the forest-products of Salem that when these farms were given up, the Supreme Government, so far from renouncing, specially reserved the right of taxation.

3. The question put by Captain Walker, *viz.*, which are and which are not "reserved" forests, is one of detail which can only be determined when the circumstances of each tract sought to be "reserved" is laid before Government. The upper portion of the Anamallays, or Teak forest as it is generally called, has always been a "reserve."

23*rd June* 1874.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

No. 20. MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

I WOULD approve the Proceedings of the Board.

2. The letter of the Acting Inspector of Forests is discursive, but the matter at issue affects merely the hill ranges of Anamallay (Coimbatore) and Agamallahs (Malabar) rented from the Collangode Nambady. The former are State forests and, I think, uninhabited or nearly so, and the collection of hill-products there is open to the Department. The Agamallahs (Malabar), on the other hand, are not State forests in the same sense, and are well peopled (as hill-tracts go) by Kaders who have lived from time immemorial by the collection and sale of hill-products and employment as wood-cutters, and they are peculiarly intelligent and self-reliant. A recent Government Order has dealt with this tract, its people, and its trade; and I think there is no reason to reconsider it. No Government interest worthy of being seriously prosecuted is, I venture to think, sacrificed by leaving the common products of the forests to their emancipated denizens—they *were* predial serfs of the Nambady of Collangode—and free trade. And I deprecate—without impugning the faith of departmental officers in the moderation and integrity of the subordinates and their own benevolence—the revival of that bondage at present even in appearance against the good will and interest of the hill-tribes (paragraphs 11 and 14 of Mr. Douglas's letter).

3. There may be something special in respect to the Pujari hill-races of Denkenekotta Taluq of the Salem District or some peculiarity as regard to State rights there to justify enforcing a State monopoly of products and trade (on the truck system) on the country in general and on the hill-races in particular, and excluding all, save the Forest Department, from large tracts of country. But those considerations do not apply to the matter under consideration, and I would not introduce the system at present into the Malabar hills. What Captain Walker means by "not extending any unnecessary indulgence to traders who have no claim to it" is by recent Proceedings. If Mr. Douglas wants hill-labor for the purposes he names, it is available for hire in the ordinary way. But I would not employ this hired labor to collect what are the ordinary means of livelihood of the Hill-races.

With reference to paragraph 6 of Captain Walker's letter, I think that the complaint of the Chetties of Salem Hill-tracts require careful consideration. The forest officers are entering on ground which is open to grave abuse. And abuses, if they occur, are more likely to be heard of through the few civilised persons who occasionally visit the forest and their denizens for legitimate purposes of trade than from the poor hill-tribes who have practically no means of ventilating any grievance. No policy can be more short-sighted and dangerous than that of excluding trade and travel from any tract of country or class of people by fiat of a State Department seeking protection and monopoly.

5. Captain Walker draws attention to the real desideratum in the closing paragraphs of his letter—the want of a forest law. And I believe that until the matter is fairly discussed and legislated for, the desultory action of the department must often transgress rights and equity.

6. My Honorable Colleague, Mr. Sim, appears to be under some slight misapprehension in regard to the forest races. The Mulcers are low-country forest races and the Paddi (Mulcer villages) named are those in the plains (formerly forest clad) between a line drawn through Collangode, Trichur, and Anamallay, and the foot of the hills. With this tract we have nothing to do, as it is the *jenm* property of the Nambady of Collangode and others, and partly within the Cochin State. The Mulcers never go into the hills, and would not, I think, be tolerated by the Kaders. It seems to me that an objectionable, if not impossible, feature of Mr. Douglas's plan lies in his proposing to work these races together.

7. The Mulcer has "ceased to exist as a purely jungle-tribe," because the forest in which they lived has disappeared, and cultivation has more or less taken its place. They now live amongst open fields and farms, and need no State aid or protection.

8. The Kaders are really a superior hill-race who are quite fit to take care of themselves and greatly benefit by free trade and intercommunication with the outer world. They are perhaps quite as superior to the Mulcer as the Badugha is to the Irular of the Nilgiri ranges. The Kaders of Cochin and Malabar are equally intelligent; but the Cochin Kader villages lie deeper into the forest and further back from civilisation, and though not inferior in any respect, the Cochin Kaders are not so knowing as their Agamallah fellow castemen.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

24*th June* 1874.

No. 21. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I AGREE with the Hon. Mr. Robinson. I think it would be a complete mistake to place (as appears now to be proposed) in the hands of Government officials the collection and sale of hill-products, giving to the hillmen, who have hitherto obtained a livelihood in these occupations, no option but to such employment under Government in the trade which it would thus undertake, and excluding private individuals from the trade altogether. It is the duty of the Government not only to respect (so far as may be possible) the prescriptive rights of the people, but to encourage to the utmost of its power personal as well as commercial liberty; and to act upon this proposal would be detrimental to both. The Salem experiment, to which Captain C. Walker very naturally refers, is, I fear, hardly reconcilable with these principles, and it would appear to have been sanctioned by Government without sufficient consideration; but there appear to be circumstances connected with it which justified some exception to ordinary rules, and we must be careful not to treat it as a reason for any general action such as that now suggested. If the "Chetties" in this case appeal, attentive consideration should be given to their case. The proposed monopoly of hill-products in the interest of the Government is objectionable, if only because it would debar such persons from a trade which they have a prescriptive right to carry on.

2. It is difficult to give a precise answer to the question put by Captain C. Walker as to the right of Government to the profits of forest-produce. I think the general principle should be, that the Government will not interfere with rights hitherto enjoyed or trade hitherto conducted in respect of forests throughout the Presidency. The Hon. Mr. Sim has indicated the proper answer to Captain Walker's second question.

26th June 1874. (Signed) HOBART.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1874, No. 1,115.

Forests No. 4.

IN their Proceedings of the 7th August 1873, No. 1,519, the Board of Revenue review certain letters from the Conservator and Deputy-Conservator of Forests in Coimbatore regarding the jungle tribes in the Anamallay forests, and condemn a proposal made by the latter for the employment of a gang of Kaders and Mulcers in collecting forest-produce on behalf of Government.

The Board expressed their belief that competition between Government and the private traders would result in mischief to all concerned, and in this view His Excellency the Governor in Council, who has already (G. O., 26th May 1874, No. 634) expressed an opinion in favor of the private trade, fully concurs.

2. The Acting Inspector of Forests in the earlier of the letters above recorded apparently supports the scheme of the Deputy-Conservator, and refers to a similar experiment sanctioned for the Salem District.

The sanction accorded has, however, now been withdrawn, and the grounds on which His Excellency is opposed to any interference between the hill-tribes and the private traders have been fully stated (G. O. of this date, No. 1,107.)

3. With reference to the points raised in paragraph 7 of the same letter, His Excellency would remark, as to the first, that the general principle should be, that the Government will not interfere with rights hitherto enjoyed or trade hitherto conducted in respect to forests throughout the Presidency; and, as to the second, that the question is one of detail, which can only be determined when the circumstances of each tract sought to be reserved are laid before Government.

4. In his letter of the 30th of July, Captain Walker, after a personal inspection, submits a report on the state of these forests. He makes no special mention of the subject now under discussion, but states his opinion that men and cattle must at times be excluded. He proposes, however, to address the Government on this subject through the Board, and the matter need not now be noticed further.

His report, which gives a favorable account of the resources of the forest and of the manner in which it is being worked, will be communicated to the Board of Revenue.

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

1115/5

Copy of G.O. 1874 Extract.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated 1st September.

Rect.

Encl.

G. O., 1st September 1874, No. 1,115

SEPTEMBER.

17—22.

Anamallay forests, Coimbatore District.—Considering fully in Revenue Board's opinion that expenditure between Government and the private proprietors in respect to forest-products would result in relief to all concerned, and communicating to Revenue Board the report of the Inspector of [illegible] Sets on the —.

13th Rec 7th & 22nd.

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REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

MINUTE BY THE HON. W. ROBINSON, C.S.I.

I WOULD approve the Proceedings of the Board.

2. The letter of the Acting Inspector of Forests is discursive, but the matter at issue affects merely the hill ranges of Anamallay (Coimbatore) and Agamallahs (Malabar) rented from the Collangode Nambady. The former are State forests and, I think, uninhabited or nearly so, and the collection of hill-products there is open to the Department. The Agamallahs (Malabar), on the other hand, are not State forests in the same sense, and are well peopled (as hill-tracts go) by Kader, who have lived from time immemorial by the collection and sale of hill-products and employment as wood-cutters, and they are peculiarly intelligent and self-reliant. A recent Government Order has dealt with this tract, its people, and its trade; and I think there is no reason to reconsider it. No Government interest worthy of being seriously prosecuted is, I venture to think, sacrificed by leaving the common products of the forests to their emancipated denizens—they *were* predial serfs of the Nambady of Collangode—and free trade. And I deprecate—without impugning the faith of departmental officers in the moderation and integrity of the subordinates and their own benevolence—the revival of that bondage at present even in appearance against the good will and interest of the hill-tribes (paragraphs 11 and 14 of Mr. Douglas's letter).

3. There may be something special in respect to the Pujari hill-races of Denkenekotta Taluq of the Salem District, or some peculiarity as regard to State rights there to justify our forcing a State monopoly of products and trade (on the truck system) on the country in general and on the hill-races in particular, and excluding all, save the Forest Department, from large tracts of country. But those considerations do not apply to the matter under consideration, and I would not introduce the system at present into the Malabar hills. What Captain Walker means by "not extending any unnecessary indulgence to traders who have no claim to it" is explained by recent Proceedings. If Mr. Douglas wants hill-labor for the purposes he names, it is available for hire in the ordinary way. But I would not employ this hired labor to collect what are the ordinary means of livelihood of the Hill-races.

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of Captain Walker's letter, I think that the complaint of the Chetties of Salem will require careful consideration. The forest officers are entering on ground which is open to grave abuse. And abuses, if they occur, are more likely to be heard of through the few civilised persons who occasionally visit the forest and their denizens for legitimate purposes of trade than from the poor hill-tribes who have practically no means of ventilating any grievance. No policy can be more short-sighted and dangerous than that of excluding trade and travel from any tract of country or class of people by fiat of a State Department seeking protection and monopoly.

5. Captain Walker draws attention to the real desideratum in the closing paragraphs of his letter—the want of a forest law. And I believe that until the matter is fairly discussed and legislated for, the desultory action of the department must often transgress rights and equity.

6. My Honorable Colleague, Mr. Sim, appears to be under some slight misapprehension in regard to the forest races. The Mulcers are low-country forest races and the Paddi (Mulcer villages) named are those in the plains (formerly forest clad) between a line drawn through Collangode, Trichur, and Anamallay, and the foot of the hills. With this tract we have nothing to do, as it is the *jenm* property of the Nambady of Collangode and others, and partly within the Cochin State. The Mulcers never go into the hills, and would not, I think, be tolerated by the Kaders. It seems to me that an objectionable, if not impossible, feature of Mr. Douglas's plan lies in his proposing to work these races together.

7. The Mulcer has "ceased to exist as a purely jungle-tribe," because the forest in which they lived has disappeared, and cultivation has more or less taken its place. They now live amongst open fields and farms, and need no State aid or protection.

8. The Kaders are really a superior hill-race who are quite fit to take care of themselves and greatly benefit by free trade and intercommunication with the outer world. They are perhaps quite as superior to the Mulcer as the Badugha is to the Paniar of the Nilgiri ranges. The Kaders of Cochin and Malabar are equally intelligent; but the Cochin Kader villages lie deeper into the forest and further back from civilisation, and though not inferior in any respect, the Cochin Kaders are not so knowing as their Agamallah fellow castemen.

24th *June* 1874. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

1115
7

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I AGREE with the Hon. Mr. Robinson. I think it would be a complete mistake to place (as appears now to be proposed) in the hands of Government officials the collection and sale of hill-products, giving to the hillmen, who have hitherto obtained a livelihood in these occupations, no option but to such employment under Government in the trade which it would thus undertake, and excluding private individuals from the trade altogether. It is the duty of the Government not only to respect (so far as may be possible) the prescriptive rights of the people, but to encourage to the utmost of its power personal as well as commercial liberty; and to act upon this proposal would be detrimental to both. The Salem experiment, to which Captain C. Walker very naturally refers, is, I fear, hardly reconcilable with these principles, and it would appear to have been sanctioned by Government without sufficient consideration; but there appear to be circumstances connected with it which justified some exception to ordinary rules, and we must be careful not to treat it as a reason for any general action such as that now suggested. If the "Chetties" in this case appeal, attentive consideration should be given to their case. The proposed monopoly of hill-products in the interest of the Government is unjustifiable, if only because it would debar such persons from a trade which they have a perfect right to carry on.

2. It is difficult to give a precise answer to the question put by Captain C. Walker as to the right of Government to the profits of forest-produce. I think the general principle should be, that the Government will not interfere with rights hitherto enjoyed or trade hitherto conducted in respect of forests throughout the Presidency. The Hon. Mr. Sim has indicated the proper answer to Captain Walker's second question.

26th June 1874.

(Signed) HOBART.

1115/6

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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

My views are quite in unison with those expressed by the Acting Inspector of Forests, and I strongly recommend that Mr. Douglas be permitted to try the experiment proposed in paragraph 20 of his letter to the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 30th April 1873, for the attainment of the objects mentioned by him in paragraphs 15, 16, and 21 of that letter. Leaving revenue and forest conservancy out of consideration, I attach great importance to the reclamation of the Kaders of the Anamallays. Not many years ago, the Mulcers were in much the same condition; the exertions of Major Michael and his successors have been so far effectual that, according to Mr. Douglas, they "may be said to have ceased to exist as a purely jungle-tribe." The superior condition of the Cochin Kaders (13th paragraph of Mr. Douglas's letter) is suggestive.

2. With reference to paragraph 7 of Captain Walker's letter, I have already pointed out in my Minute on the forest-products of Salem that when these farms were given up, the Supreme Government, so far from renouncing, specially reserved the right of taxation.

3. The question put by Captain Walker, *viz.*, which are and which are not "reserved" forests, is one of detail which can only be determined when the circumstances of each tract sought to be "reserved" is laid before Government. The upper portion of the Anamallays, or Teak forest as it is generally called, has always been a "reserve."

23rd June 1874.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

1115/9

I apprehend the Chief Justice
Marshall would be a complete heritable
& Life Judge (as officers under the
Crown) in the hands of Govt. Officials
&c. collusion & sale of both products
privy to the Bill - nice how some
billions obtained a Judicial
from mind stone circulations, no after
test to such misplacement under
first in the trade block & until
then undertake — and succeeding future

affect, the matter carried. should be
given to their case. the proposed
municipality of Bell-Irwin's - the interest
of the first ~~cannot be protected~~ is imperfectly affected,
case should not be determined before
both sides if only because it would
debar such persons from a tribunal which they
have a perfect right to carry on -
It is difficult to give a precise answer to
the general question put by Col. C. Walker as
to rights & powers of the Provincial Govt
under the proposed Act. I think the general principle should
be - that the Govt. will not interfere with
rights but to regard a trade dispute
conducted, in respect of grievances complained
of and the Resolution. the Govt. has
intended to refer answer Col. Walker 2nd question
June 26/79 Roberts

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of and the Resolution. the Govt. has
intended to refer answer Col. Walker 2nd question
June 26/79 Roberts

N°2983.

Revenue 1874 Department.

Minute.

H. E. the Governor.

Dated 26 June 1874.

Hill tribes in the Annamallay Forests, Coimbatore District.

GO / Legislative / 74
No 1115
3 Copies sent to Govt
30/9-74

21.

Office of Inspector of Forests.
Cotacamund 30th May 1874.

No. 125

From Captain Campbell Walker.
Offg Inspector of Forests.

To, The Actg Secretary to Government,
Rev. Departt.

Sir,

I have the honor with reference to G.O. No. 550 dated 5th instant, to observe that the rights of the Government to the produce of such reserved or unappropriated State Forests as the Anamallays do not appear to have been sufficiently borne in mind in the Boards' Proceedings under reference.-

2.- I apprehend that the fact that the Government have such rights, either to the whole or a share, in the produce of such Forests, a large portion of which are leased from a private proprietor, never have and cannot be disputed, and Government have on more than one occasion held

held that the produce of reserved tracts should be collected on behalf of Government by their Forest employés and the hill tribes living in the Forest to whom alone the rights of entry should be conceded.- To leave the matter entirely in the hands of the collectors of the produce & the traders would be to sacrifice what ought to be a very important item of Imperial Forest Revenue.

3.- I regret that I cannot agree with the Board that "the trade itself and its development may be left with confidence to the ordinary motives of the traders and the labourers of the country" and I am glad to see from subsequent Proceedings N. 82/2062 dated 26th March 1874 with regard to a similar question in Salem that they have since modified their views, and, after the most careful enquiry and

1115/13

and consideration, approved of the produce by the Forest Department working as much as possible through the medium of the hill men resident in the Forest.-

Collection and disposal of Forest produce

This scheme was sanctioned by Government (G.O. N. 267 dated 27th February 1874) and is now being carried out as an experiment which I have every reason to believe will prove successful and to the benefit of all concerned. To leave the trade, or rather the collection, entirely in the hands of the traders or Chetties appears to me erroneous, for by so doing Government sacrifice their share in the profit which is diverted into the pockets of a class of the community to the detriment of the General revenues of the State, the careful collection of the products is lost sight of, by which great damage is done to the State property, and it is notorious that they are brought to the markets

market in a most impure state thereby greatly diminishing their value commercially or for oficinal purposes, and the jungle tribes who are employed to collect them are left entirely at the mercy of unscrupulous traders greedy of gain.-

4.- There can be no doubt that the statement of prices and quantities furnished to Mr. Douglas falls far short of the actual amount and value of the products, and I can see no reason for the Boards surmise that the bulk of the Cardamoms sold at Pollachy, Anamally &c. are grown in Cochin and Travancore, and smuggled across the frontier.- Both the Cochin and Travancore Sirkars keep a strict watch on such products which are entirely in the hands of the State, which derives a very large revenue from them.-

5.- It appears to me innecessary to recapitulate

recapitulate here all that has already been written on the important matter of the collection and disposal of Forest products, the views regarding which expressed in G.O. N°. 240 dated 1st March 1873 are entirely in accordance with my own and, I believe I may say, with those of the Departmental Officers in general. I beg Government to believe that there is no feeling on the part of this Department, that "the hill tribes are intruders in the primeval forests which they inhabit"; and that my personal experience in several districts tends to convince me that they are, as a rule, treated with fairness and consideration by our Officers and subordinates, and are found as the Government surmise (para 3 of G.O. quoted above) "very amenable to kindly

kindly influence" I can give no better instance of this than exists in the Denkenecotta Range of the Salem District where the Poojaries, who are the hillmen of the range, have the most implicit and well merited trust in the Forest Overseer Mahomed Ally Sahib, for whom they work willingly, cutting Sandalwood, collecting Gall and So-up nuts and dye stuffs by which means they have, in a great measure, emancipated themselves from the thraldom in which they were held a few years ago, and are on the whole well to do and contented; although, like all hill men averse to regular work or settled habits.- Of course cases may occur in which they are treated with harshness and injustice by Forest employés

employés but the same may be said with equal truth of the ordinary ryot and the employés of the Land Revenue Depart[t]. The hill man is, or should be, indeed the Forest Ryot- There is I am aware an impression that Forest subordinates are uncontrolled and irresponsible but I cannot see that they are so more than those of any other Departments.-

All that seems to me necessary is to maintain and work out the principles laid down in the G.O. already quoted showing every soli=citude in the case of real jungle tribes but not extending any unnecessary in=dulgence to traders who can have no claim to it.-

6.- As regards Mr. Douglas' propo=sal I would respectfully suggest that any special orders be deferred until we

we see the results of the experiment in Salem and can collect more accurate information of the quantity and value of Forest products throughout the Presidency, which I have every reason to believe is very great, but that meanwhile he may be permitted to employ the Kaders & Mulcers on their own terms in any way he can, including the collection of Forest products in the reserved tracts.-

I have no doubt that there will be complaints from Salem, the Chetties who have so long held the trade in their hands, first as renters of the Forests and then as creditors of the hill men are not likely to let it slip through their fingers without protest, but I think even they will not eventually suffer much and will gradually become reconciled to buying from us at moderate wholesale rates at fixed places & times, and retailing the products at a considerable profit.-

7.- On two points I would request the attention and definite orders of Government, viz.-

(a) What are the respective rights of Government and the jungle tribes in the products- 1st in reserved & 2nd in unreserved Forests.-

(b)

(b.). What are the reserved tracts into which "none but the actually resident Jungle tribes should be admitted without licence" (para 11 of G.O. 240.) -

Both these points appear to me of the greatest importance and their legal settlement should no longer be deferred as each year which elapses complicates the position & adds to its difficulties.-

I do not know wether the Government wish it to be understood that the products belong in whole or part to the hill men, or that they have merely a vested right to collect them when their numbers admit.-

It appears to me that they are much in

in the same position as villagers who have rights to timber firewood &c for their own use, but not for sale, but that in order to deal liberally with them we should employ them in collection whenever practicable at rates representing not only the value of their labor but a share of the profits which arises from it.- Acting on this liberal principle Government have already sanctioned their re-cultivation of old kumaris lands and granted Rs 2000 as Taccavi to provide them with tools (G.O. No. 462 dated 18th April 1874) In this way both the State and the collector would get a fair share.- Any other method besides Departmental

collection

collection would necessitate the levy-
-ing a seigniorage to represent the
Government share and this would
I fear never do.-
It is most important that no further
time should be lost in defining under
the provisions of a legal enactment,
what are Reserves and what are not-
In all Countries Forests divide them-
-selves into- 1st. Unappropriated State
Forests, such as the Anamallays, Mudumallays &c.
2nd. Appropriated or communal which
comprise the woodlands within village
boundaries and 3d.- Forests the property
of private individuals.- The State
should work the first and supervise
the management of the second class

for

1115/16 7

for the good of the country at large
having also certain powers to prevent
the destruction of private Forests.—
The revenues derived from Communal
Forests would be devoted entirely to
Communal or local purposes a very
interesting instance of the beneficial
effects of such measures being given
in Dr Brandis' Memorandum at
page 191 of "Reports on Forest Manage-
-ment &c." 10
where he states that the
communities in the Italian Alps North
of Venice have built Churches, School
houses, and town halls, and constructed
roads from their surplus Forest Revenue.
There is, I can assure Government, no
wish to advocate a system of confiscation

or

No 223

Office of Inspr of forests
Camp Coontallum 30th July 74

From

Captain Campbell Walkers
Off. Inspector of Forests

To,

C. H. Master Esqre
Actg Secretary to Government

R.D.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit my Inspection Report of the Aniamallay Forest Range under the charge of the 1st Class Deputy Conservator of the 3rd Class Douglas

2.- I entered the Forests from Eslamuddi 20 where a small bungalow for the Officer has recently been erected and should be maintained, and rode up the ghat constructed by the late Captain Gosling which is of an easy gradient throughout, and only requires a little blasting of the rocks and adequate maintenance to make of a very fair track for carts.- There was no carting going

R.O. Aliaur 28-11-2
27 Feby 74 - 24-3
18 April 74 - 11-4-85
5 May 74 - 65-0-0

Dy Conservator
Aniamallay
Forwarded

Dy Conservator
Aniamallay
Forwarded

No 125

Endorsement here.

Subject
Observations with reference to G.O. No 550 of 5th May 1874, the Rights of the Govt of the Produce of such Forests, &c.

Forwarded

going on at the time of my visit the working season having just commenced.—

3.— I met Mr. Douglas at Soonacudavoo and he accompanied me throughout my tour of inspection which extended over ten days.— The Overseers in this range have hitherto been massed at Soonacudavoo which is in the middle of what is known as the Government Reserved Forests, during the working season.— Mr. Douglas now proposes to divide the Forests into separate sections, and place an Overseer in charge of each.— Thus one would remain at Soonacudavoo in charge of the Government Forests, one be quartered at Thekady and supervise the leased Forests, whilst another would be in charge of the Forests worked on the License and Voucher system extending along the base and slopes of the hills from Cooch Mullay to the boundary of the

Madura District.— Thereby a 4th Overseer whose services will either be dispensed with on the revision of Establishments, or employed in superintending the Large depôts at Ammuthully, Ponany &c. and assisting the Head Overseer as required.—

This plan of dividing the range recommends itself on every ground, and those we shall be able to mature, and carry it out fully on the revision which will be partially adopted by placing Mr. Theobald the Senior Overseer, recently transfered from Tinnevelly, who is giving satisfaction in charge of the leased Forests and learning Mr. Rodrigues at Soonacudavoo, the Forests in the neighbourhood of which require rest.— (Meanwhile, with the Collectors approval)

4.— There are still a considerable number of mature Teak trees but not

more

more than required for natural re-
-production or self sowing which, I
fail confident, may be relied on here
instead of planting. All that is
necessary is to exclude fire and cattle
from tracts under treatment, and ad-
-mit the necessary amount of light,
to facilitate the germination of the seed,
by clearing away gradually trees of the
less valuable descriptions and if necessary,
cutting the grass round the young trees
for a year or so but I do not think this
will be required. Mr Douglas had
already cleared and inclosed one or two
small pieces as a tentative measure in
which the young teak trees were spring-
-ing up on all sides, indeed even in
the open Forests one can mark how

Young

#15
22

young teak trees strive to get ahead
though checked by the luxuriant growth
of bamboos, grass, creepers &c., all of
which, I am inclined to think, they would
master were they not burnt down each
year, and forced to make a fresh start
at the commencement of the next monsoon.
In this manner one sees alongside of al-
-most every shoot the charred remains
of two or three of previous years which
have succumbed before the annual fires
which must be excluded if we are to make
any real progress in Conservancy and
re-production.

22

5. I explained to Mr Douglas the
general principles on which this natural
re-production is systematically carried
on on the Continent of Europe, and pointed

out

sooner or later
out the evils which must result from
felling the finest trees without any regard
to the future, and he agrees with me
that, provided we are permitted really
to constitute the Forest a Reserve, we
may hope gradually by adopting a
system very similar to that in force
in Germany to cover the ground with
Teak, Rosewood and other valuable
timbers to the exclusion of other worthless
descriptions. The beginning must be
small and numerous experiments may
be found necessary as to the amount of
light required, what trees it is best to leave
for shade &c. &c. but I am never the less
confident of ultimate success, now that
Mr Douglas thoroughly understands
the principles which modified to suit
climate and other conditions, should guide
his

12

his operations.

1/23

A small area has been planted in
former years with some success but I
would not extend it as the natural pro-
duction will, I think, prove far more
effectual and very much cheaper.
The power to exclude men and beasts
from time to time as found necessary
is a sine quâ non and I am therefore
addressing Government through the
Board on the subject of their present
orders on this matter which, if possible
considered necessary or expedient to
maintain them, render any attempt
at systematic Conservancy out of the
question, and a mere waste of time and
money.

6.— Mr Douglas has done much
during

during the past two years in getting the large number of logs lying in the Forest brought to depôt. It appears to have been formerly the custom for include in stock accounts every tree felled and left lying in the Forest. This practice, which has now been put a stop to, should be strictly guarded against in future, no logs being brought to account until they are lodged in a forest depôt (the number and situation of which should be fixed) measured up, and marked by the Overseer.

7.— Mr. Douglas now proposes to clear the logs out of the leased Forest in a similar manner, and afterwards to fell there as required. This, coercive, should, I think, be adopted and adhered to. At present there are large stocks, both on the Coast, at Anamallay and in the Forest depôts but it is hoped that the sales this year will be considerable both to Bombay and the Madras Public Works Department from whom I have just had a reference on the subject.

8.— The system of roads in the leased Forest will have to be attended to. Those in the Government Forests appear particularly well planned, should, I think, be extended in the shape, in the first instance of broad inspection paths which might at the same time be made to serve as boundaries of blocks, and act as fire traces. Private Contractors working in other portions of the Nambiddy's forests make use of the Government road and

timber

timber slips in the leased forests through which they bring timber. It is, I think, matter for consideration how far this should be allowed and under what conditions. A system of Chowkies or tolls may be found necessary to prevent felling in the leased tracts. It is to be regretted that some regulations on this point were not prescribed when the lease was renewed, when the important question of the use of the roads by Ryots seems to have been lost sight of altogether.

9. I see no reason why a system of Forest Tramways and simple machinery for converting the logs should not be introduced into these Forests with advantage and the subject shall have consideration on the receipt of reports, which

25

which I am daily expecting, of forest tramways in Switzerland, and where we see the results of the Saw machinery now being got out for the North Canara Forests in Bombay. Meanwhile Mr. Douglas' attention has been drawn to the matter.

10. In para 13 of G.G. No. 503 dated 29th April 1874 reviewing the Administration Report for 1872-73, special attention is called to the necessity of selecting a more healthy site for the residence of the Anamallay Forest officer during the working season. This shall not be lost sight of and it would probably be found advisable, if the scheme for dividing the range is approved of, to build a hut at a much higher elevation than the present one, in which the officer could

reside

reside when on the hills and generally supervise operations.-

We visited one place between Vengolays Pannelim (Mallay) which might do, but it is little over 3,000 feet above the sea- the great difficulty to be overcome is want of water.-

11.- The license and Voucher Forest, which are gradually increasing in importance owing to the great scarcity of firewood &c. in the plains, where every available inch has been cleared and cultivated, have recently received much more of the Deputy Conservators attention than formerly when his range was too extended including as it did Bolampetty, Wallair, and Chenats Nair. Under the new arrangements proposed he will be free to exercise a much

much greater general control than hitherto, relying on his foresters for the carrying out of executive details in accordance with his orders. The license and Voucher Forests should then receive a considerable portion of his time and the most strenuous endeavours be made both to realize the full amount of revenue derivable and conserve the remaining jungles.

Mr. Prager the Overseer in immediate charge who has been recently appointed is showing much zeal and energy in improving the organization of his charge, and I propose that he should be sent to Salem for a month (September would ~~which~~ suit well) to learn the system pursued there under Mr. Brougham,

obtain

obtain the forms for License Registers &c. with the manner of keeping which he should render himself thoroughly acquainted.-

Mr. Douglas thinks highly of this idea and if the Collector concurs, I shall, in communication with the Board, make the necessary arrangements for carrying it out.- The system of checking the Jamma collections through Contractors which was proposed by Mr. Morgan for Balamfully is under consideration here.-

12.- The Collector fully agrees with me that the extreme limit of new cultivation has been reached both in the Polachy and Coduvumbapettah Talugs and, in order that no new

puttahs

puttahs for jungle may be issued has taken the matter entirely into his own hands.-

The extension of cultivation has indeed been marvellous, and the whole Amamallay valley which, 25 years ago, was dense forest teeming with wild animals is now brought under cultivation extending in some cases even up to the very top of the adjoining hills.

This is doubtless matter for congratulation, but it is evident that there must be a limit to it if the necessary supply of timber and firewood is to be maintained, and villages which have thus cleared all the jungles within their limits should clearly not be allowed to encroach on that of others, or on the portion which

Government

Government, deem it right to reserve in the interests of the community at large.—

13.— The only remaining patch of jungle in the plains is situated at the extreme N.E. corner between Cochmullay and Pundaramullay and this we propose to constitute an absolute reserve.— The Collector was at first in favor under the circumstances of making it a close reserve but; considering that there is a right of way through it and that it is almost the only place which the villagers have left themselves for grazing their cattle, I considered that the course might be open to inspection, and Mr Wedderburn on

re-consideration agrees with me.— Marked trees only will be felled on License- from time to time for re-produce. -cluded as much as possible.— A legal enactment to enable us to enforce these rules is much required, and its want is daily felt.—

14.— Throughout the range portions of reserves are open for felling unreserved timber and firewood, bamboos, and burning of charcoal on payment of seigniorage or free passes. Local rules and rates of seigniorage have recently been drawn up by the Collector in communication with the Forest Officers of the District and are now before the Board for approval.—

15.— I examined the Range accounts and records which are carefully kept, and exhibit clearly the operations of the forms prescribed require modifications, and Mr. Douglas finds it necessary to keep several others in explanation— I shall communicate with the Board on the subject at the conclusion of my present tour.

16.— On the whole I consider the prospects of the range very favorable, the establishment of a joint Depôt (with Mettapoliem &c. range) at Coimbatore will probably ensure a sale of the smaller scantlings, and if the Public Works Department would inform us of their annual requirements there would be no difficulty in supplying them with seasoned

Teak, Vengay, Rosewood &c. of which there is at present a very fine stock at Anamallais.

17.— Mr. Douglas reserves a description of the manner in which he conducts operations, and requires only practical experience in the system of Forestry and organization pursued in other countries and other Districts to become a most valuable Forest Officer.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servt.

Cumberland Captain
Offg. Inspector of Forests.

I would approve the Proceedings of the Board.

The letter of the Acting Inspector of Forests is discursive, but the matter of importance affects merely the Hill Ranges of Anamally (Coimbatore) & Agamallais (Malabar) situated from the Collegode Boundary. The former are State forests and I think uninhabited or nearly so and the Collection of the products there is open to the Department. The Agamallais (Malabar) is

on the other hand are
in the same sense
Crown & State Forests, and
are all peopled (as
Hill tracts go) by Kadirs,
who have lived from
time immemorial by the
collection & sale of hill
products, & might claim
as woodcutters & thereby
are perfectly intelligent
and self-reliant. A
Recruit E.A. has dealt
with their trade, its people
and its trade, and I
think there is no reason
to reconsider it. The
Government interest
worthy, & being seriously
threatened to Illicit
prosecuted, to sacrifice
by giving the Common
products of the forests
& their municipal
denizens — they never press
less — & free trade.

I would — without impugning
the faith of Deputy Collector
Spiers in the moderation
and integrity of the
subordinates & their
own benevolence — deprecate
reviving that to which
at present exists in its
appearance against the
good will and interest
of the Hill tribes (Para 11th
of Mr Douglas's letter).

There may be something
special in respect to
the Pugari Hill Range
of Denkenkotta taluq
of the Salem District
and compensation
as regard to Sholas &c
Such as justify some
enforcing a State Monopoly
of products and trade
(as the truck system)
on

on the Coast by mounted Police in particular and exclusion of all save the most Respectable from large districts of Country. But those Considerations do not apply to the matter under Consideration here and I would not introduce the system at present into these Hills - What Capt. Walker means by "not withstanding any unnecessary indulgence to traders who have not claim to it" is explained by present proceedings - We want far more information.

I/W. Douglas wants to kill Color & the purposes he names - it is absurd to say so - But I see in the ordinary way - But I/W. will employ this hint Color & collect what on the means of live below of the races & freedom

As to reference to Para 6 of Capt. Walkers letter I think that the Complaint of the Chiefs of Salem will require Careful Consideration.

The Forest Officers are entering on premises to prevent abuses and the abuses are more likely to be heard of through the few Civilized persons who are personally first the forest & their designs for legitimate purposes of trade &c than from the poor Hill tribes, who have practically no means of ventilating any grievance - No policy can be more short sighted & dangerous than that of excluding trade & travel from any tract of country or class of people by first & open Department seeking protection & Monopoly.

Captain Walker's draws attention to the real

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Read by Sir Edward Clive
the closing Paras of his
letter the want of a Forest
Law. The papers are
before Government
& until the matter
is finally settled the
the deciding action
of the Department
must constantly
transgress right &
Equity.

My Honorable Colleague
Mr Lin appears to be
under some slight
misapprehension in
regard to the Forest
Laws. The Mulcers
are low country Forest
Races and the Paddies
(Malabar settlers)
named are those ries
the plains (formerly
forest clad) between

a line drawn through
Collayoor, Trichur & Ouenda
and the foot of the Hills.
With the exception of
a strip to the Eastward
from Perambaye to Nilambur
both within the Cochin
State. The Mulcers
find abundant work
for the cultivating people
amongst whom Extension
of cultivation has brought
their (formerly jungle) habitations. The
Mulcers never go into
the Hills & would not
I think be tolerated
by the Radjas. I assume
from that an objection
of not impossible feature
of Mr Dingles plan
lies in proposing to
work these races together.

The Mulcer has
ceased

ceased to exist as a
part of jungle tribes
because the restrictions
which they lived, have
disappeared and
cultivation (as in Bengal
principle of) taken its
place. They now live
amongst open fields
& farms & rice is their
staple article of food.

The Kadirs are
really a superior type
race - quite fit to take
their place among
such as great benefit
of trade & intercommunication
with the outer world.
They are perhaps quite
as superior to the Mulers
as the Bengalee is to the
Santals of the Rajmahal
Range. The Kadirs
of Cochin & Malabar
are equally intelligent

L6

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but no superior to the
Irish. My observations
is the reverse of Mr Thurs
inference. The Cochin
Kadirs I diagnose lie deep
into the forest & further
back from civilization
and though not inferior
in any respect, the Cochin
Kadirs are not as handy
as their Agasthimalai
fellow-tribesmen.

24/6 [illegible]

Colombo 18th Dec.

Remitted
Hon. W. Robinson.

Dated 24 June 1874.

Bill tables in the
Animal Boy Forests Ordinance
No.

C.S. 1 Septr 74 No 1115

3 Copies sent to Kandy
W. Robinson 30/9.

Revenue Department.

No. 1747

From The Offg. Inspector of Forests
Dated 30th May 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

They views are quite in unison with those expressed by the acting Surveyor G. Trees and I strongly recommend that Mr. Dry be permitted to buy the enclosed land in para 20 of his letter to the Colr. of Colombo dy. 30 April 73 for the attainment of the object in view stated by him in Pars. 15, 16 & 20 of

Halen (13 f. & his Dorfn' letter) in
Supporte -
his reference to [illegible] &
Caleb Walker's letter I have al-
-ready printed out in my Hist
on the Trial for Witchcraft at Salem
that when these Farms were first
sub. the Indian Title was specially reserved the right
of taxation -

The question, stated by Caleb
Walker - viz which is the Land
owner "reserved" Treaty is one of

37

Fact to alter. Leaving reserve. I
fancy can scarcely act of the
Legislature I attend that in
pursuance to the Declaration
of the Heads of the Commonwealth.
sent many years ago the Heads were
then in much the same condition.
the question of Law in this Trial
Trial in the accessors have been
to for a Practical Fact according to
Mr Douglas's letter "may be said to
have existed in a State of Nature
like". This subject condition of the Indian

detail which
can only be de
termined when
the circumstances
of each tract shall
be "ascertained" in
laid before pt. The
duty of fixing of
the compensation
to the first as it is
usually called, has
always been where

J. B. Sheil
23. 6.

Capt. Sheil's R25

suggested. Consider
ation". The

Revenue 1874 2

No. 984.

Revenue 1874 Department.

Memo.

Hon: J. D. Lee C.S.

Dated 25th June 1874.

Hill tribes in the
Annamallay Forests Coimbatore
&c.

3 Copies sent to Madras
25 June 74

Gen. Letter 1874 No 1115

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Indian Pulses
Mem on Cultivation
Dr Hohenberg - Dharwar

Letter from
Govt
No 877

No 6034.

May this be allowed? even if no alteration take place in the sentiments of the members of Govt. as recorded in the Minutes on the letter in question. it will here have this effect on record that the said letter was not considered

I am sincerely
Yours
7/7/74

My dear Robinson, H.D

Campbell Walker writes just after dec. enclosing from the Hon. mallace begging that the disposal of the accompanying number 1749 may be deferred pending a fuller report which he proposes to submit, with maps, on the subject of that letter of 30 Oct. 2 Inst. May

Revenue Department.

No 1115.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 1st ~~September~~ 1874.

Read again G.O. 5th May/74 No 530.

Read also the following letters from the Offg: Inspector of Forests, dated 30th May/74 No 125 and 30th July/74 No 223.

Minute by Hon'ble Mr Lewin		Hon'ble entered	23 June/74
—"— " Robinson		—"—	24 June/74
—"— " His Ex: the Governor	2	—"—	26 June/74

In their Proceedings of the 7th August 1873 No 1519 the Board of Revenue review certain letters from the Conservator and Dy: Conservator of Forests in Coimbatore regarding the jungle tribes in the Amarambally Forests and condemn a proposal made by the latter for the employment of a gang of Haders & Mulcars in collecting Forest-produce on behalf of Government.

The Board expressed their belief that competition between Government and the private traders would result in mischief to all concerned and

Seen
24/8/74
Hbl.

Hbl. has become to
his former Minute
on the Accounting
Reserve. I wish he then
recorded.
Hbl

and in their view His Excellency the Governor in Council, who had already (G.O. 26 May 1881 p. 631) expressed an opinion in favor of the private trade, fully concurs.

2. The Ag. Inspector of Forests in the earlier of the letters above recorded apparently supports the decline of the D.F. Conservator and refers to a similar exception sanctioned for the Sarda Dt.

The sanction accorded has however now been withdrawn and the grounds on which His Excellency is advised to communicate between the hill tribes and the private traders have been fully stated G.O.

3. With reference to the points raised in para 3 of the same letter, His Excellency would remark, as to the 1st that the general principle should be that the Government will not interfere with rights hitherto enjoyed or bona fide

conducted in respect to Forests throughout the Presidency and as to the 2nd, that the question is one of detail which can only be determined when the circumstances of each tract sought to be reserved are laid before Government.

4. In his letter of the 30th of July, Capt. Walker, after a personal inspection, submits a report on the state of these Forests. He makes no special mention of the subject now under discussion but states his opinion that men and cattle must at times be excluded. He proposes however to address the Government on this subject through the Board and the matter need not now be noticed further.

His report which gives a favorable account of the resources of the Forest and of the manner in which it

it is being worked and will be communicated to the Board of Revenue

1115/43

To B. Robertson
Supplies of Tobacco } Dec-16-9/74

17-22