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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1143	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	7-9-1874	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 80. Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. C. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Courtallum, 30th July 1874, No. 224 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit a report of my inspection of the Chenat Nair forests and fuel-reserves in the neighborhood of Walliar and Palghaut in the Malabar District.

2. Mr. Macgregor, the Collector, accompanied me from the Walliar reserve in Coimbatore, and Mr. Knox, the Head Assistant Collector, met us at the station, and was with us throughout our inspection.

3. The Forest Overseer was unfortunately absent, having reported sick when absent on casual leave in Coimbatore, which is the more to be regretted, as, in the absence of any special forest officer in charge of the range, his books, *etc.*, would require to be carefully overhauled from time to time, and his knowledge of the nature and working of the forests under his charge thoroughly inquired into. The late Tahsildar, who is now the Collector's Sheristadar, was luckily on the spot, and, from his intimate knowledge of the district and forests, proved of great service.

4. The Walliar (Poolumparah) fuel-reserve in Malabar consists of the tract of forest purchased last year from a private individual, and is most favorably situated as regards the railway running on each side of it and presenting every advantage as regards soil and climate for natural reproduction both of fire-wood and timber-trees.

Both Mr. Macgregor and Mr. Knox assure me that there is a marked improvement already, caused simply by excluding fire, cattle, and goats since the purchase. Certainly, young trees are springing up on all sides, and, in the small portion taken up for replanting, the results compare most favorably with those obtained in the adjoining Coimbatore Walliar reserve, which has been under conservancy for years.

The reserve has not as yet been fenced; but we consider that a commencement should be made with the blocks south of the line, and think that this presents a favorable opportunity for trying wire-fencing such as described in the "Reports on Forest Management," pp. 103—105, which will probably be found as cheap and certainly more effective than any other. The posts can be provided on the spot from thinnings of Teak saplings, of which there is a good show throughout the reserve. It is proposed to divide the whole reserve into five blocks indicated by broad boundary or inspection paths, of which two will be south and three north of the railway line.

The former and one of the latter will be first taken in hand, fenced, thinned slightly where necessary, and seed sown in drills at the commencement of the monsoon in bare spots. The thinnings and loppings will be sold, and will go a good way towards balancing the expenditure; those taken for posts being taken over at cost-price and debited and credited under their respective heads. Inspection paths as straight as possible should be cleared, and, if found necessary, the grass where sowing is carried on should be kept down for a year or two till the young trees get a start. It will be made to induce some of the neighboring cultivators to sow a few very bare pieces for us after clearing and taking one or two crops of grain off the ground. This method will prove economical.

The most stringent precautions to exclude fire, cattle, and goats, will be necessary for some years; but the number of watchers can probably be reduced from four to two, a Forest Peon being, if possible, made available from Chenat Nair on the revision of establishment. It is proposed to leave the remaining blocks, classed as D and E, open

for cattle grazing for the present, a ditch being dug wherever there is no natural boundary. A detailed survey of the whole tract will shortly be made.

By the adoption of these measures, and considering the interest taken in the matter by the Collector and Acting Head Assistant, I think Government may rest assured that the Walliar reserve in Malabar will prove a success and well repay its purchase-money.

5. We inspected the boundaries of a fine tract of forest adjoining the reserve which is at present for sale and would prove a very valuable acquisition, provided Government propose maintaining and extending the system of reserves properly so called; otherwise it is not, I think, desirable to extend operations or incur any avoidable expense. I have, at Mr. Macgregor's request, already submitted a memorandum on this subject, which is now before Government for orders.

6. From Palghaut we visited the fuel-reserves known as Oolovacadoo, Noochipully, and Pulliampully. The former, owing to a dispute as to title, has never received any attention, and contains no trees fit for fuel. Mr. Macgregor agrees with me that it should be abandoned and the land sold or exchanged for an equal portion of jungle near the hills. I request sanction for this being done and the crediting the amount, if sold, to "Forest Revenue."

Noochipully (167 acres) and Pulliampully (13 acres) are tracts partially planted up adjoining the natural hill-forests of Chenat Nair, in which we propose to merge them; their outer boundaries making the limit of cultivation. The expenditure on those two blocks, which should never have been classed as "fuel-reserves," has been, according to last reports recorded in G. O., No. 715, dated 10th June last, Rs. 3,500 in round numbers, for which some 75,000 trees are reported as established in pits.

Natural reproduction, aided perhaps by a little sowing in drills, may, I think, be relied on for the future, and the services of the two gardeners hitherto employed be dispensed with. I request that the necessary sanction may be accorded and the number of fuel-reserves in Malabar thus reduced to one at Walliar, to be known as the *Poolumparah reserve*. The Collector concurs.

7. There remains now only to consider the Government hill-forests known as Chenat Nair, which are contiguous with others held by private parties. These forests, which originally came into Government possession by escheat and were retained solely for want of purchasers being forthcoming, are daily becoming more valuable, and I quite agree with Mr. Macgregor that, at the rate at which clearing is going on, the whole demand of a district, even so well wooded as Malabar, will, at no very distant period, fall upon the Government forests. I would, therefore, recommend that the whole of these hill-forests, which are of no great extent, should be classed as reserved as early as it is possible to do so under the provisions of a Forest Act, and that their boundaries should be demarcated, defined, and surveyed, so as to prevent any future disputes.

The forests have at times been worked under the license and auction system, but recently have been considered entirely closed, though the Collector agrees with me that probably timber, *etc.*, has been more or less removed without authority.

As there is timber, consisting of Ventek, Kurra Murdah, Vengay, Vekalli, *etc.*, and a little Teak, fit to fell, we propose to open one portion of the forest at a time in which marked trees may be felled and removed on permit, and from portions of which fire-wood, *etc.*, may be taken on seigniorage tickets.

8. The forest divides itself naturally into blocks as or corresponding with the reserves known from the adjoining *Umshums* as—

1. Pulliampully;
2. Noochipully and Dhonie; and,
3. Myladi.

One of these it is proposed to throw open at once after marking a certain number of trees, the names and description of which, with estimated contents, would be published for the information of intending purchasers who will pay the seigniorage, at rates to be fixed hereafter, into the taluq treasury, and receive a license from the Forest Overseer, entitling them to fell and remove the timber, who, with his staff of peons, could really check and supervise the felling under this system, whilst it is impossible to do so if the trees are not marked and numbered; and I do not think we should be justified in undertaking departmental operations for felling, carting, *etc.*

9. Cattle and goats would, under these proposals, be allowed to graze in the open portion, but be excluded from such parts of the closed block as were in the early stages of reproduction, which is very rapid in these forests owing to the prevalence of the southwest monsoon. In fact, I imagine, that it would eventually be found feasible to exclude cattle, *etc.*, from one block only at a time, *viz.*, that which had been last worked and required a few years rest. Fire, however, should be carefully kept out of all.

10. Mr. Knox has promised to draw up detailed rules for working, which, with statements of proposed seigniorages, *etc.*, will be submitted through the Board for approval.

By these means, I think we may realise a considerable legitimate revenue from the forests whilst maintaining their conservancy.

11. Both Mr. Macgregor and the present Acting Head Assistant Collector Mr. Knox take much interest in the management of the forests, the latter having been for some time in temporary charge of the Deputy-Conservator's Office in Salem; but in the absence of any officer of the Special Department, it is more than usually imperative to have all the contemplated operations and plans placed carefully on record for the information and guidance of future Head Assistant Collectors who are ever changing at Palghaut.

It is open to question whether the Forest Overseer would not work better made immediately responsible to the divisional officer instead of to the Tahsildar through whom he might still submit his accounts; but much depends on the degree of interest taken in forest matters by the latter official. The subject will receive consideration in communication with the Collector in connection with the revision of establishments now under consideration.

No. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1874, No. 1,143.

Forests, No. 5.

The Acting Inspector of Forests reports upon his inspection of the Chenat Nair forests and the fuel-reserves in the Palghaut division of the Malabar District.

2. Among the latter, the Poolumparah reserve has been the property of Government little more than a year, and though, beyond the simple exclusion of the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th September 1874.*

cattle, little has been done, a marked improvement due to the rapid reproduction of the natural woods is already noted and contrasted with the unfavorable state of the neighboring Walliar reserve in the Coimbatore District.

The attention of the Collector of Coimbatore should be called to these results in connection with paragraph 2 of G. O., 25th August 1874, No. 1,080.

3. Captain Walker's recommendation regarding the fencing and future working of this reserve should receive the careful consideration of the Collector and his Head Assistant.

4. In the matter of the Noochipully reserve, the Board of Revenue are requested to call upon the Collector for a report and to submit it to Government with their own views. From the Acting Inspector's remarks it is not clear whether the dispute as to the title is still unsettled.

The nomenclature of the reserves is a matter of detail that should be settled by the Board.

5. The future treatment of the Chenat Nair forests is a subject that should receive early attention. Captain Walker's proposals seem judicious.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Office of Inspector of forests
Camp Courtallum 30th July
1874.

No. 224-
From

Captain Campbell Walker

Off^r Inspector of forests

C. G. Master Esq^r

As^t Secretary to Government
R. L.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit a
report of my inspection of the Chunar
Nair Forests, and Fuel Reserves in the
neighbourhood of Walliar and Palghat
in the Malabar District.

2. Mr. Mac Gregor, the Collector
accompanied me from the Walliar
Reserve in Coimbatore, and Mr. Knox
the As^t Assistant Collector met us at
the station and was with us throughout
our inspection.

3. The Forest Overseer was un-
- fortunately

Govt. of 1874 Madras

REVENUE.

THE INSPECTOR OF FORESTS,

Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated September 7th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 7th September 1874, No. 1,143.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 80-81.

Chunar Nair Forests and Fuel-reserves in the
neighbourhood of Walliar and Palghat, Malabar Dis-
trict.—Reviewing the report of Acting Inspector of
Forests on the —; requesting the Board of Reve-
nue to report on the Noolipully reserve; and
recommending that the subject of the future treatment
of these forests should receive early attention.

Ver 4/15/76

fortunately absent having reported ~~his~~
when absent on casual leave in Coimbatore, which is the more to be regretted
as in the absence of any special Forest
officer in charge of the range, his book
would require to be carefully overhauled
from time to time, and his knowledge
of the nature and working of the Forests
under his charge thoroughly enquired into.
The late Tahsildar who is now the Collector's
Sheristadar was luckily on the spot, and,
from his intimate knowledge of the
District and Forests proved of great
service.

The Walliar (Polumpanah) forest
reserve in Malabar consists of the tract
of Forest purchased last year from a private
individual, and is most favorably
situated as regards the railway, running

on each side of it, and presenting
every advantage as regards soil and
climate for natural reproduction both of
firewood and timber trees.

Both Mr. Mac Gregor and Mr. Knox
assure me that there is a marked improve-
ment already, caused simply by excluding
fire, cattle and goats since the purchase.
Certainly young trees are springing up on
all sides and, in the small portion taken
up for re-planting the results compare
most favorably with those obtained in
the adjoining Coimbatore Walliar Reserve
which has been under Conservancy for
years.

The Reserve has not as yet been fenced but
we consider that a commencement should
be made with the blocks South of the
line and think that this presents a
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fencing such as described in the Reports
on Forest Management" pps. 103-105
which will probably be found as cheap
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other. The posts can be provided on the
spot from thinnings of Teak saplings
of which there is a good show throughout
the Reserve. It is proposed to divide
the whole Reserve into 5 blocks indicated
by broad boundary or inspection paths,
of which two will be South and three
North of the Railway line.

The former and one of the latter will be
first taken in hand fenced & thinned
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The most stringent precautions to ex-
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from 4 to 2, a Forest peon being, if possible, made available from Chennai. Nair on the revision of Establishment. It is proposed to leave the remaining blocks classed as D & F open for cattle grazing for the present a ditch being dug wherever there is no natural boundary. - A detailed survey of the whole tract will shortly be made. -

By the adoption of these measures and considering the interest taken in the matter by the Collector and Acting Assistant, I think Government may rest assured that the Walliar Reserve in Malabar will prove a success, and will repay its purchase money. -

5. - We inspected the boundaries of a fine tract of Forest adjoining the Reserve

Reserve which is at present for sale, and would prove a very valuable acquisition provided Government propose maintaining and extending the system of Reserves properly so called, otherwise it is not, I think, desirable to extend operations, or incur ^{any} avoidable expense. I have, at Mr. Mac Gregor's request, already submitted a Memorandum on this subject which is now before Govt. for orders. -

6. - From Palghat we visited the fuel reserves known as Oloracadoor, Noochipully and Pulliamputty. The former, owing to a dispute as to title, has never received any attention, and contains no trees fit for fuel. Mr. Mac Gregor agrees with me that it should be abandoned

abandoned and the land sold or ex-
changed for an equal portion of jungle
near the hills. - I request sanction for this
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sold to "Forest Revenue". -

Noochipully (167 acres) and Pooliampullu
(134 acres) are tracts partially planted up
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expenditure on these two blocks, which
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dated 10th June last, Rupees 3500
in round numbers for which some 7500
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Natural

15
natural production aided perhaps by
a little sowing in drills may I think, be
relied on for the future, and the services
of the 2 Gardeners hitherto employed be
dispensed with. - I request that the sanction
may be accorded, and the number of fuel
reserves in Malabar thus reduced to
one at Walliar to be known as the
Poolampulazh Reserve. - The Collector
concurs. -

7. - There remains now only to consider
the Government hill forests known as
Chenat Nair which are contiguous with
others held by private parties. These
Forests, which originally came into
Government possession by Escheat, and
were retained solely for want of purchasers
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more valuable, and quite agreed with
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As there is timber ~~concentrated~~ at
Kurra Mundah, Pungay, Vellali &c.
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to open one portion of the Forest at a
time in which marked trees may be
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portions of which firewood &c. may
be taken on Seigniorage tickets.

8. The Forest divides itself
naturally into 3 portions or blocks
corresponding with the ravines known
from the adjoining Umshams as (1)
Pollimpuilly, (2) Nochiully and
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9. Cattle and goats would, under these proposals, be allowed to graze in the open portion, but from such parts of the closed block as were in the early stages of re-production which is very rapid in these Forests owing to the prevalence of the S. W. Monsoon. - In fact, I imagine, that it would eventually be found feasible to exclude cattle &c. from one block only at a time, viz. that which had been last worked and required a few years rest. - Fire, however, should be carefully kept out of all.

10. Mr. Knox has promised to draw up detailed rules for working which, with statements of proposed seigniorages, will be submitted through the Board

for approval.

By these means I think we may realise a considerable legitimate revenue from the Forests whilst maintaining their Conservancy.

11. Both Mr. Mac Gregor and the present Asst. Head Assistant Collector Mr. Knox take much interest in the management of the Forests, the latter having been for sometime in temporary charge of the Deputy Conservator's Office in Salem, but in the absence of any officer of the Special Department it is more than usually imperative to have all the contemplated operations and plans placed carefully on record for the information, and guidance of future Asst. Assistant Collectors

Collectors who are ever changing at Palghat.

It is open to question whether the Forest Overseer would not work better if made immediately responsible to the Divisional Officer instead of to the Tahsildar through whom he might still submit his accounts; but much depends on the degree of interest taken in Forest matters by the latter official. The subject will receive consideration in communication with the Collectors in connection with the revision of Establishments now under consideration.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedt. Servt.
A. Campbell Walker Captain
Offg. Inspector of Forests.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 7th August 1874.

READ the following Letter from the Officer
Inspector of Forests.

Submitting Inspection report
of the Chennai Fair Forest and
Fuel reserves in the neighbourhood
of Wallia and Palghat in the
Malabar St.

H. E. 30 July 1874. N^o 224

The Ag. Inspector of
Forests reports upon his inspection
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done, a marked improvement

10/1

3/9

Forest Department
No 22403

The Officer inspecting
Forests

The Secy. Secretary to
Govt. G. O. 19

Dated 30th July 1874

Recd 7th Aug 1874

No 22403

Subject

Submitting inspection
report of the Chennai

the neighbourhood of
Wallia & Palghat in the
Malabar St.

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of the natural woods is already
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unfavorable state of the neigh-
bouring Palliar reserve in
the Coimbatore District.

The attention of the Collector
of Coimbatore should be called
to these results in connection
with para 2 of G.O. 25 Aug 1886.

Captain Walker's
recommendation regarding
the fencing and future work-
ing of this reserve should
receive the careful consider-
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his Head Assistant.

In the matter of the
Neechipully reserve, the
Board of Revenue are re-
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Collector for a report and
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it is not clear whether the
dispute as to the title is
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The nomenclature of the
reserves is a matter of detail
that should be settled by
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5. The future treatment
of the Chenat Nair Forest
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Walker's proposals seem
judicious.

To District Officer
B. of Revenue } 21/7/9

Respectfully
Submitted

8/9/9/742
8/9/9/743 80-81

Cart. Aug 1/74 R. 7th Sept