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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1148	Press
S.P. No.		Misr.
Dated	8-9-1874	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th September 1874.

No. 89. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd July 1874, No. 1,673, Forest No. 92:—

Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Angadipuram, 18th May 1874, No. 122.

I HAVE the honor to report upon paragraph 9 of G. O., dated 1st March 1873, No. 240, communicated with the Board's order of the 14th idem.

2. The principal valuable products of forests under the Government conservancy in this district are those noted in the margin. Their value cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

Cardamoms.	Gum.	Dammer.
Honey.	Ginger.	Gall-nuts.
Bees Wax.	Turmeric.	Soap-nuts.

3. Cardamoms have for the last two or three years been collected from the ghaut forests in Wynaad, and the revenue now amounts to some 3,000 Rupees. Coolies are employed to gather under superintendence of the taluq authorities and Deputy-Collector. The revenue is undoubtedly capable of development, and the collection appears unobjectionable, as the Government forests are interspersed with private forests, the latter preponderating in area. When for a time the cardamom revenue was relinquished in the Government forests, natives took advantage of the fact to set up extensive and utterly unfounded claims to proprietary right which we find some difficulty in now repelling. I have no doubt the cardamom revenue could be worked up to 10,000 Rupees a-year. The other articles are mostly collected by the tribes inhabiting the dry forests on the east of Wynaad towards Mysore, and are as a rule bartered for grain, salt, fish, tobacco, cloth, and other necessities of life, the purchasers being the people of the plains and the interior, who again sell them to petty traders, and these carry their purchases to the several towns and bazaars of the district. Merchants from Mysore, who are also purchasers of these products, take them into that territory for sale.

No. 91. ORDER THEREON, 8th September 1874, No. 1,148.

Forests, No. 6.

G. O. 2d Sept. 1874, No. 1,107

with the hill-men in Malabar and those who trade with them.

2. They desire to be further informed regarding the collection of cardamoms noticed in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter. The authority under which such produce is considered to be the property of Government, and is collected under the superintendence of Government officials, should be quoted.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th September 1874.*

the forests, the system would greatly increase the command of labor which is so necessary for forest operations.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., 1st March 1873, No. 240.

2. The position of the hill tribes in Malabar as in Salem seems to require that they should be assisted to free themselves from the clutches of the traders of the plains who take advantage of their ignorance and cheat them out of the fair reward of their labor. This must, of course, be done cautiously, so as not to interfere with legitimate trade, or prevent the hill tribes from resorting to the peculiar barter-system which is conducted by the Chetties if they choose to do so; but the Board think it would be quite safe to introduce in the Wynaad the system approved for Salem in G. O., dated 27th February 1874, No. 267.

3. The Board also think the Collector should be authorized to assist the hill tribes in defending themselves against the fraudulent suits which are frequently filed against them by the Chetties and Moplahs who trade with them, as an easy means of coercion.

No. 90. MINUTE BY THE HON. J. D. SIM, C.S.I.,

I ENTIRELY concur with the Collector and the Board. Mr. Macgregor sees and knows much of these hill-tribes, and his testimony, supported as it is by facts, shows how much they need protection. I have so fully expressed my views on the subject in my Minutes on the Salem forest-produce (G. O., dated 1st September 1874, No. 1,107) and Anamallay forest-reserve (G. O., 26th May 1874, No. 634) that I will not say more here.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

4. The hill tribes are ignorant, helpless people, having no idea of accounts or the value of the articles they collect, and the consequence is that their neighbours, generally Chetties and Moplahs, with whom they exchange their products are enabled to effect their purchases for inadequate considerations.

5. It is very doubtful whether the hill tribes really gain anything by the present forest system.

6. By means of a small advance, the merchant gets them completely under his power, and ever after they have to deliver the whole of their earnings to him, and receive in exchange bare subsistence under threat of civil proceedings, if they fail to collect largely.

7. The Deputy-Conservator of Forests mentions a case where a hill-man whom he was employing was threatened with a suit by a man with whom he declared he had had no dealings. Mr. Peet engaged a vakil, and the consequence was that the plaintiff and his witnesses did not put in an appearance.

Another instance came to my notice when a suit brought against a hill-man was in consequence of assistance he received in his defence so clearly shown to be false, that the plaintiff made for the door of the court and ran, and has never been heard of since.

8. As showing how much these hill-men require protection, a case recently occurred in which a man was brought before a Sub-Magistrate for breach of contract, and a decision given against him. On looking into terms of the contract, they were found to amount to an agreement which virtually constituted perpetual slavery, and on this ground the High Court, on my reference, quashed the proceedings.

10. I am of opinion that the Deputy-Conservator of Wynaad should do all he can to inaugurate a system of purchase from the hill tribes, excluding as much as possible the employes of speculators from the purchase. In the case of suits being brought against the hill tribes, the matter should be brought to the notice of the Collector who should assist them to defend the suit, if they are clearly fraudulent, or to make arrangements for gradually discharging them, if *bona fide*. In addition to benefiting the position of the hill tribes, it improves the position of the collector.

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3

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

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

I ENTIRELY concur with the Collector and the Board. Mr. Macgregor sees and knows much of these hill-tribes, and his testimony, supported as it is by facts, shows how much they need protection. I have so fully expressed my views on the subject in my Minutes on the Salem forest-produce (G. O., dated 1st September 1874, No. 1,107) and Anamallay forest-reserve (G. O., 26th May 1874, No. 634) that I will not say more here.

(Signed) J. D. SIM.

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September 8th.

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 8th September 1874, No. 1,118.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 89—91.

Hill-tribes, Malabar District.—Dealing to sanction any interference with the — and those who trade with them; and desiring further information regarding the collection of cardamoms.

1143
51

FOREST No. 92.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd July 1874, No. 1,673.

Read the following letter from A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Angadipuram, 18th May 1874, No. 126:—

I HAVE the honour to report upon paragraph 9 of G. O., dated 1st March 1873, No. 240, communicated with the Board's order of the 14th idem.

2. The principal valuable products of forests under the Government conservancy in this district are those noted in the margin. Their value cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

Cardamoms.	Gum.	Dammer.
Honey.	Ginger.	Gall-nuts.
Bees Wax.	Turner.	Soap-nuts.

3. Cardamoms have for the last two or three years been collected from the ghaut forests in Wynaad, and the revenue now amounts to some 3,000 Rupees. Coolies are employed to gather under superintendence of the taluq authorities and Deputy Collector. The revenue is undoubtedly capable of development, and the collection appears unobjectionable, as the Government forests lie interspersed with private forests, the latter preponderating in area. When for a time the cardamom revenue was relinquished in the Government forests, natives took advantage of the fact to set up extensive and utterly unfounded claims to proprietary right which we find some difficulty in now repelling. I have no doubt the cardamom revenue could be worked up to 10,000 Rupees a year. The other articles are mostly collected by the tribes inhabiting the dry forests on the east of Wynaad towards Mysore, and are as a rule bartered for grain, salt, fish, tobacco, cloth, and other necessities of life, the purchasers being the people of the plains and the interior, who again sell them to petty traders, and these carry their purchases to the several towns and bazaars of the district. Merchants from Mysore, who are also purchasers of these products, take them into that territory for sale.

4. The hill tribes are ignorant, helpless people, having no idea of accounts or the value of the articles they collect, and the consequence is that their neighbours, generally Chetties and Moplahs, with whom they exchange their products are enabled to effect their purchases for inadequate considerations.

5. It is very doubtful whether the hill tribes really gain anything by the present free system.

6. By means of a small advance, the merchant gets them completely into his power, and ever after they have to deliver the whole of their earnings to him, and receive in exchange bare subsistence under threat of civil proceedings, if they fail to collect largely.

7. The Deputy Conservator of Forests mentions a case where a hill-man whom he was employing was threatened with a suit by a man with whom he declared he had had no dealings. Mr. Peat engaged a vakil, and the consequence was that the plaintiff and his witnesses did not put in an appearance.

8. Another instance came to my notice when a suit brought against a hill-man was, in consequence of assistance he received in his defence so clearly shown to be false, that the plaintiff made for the door of the court and ran, and has never been heard of since.

9. A showing how much these hill-men require protection, a case recently occurred in Wynaad. On looking into terms of the contract, they were found to amount to an agreement which virtually constituted perpetual slavery, and on this ground the High Court, on my reference, quashed the proceedings.

10. I am of opinion that the Deputy Conservator of Wynaad should do all he can to inaugurate a system of purchase from the hill tribes, extending as much as possible the employes of the taluq authorities from the plains. In the case of suits being brought against the hill tribes, the matter should be brought to the notice of the Collector who should assist them to defend the suits, if they are clearly fraudulent, or to make arrangements for gradually discharging the debts, if

They

bond file. In addition to benefiting the position of the hill tribes, and improving the yield of the forests, the system would greatly increase the command of labour which is so necessary for forest operations.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., 1st March 1873, No. 240.

2. The position of the hill tribes in Malabar as in Salem seems to require that they should be assisted to free themselves from the clutches of the traders & the plains who take advantage of their ignorance and cheat them out of the fair reward of their labour. This must, of course, be done cautiously, so as not to interfere with legitimate trade, or prevent the hill tribes from resorting to the peculiar barter-system which is conducted by the Chetties if they choose to do so; but the Board think it would be quite safe to introduce in the Wynad the system approved for Salem G. O., dated 27th February 1874, No. 267.

3. The Board also think the Collector should be authorized to assist the hill tribes in defending themselves against the fraudulent suits which are frequently filed against them by the Chetties and Moplahs who trade with them, as an easy means of coercion.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H. G. G. G.
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Collector of Malabar, with G. O., 27th February 1874, No. 267.
Copy to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. W. H. French.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1148/5
C No. 2284

From

Pro. Bd. of Rev.
Dated *3rd July* 1874

FOR ORDERS.

*I am truly, ever and with
the Chief & the Hill
Wadeper - from him
shortly for decision -
I have much of these hill
tribes - and his testimony*

*1st March 1873 No. 1-2
27 Feb 1874 - 267-28*

22284

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
MALAPAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3rd JULY 1874, No. 1,673

22284

Forest No. 92.

*Produce - of Malabar District - Col-
lee's letter, furnishing certain information
regarding - submitted to Government with
regarding steps to be taken for amelio-
rating condition of hill tribes.*

For on 1874

1st March 1873 No. 1-2

substant as it is by
facts. I know how much
they need protection. I have so

Let all on the Forest

Vol. 1. & these tentative

with the Hill tribes (way

of competition of the forest

officers are so bent upon it -

but with the destruction under

hands that there is to be no

clusion of the free trader -

Cases of fraudulent suits

are not confined to hill - men

dependants.

J. O. Sain

14. 7.

fully & present

my views on the

subject in my min

utes on the 1. 1. 1.

Forest Reserve (G.O.

10. 10. 10.) I cannot

say more here.

W. H. H. H. H.

(G.O. 10. 10. 10.)

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(See also
Intercept.)

1148
6

unless I am greatly mistaken in
being already decided, as a general
rule, against any interference by
govt. ^{in order to} ~~the forest~~ ^{not jungle produce} ~~the forest~~
the trade, act of the hands of private
traders for the purpose (as it
is termed) of "protecting" the
hill - men. I know that I wrote
a minute strongly objecting to
the proposed, ~~and~~ which
Mr. Waddell was the chief
promoter, in the gov. 1. 1. 1.

1148
7

30 8 September 1948

FOR ORDERS.

about the "unofficial" private
trading and that Mr. Robinson
agreed with me. I do not
understand why these minutes and
papers have not been ~~published~~
as regards Salem, these appeared

for some special reasons for, namely
an exception - but I believe that
men here are were correct. ~~about~~
the many cases, I hope we shall not ~~lose~~ the
experiment, and I add here nothing
to the Review. Such I have suggested
on the subject. About 20
C 15th July 1948

Nos 3184 + 3185

Revenue 1874 Dept

Minutes by the
Honble J. D. Sim. C.S.J.
and H. E. the Governor.

Dated 14th 20 July 1874

3 Copies sent to Honble
Honble Mr. Linn

With Dubes in the Malabar
District.

90
G.O. 8 September 74 No 1148

was agreed. Babobly

13th July 1874 Rev

Forest

1148
8

Revenue Department.

No. 1148

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 8th September 1874.

READ the following *Pro. of the Board of Revenue.*

Submitting letter from Collector of Malabar furnishing certain information regarding forest produce of Malabar, and steps to be taken for ameliorating condition of hill tribes.

H. E. 3rd July 1874. N^o. 1673.

Read also the following

Minute by Honble. D. S. S. 14th July 1874

G.O. 1st Sept. 1874
N^o. 1107

*I dissent
see my min
11/10/74*

*MS
11/10/74*

The Government having rescinded the orders referred to by the Board in para 2. of the foregoing proceedings are unable to sanction any interference with the hillmen in Malabar and those who trade with them.

They

2. They desire to be
further informed regarding
the collection of Cardamums
noticed in para 3 of the
Collector's letter. The autho-
-rity under which such
produce is considered to be
the property of Government
and is collected under the
superintendence of Government
officials should be quoted.

J. S.

offl

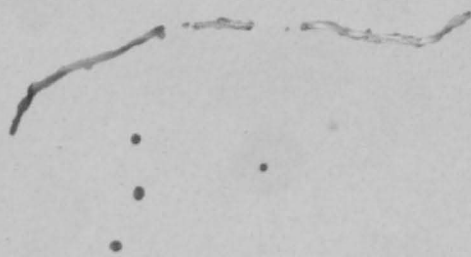
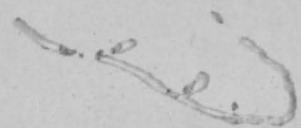
To 14 B of Revenue Dec 2/10/74

2. Inspector of Taxes & Customs
collected -

1148
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16-6

First production of
of the first



2/2/74
3/10/74

2/2/74 R7