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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1383 Press
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Dated 2.11.1874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 2nd November 1874.

Read the following :—

No. 1. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1874. No. 2,639, Forest No. 167.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 27th July 1874, No. 1,417.

I HAVE the honor to forward on appeal the enclosed letter* from my Deputy-Conservator Mr. Cherry.

* No. 588, dated 10th December 1873.

2. The subject is doubtless an important one, but as it is the very same as Mr. Cherry was asked to report on a few months previously, and as his then report is before the Board enclosed in my letter, No. 1,640, dated 24th September 1873, and as he now only re-states the same case without the addition of any new matter, or the proposition of any practical remedy beyond begging the very question raised, and as this same question has been raised so often in all districts, and this in particular, in which it has formed the main burden of almost every forest letter from the Collector and the late Conservator of Forests for many years past, I should not have forwarded Mr. Cherry's letter to the Revenue Board, if he had not reminded† me that it was his "unmistakably clear" wish that it should be so forwarded. I consequently have no option in the matter.

† No. 112, dated 19th February 1874.

3. I do not accompany Mr. Cherry's letter with any remarks of my own, both because my general views on this very subject are already before the Board in my letter above quoted, and also because it will be my duty to submit them in more detail in the report called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 21st February 1874, No. 391.

4. I had penned the above immediately on the receipt of Mr. Cherry's letter, dated 19th February 1874, claiming that it should be forwarded. I believe on the same day, and I was under the impression that it had been forwarded without any delay whatever; but I have only two or three days ago discovered to my surprise that no copy of it was ever made and sent off. It is one of many things similarly found to have been delayed by the Head Clerk who has lost his head, as reported in my letter, No. 1,374, dated 20th instant.

5. As the report referred to in paragraph 3, *supra*, is ready and will be copied and submitted in a day or two, I may refer to the fire-wood head thereof, paragraphs 125 to 160, and especially to paragraphs 150 to 160 as giving my views on the subject.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Deputy-Conservator of Forests, S. Canara, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 10th December 1873, No. 588.

On the subject of South Canara timber and fuel supply I wish to make the following remarks :—

2. That the scarcity of both is an annually increasing source of anxiety is beyond doubt. Already the denudation of forest and scrub land is becoming so thorough that the cost of timber there is very high, while in some of the coast towns the rate for fire-wood is little beneath that in Madras.

3. Unless checked or provided for by Government, this state can never improve, but will gradually extend from the coast to the ghauts, till the once picturesque and foliage-clad plains of South Canara will be as bare and desolate as those of many of our midland districts.

4. The present policy of withholding Government interference in what are held to be the rights of the ryots and communities, will, I think, be, in a great measure, responsible for this; and I cannot but think it is a false generosity to South Canara to concede privileges to the present

inhabitants, with the almost certain result, at no distant date, of injuring the climate and entailing heavy incumbrances on the timber and fuel supply to posterity.

5. The denudation of the land might not be judged wrong if giving way to profitable cultivation, but of this I see no appreciable signs, neither can it be anticipated to any great extent; for on Indian plains there is seldom cultivation without irrigation, and the *sine qua non* is debarred in South Canara by the innumerable marked undulations of the surface.

6. Give the ryots their way in forest matters, and they ignore all thoughts for the morrow, hence the absence of indications that they are husbanding their supply.

7. A great many general remarks in reference to this subject might be introduced here, which have already been made in my Report, No. 402, dated 23rd August 1873; but I desire to direct present attention more particularly to those important woody portions of South Canara, which are the least under conservancy or control, and therefore deserving special notice.

8. I allude to the extents between the sea-board and the out-of-the-way ghaut forests, important because of their proximity to the demand and the least under conservancy and control, because subject to so many ill-defined and disputed rights shared in by ryots, communities, Jungle Conservancy Establishment, and Forest Department.

9. It is these undemarcated portions intersected by "kumakies," village "hardies" private properties, and subject to so many unsatisfactory and antagonistic rights that are so worthy of attention, and yet so difficult to attend to.

10. Treating, then, of these tracts where the supply is yet plentiful, there is an indiscriminate cutting that can only be justified by the assurance that the spontaneous growth will always cheaply and easily meet all probable demands.

11. That this end will not, under the present system, meet even the present rate of demand is evident from the way in which denudation is extending, and the failure will be greatly augmented should population increase, communications (a railway for instance) improve, or exports be acquired.

12. The spoliation is slow but sure, first the unreserved trees sometimes for timber, but often merely for fire-wood (for where large pieces of hard wood are obtainable they are always preferred to small unmatured stems); then gradually the few reserved trees, which, left as they are scattered on an undefined and public browsing ground, fall an easy prey to illicit felling; and, lastly, the under-growth and scrub for fuel and manuring, and there remains a bare hill which will soon be washed of all surface soil, and in all probability never yield again more than a crop of poor grass. The picture is not over-drawn, and will be appreciated by any one interested in the forest conservancy of the district.

13. What tends to this bare result more than even the wasteful cutting and consumption of wood is the practice of periodically stripping scrub foliage for the manuring of cereal wet cultivation, thereby effectually depriving the ground of its only chance of recovering its natural woody vegetation.

14. And how to remedy or provide for this?

Not knowing what power Government propose to give to the department, or how it is intended to support us, it would not be wise to sketch out a plan for the general conservancy of such tracts as I have depicted. We had best, therefore, confine our attention to an exclusive control of special defined localities, that is, endeavour to have secured to us strict reserves.

Even should such questions as ryot's rights, kumaki privileges, unrestricted carriage of forest produce, a forest law, increase of establishment and powers, and other pertinent and important questions be eventually decided with a view to strengthen the department as much as possible, it is a matter of doubt whether the extent of that possibility admits a strength that will enable us to control so large an area of intermingled properties, so as to ensure a constant supply of timber and fuel from the present bearing tracts, though, for a certainty, we should be able greatly to retard the process of denudation.

15. Be this as it may; under present circumstances, we stand to turn out more than useless in trusting so important a timber and fuel conservancy in the district to the desultory working of a few departmental restrictions, for they prove derogatory to the department, where powers are too limited to effectually secure them, demoralising to the people who are tempted to commit depredations under cover of the extreme difficulty of their detection and punishment; injurious to the district inasmuch as they tend to encourage the ryot to make hay while the sun shines, and before a stricter conservancy is introduced, or there remains nothing to conserve, and mischievous to the name of conservancy to which they are referred, and which is held up to scorn because they fail.

16. If it is to be considered that we are only permitted here under the sufferance of the ryots, then Government must be prepared to undergo enormous and doubtful expenditure in reclaiming and planting up for their own exclusive use those tracts which timely interference might have saved from destruction.

17. I cannot think that this will be required. The wants of the ryots cannot be so exigent as to warrant denudation, neither can their rights be so imperative as to justify so large an expenditure of public money.

18. The supply being equal to the demand, the value of timber and fuel is regulated by the cost of supplying, and the object, therefore, should be to place the first as near as possible to the second.

19. To keep up the supply in this district we must no doubt go in for reserves and planting, but I strongly deprecate putting into practice (as long as there is so much waste going on and so much to be saved) the idea that the department is expected to clothe again with vegetation those lands that are stripped and discarded by the ryot.

20. In place of this I urge the gradual taking up as required, and strict reservation of portions of what remains of the timber and fuel tracts in the generally denuded parts of the district.

21. I do not forget the ghauts and their forests.

There is there absolutely a supply, of immense proportions and value, but relatively of less importance than that which might be secured elsewhere.

22. Appreciable conservancy will, for the present and for some years to come, consist in reserving and planting away *from* the ghaut forests, and where operations can be carried out with the greatest facility. Along the coast and near all the towns and large villages, the tracts of remaining vegetation should receive first attention. One or more blocks (according to anticipated demand) of a square mile or so each should be secured as close as possible to where demand will require to be satisfied. The closer to a town the more communal rights will have to be overridden, but the greater the blessing hereafter to the community. Other and much larger extents on the banks of navigable rivers or near the coast should be reserved if desirable for export supplies.

23. I anticipate little difficulty in securing these reserves. Those bent on forest mischief will nevertheless have a great respect for a well-defined boundary with Sircar notices thereon, that "Trespassing under any pretence will be prosecuted," and the reserves would be fairly preserved from cattle and surrounding grass-fires by the usual South Canara mud-wall and ditch.

24. All operations in these enclosures should be done exclusively by the department or upon their licenses.

25. Special watchers would seldom be necessary if the village authorities, Police, and Forest peons, one and all made occasional visits and secured trespassers.

26. An executive establishment for conservancy and planting would not be large, and I believe the cost of the reserves would be repaid several fold.

27. I cannot too highly recommend this system for securing future timber and fuel supply to the district over that of planting up bare wastes. With the first you have a natural growth and supply to start with, which care and planting will keep up with little expenditure and trouble, for the ground from its annual deposit of leaf manure, the moisture retained, and shade and protection afforded by the standing foliage, will greatly facilitate growth from seed, which, I think, will, as a rule, merely require to be dibbled.

On the other hand, we have a piece of land washed of all nourishing soil in the monsoon, and baked to scorching in the dry weather upon which to operate. Nurseries will be required, pits dug, seedlings protected from the wind, and expensive waterings in the dry weather for perhaps two or three years. In the first, I anticipate that timber-trees of large size and good quality may be reared close to the coast, and this, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to do on bare exposed situations.

28. I trust, I have said enough to attract the notice of the ruling powers, and I shall look forward to the time when my tours in the more civilised portions of the district will be made pleasant by the contemplation of the satisfactory and useful conservancy going on, instead of, as at present, when I find nothing but signs of failing departmental authority, and feel that our operations are being just confined to far off unhealthy tracts where forestry and forest supply can only be met by strenuous efforts under great difficulties.

29. I have the honor to request that this may be forwarded for consideration, and trust that I may have the support of your views *on* the subject.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Deputy-Conservator of Forests, S. Canara, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 19th February 1874, No. 112.

With reference to your letter, No. 260, dated 11th February 1874, I have the honor to draw your attention to the last paragraph of my letter, (No. 588, dated 10th December 1873, in question, in which I showed an unmistakable desire that my remarks should be forwarded.

2. Even without such desire, I deem the subject of my letter of sufficient importance to justify its submission to the authorities (*vide* Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 210, dated 4th February 1874, paragraph 2), and trust that the delay may not have detracted from whatever value there may be in the remarks I then made.

3. In reply, I have, therefore, the honor to request that my letter may be forwarded.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Collector.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of S. Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 10th August 1874, No. 1,489.

* * * * * * *

164. It thus only remains for the Board to judge whether or not Mr. Cherry is the Assistant he is meant to be by Government.

165. Major Beddome observes (paragraph 3 of his report): "That there was much want of system throughout the range. The Deputy-Conservator is too much in Mangalore, and his tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too hurried to be really of much use, etc." In fairness to Mr, Cherry, the whole paragraph should be re-read by the Board. This paragraph I quoted to Mr. Cherry, but his idea was that it was anybody but himself that was to blame for the want of system, and impliedly that it was I. How this could be when he had himself full control over his own office and his Overseers I fail to see. Up to the date of that remark of Major Beddome, though not quite till its receipt by me, I had been hoping to call forth Mr. Cherry's energies and

sense of responsibility by letting him feel he was trusted. Thus he was let alone, and could have no one to blame but himself for "want of system."

166. That he did not tour enough could by no process of argument be made out to be my fault. I find that out of 182 days (I can get returns for no more) he was 150, or about $\frac{5}{6}$ths of his time in Mangalore, and only thirty-two on tour. His excuse was his office-work. My office work is much heavier, still I was out 154 days in the past official year. My idea is that a forest officer should, except in fever times, live almost entirely in the midst of his work, and be very little in at headquarters. How much was neglected by Mr. Cherry's not being amongst his Overseers, forests, and depôts will be seen hereafter.

167. "The Subramani Overseer was located at the office at Mangalore." Of course, this should not have been even without my remonstrance, much less after I desired its discontinuance. Three times did I write to Mr. Cherry that the Overseer should be employed in his range, and not as a copyist in Mr. Cherry's office. But here, as elsewhere, my orders, however positive, were not complied with, the Overseer was nevertheless kept continuously in Mr. Cherry's Office, and almost every letter addressed to me is in that Overseer's hand-writing. I find that this Overseer was out in his range only 77 days out of 444, and, though drawing Rupees 60 + 15=Rupees 75 a-month, was, for the rest of the time, occupied mainly in doing mere copyist's work in Mr. Cherry's office. For this the Overseer is not to blame, for he only obeyed the orders of his immediate superior.

168. "The kumaki and other rules seem to be less understood." Is it meant that this is my fault or Mr. Cherry's? I thereon asked him what was his kumaki file, that I might see if it was complete and make it so. He has not replied.

169. "There appears to be less system generally than in former years." Was this my fault again or Mr. Cherry's? He had the matter entirely in his own hands. That it was he that caused less system than there was formerly is, in my opinion, clearly deducible from his having upset the system of his predecessors without introducing any of his own, though Mr. Cherry's view is that the Overseers had no accounts before he came, and that he introduced improvements. The books of the Overseers show no lack of conflicting orders and counter-orders from Mr. Cherry. In the investigation into the conduct of one Overseer, Goudie, these orders and counter-orders were made a strong excuse for confusion. In my opinion, Mr. Cherry was not amongst his Overseers and forests enough to know the working of his own orders.

170. What these orders were I did not know till I found them in the Overseer's books, for Mr. Cherry sent me no copies or intimation of them. Till I called upon him to do so, he sent me not even a diary, though it was a standing order of the department, and even then his diaries were so meagre that they gave me little or no information. My idea is that a Deputy-Conservator should send copies of orders to the Collector much as does a Salt Deputy-Collector under the orders of the Revenue Board (Circular Order No. I. of 1874), but lest I should in ignorance be unnecessarily exacting I sent those Board's orders to Mr. Cherry, asking him to inform me how their spirit could best be adapted to our position. I have had no reply.

171. Perhaps it will be well that the Inspector of Forests should suggest, for the Board's decision, the class of orders of which copies should be submitted to the Collector so as to keep him informed.

172. In the absence of information as to what was being ordered and done in the forests by Mr. Cherry and his Overseers I had recourse to the only source open to me. As I came to an Overseer's headquarters in his range, I sent for him and waded laboriously through his whole file of correspondence to and fro, questioning the Overseer and taking notes as I went. I went also through his accounts and looked cursorily at depôts. That done I wrote on each occasion a letter to the Deputy-Conservator. Those letters (Enclosure A) are enclosed for the Board's information. They will show whether, in spite of the difficulty in the way of getting information, I endeavored to remedy the want of system; yet I believe it to be no better than it was

Whether after this Mr. Cherry or I is to be held responsible it will be for the Board to judge. I submit that if my orders are at one time ignored or postponed, at another positively disobeyed, at another time evaded and cavilled about, the responsibility for the result rests not with me.

173. But Major Beddome's third paragraph proceeds: "there is not that systematic assistance from the Revenue subordinates that I trusted might result from the new organisation." This is rather general, untangible, I venture to think unreal, and the reflex rather of Mr. Cherry's excuses to Major Beddome than the fact. What it was exactly that was wanted of the Revenue authorities and wherein they have failed is not said. What I required of the Revenue authorities may be seen precisely in the enclosed orders* issued in the District Gazette. Those orders gave to the Deputy-Conservator the position of a divisional officer—the position of a Head Assistant Collector, whose division or charge was the forests. They subordinated all Revenue authorities from the Tahsildars downwards to his orders. That these my general instructions have in a single instance been neglected by any one Revenue authority has never been brought to my notice, that they have been freely obeyed is within my knowledge. The orders of Overseers to Potails are frequent. The charge against the Revenue authorities seems, therefore, vague, unsupported, and mistaken. I am not aware that they are in any way to blame.

* Notice No. 54, published at page 197 of the District Gazette for 1873 (Enclosure B).

174. On the contrary, the authority given to the Deputy-Conservator over the Revenue subordinates has been abused by being too freely used. Mr. Cherry in suspending an Overseer called upon two Tahsildars to do his work in a Memorandum† on which I had to write as follows:—"Your Memorandum also throws on the two Tahsildars with all their village authorities all the conservancy work of an Overseer for an unlimited time. It was never contemplated that the Revenue staff of two taluqs should thus be made a Forest staff." So I had to ask him to issue no more orders direct to Tahsildars, but to apply to me when he wanted unusual aid from the Revenue authorities, or in cases of emergency to the divisional officer, sending me a copy of his communication. The assistance of Potails continued to be freely used.

† Copy enclosed, Memorandum No. 558, dated 2nd December 1873 (Enclosure A).

175. This "Memorandum," it will be noticed, was an order to my Head Assistant's two Tahsildars, and I thus learn at second hand how he had decided to use these Tahsildars. The Head Assistant did not even get so much as this copy of an order for his information. This same copy of an order was also my only intimation of other important steps. A few days later I heard from Mr. Cherry, but that did not undo the position in which I had been placed. I extract from my letter written thereon to Mr. Cherry.

Dated 11th December 1873.

176. "3. From this copy of a Memorandum I learn with surprise that Forest Overseer Goudie has been suspended by you, but when that event took place, and on what grounds I have as yet no intimation whatever from you; indeed, it would seem that I was talking with him about forest matters and taking up his time, unconscious that he was the while out of employ, he apparently thinking that I was aware but powerless, as he did not mention it. I am also left in complete ignorance what arrangement, if any, has been made for the care of the depôts and other work in the range during Mr. Overseer Goudie's suspension.

177. "4. Similarly, I find from a notice in the Gazette that the whole old stock of timber in the district is to be sold off by auction without any reference to me whatever.

178. "6. It is not right that you should take upon you to issue such sweeping orders without any manner of reference to me. I have hitherto left it to you to keep me informed of forest matters, but I find I am kept in ignorance. It should be unnecessary for me to tell you that it is your duty to keep me informed and consult me in every matter of any importance. If your discretion cannot guide you to do this in future, it will be incumbent on me to lay down more rigid rules than I would otherwise desire."

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd November 1874.

179. If I extracted the whole of this letter, it would show that, at this date, which was prior to my receipt of Major Beddome's letter of the 8th of the same month, I had ceased relying on Mr. Cherry, and begun to look thoroughly into forest matters myself. I will only quote five paragraphs showing that I was quite alive to the necessity of revenue and forest authorities working together, and was resolved to spare no pains to take my own share of the joint work.

180. "11. Your independent conduct is an undesirable example to your Overseers, who show the like to Tahsildars as if superior to them. You will please take every opportunity of making them thoroughly understand that they are by no means so, but must promptly give every facility and explanation to Tahsildars inquiring about any of their sales, contracts, movements, or operations generally. They will wait on Tahsildars for this purpose when in their neighborhood. It is desirable that Tahsildars should be able to watch and check malpractices.

181. "12. I have not yet received any explanation from Overseer Pollet, who, when in the same village, refused to come to me even when sent for. I desire it may be expedited.

182. "13. My divisional officers are as ignorant as I am of the forest operations in their divisions. That they should be thoroughly conversant with them is highly desirable. You and your Overseers should facilitate their becoming so whenever personal opportunity offers, and you will be good enough to inform me how you would propose keeping them and me more regularly informed of what is going on. The main object of the late change of régimé must be lost if this is not done.

183. "14. It occurs to me that some insight will be gained by a perusal of the Overseers' diaries. Please arrange, therefore, that a copy of the Overseers' diaries be sent regularly every month as marginally noted. They should be despatched by the Overseers direct on the same date as those to you.

The Mangalore, etc., Range to me.
The Kundapur, etc., do. to Mr. Gibson.
The Kassergode, etc., do. to Mr. Stokes.

184. "15. Please send me all the back diaries from the commencement of the present régimé to date for perusal and return. I shall be glad to have them before the Christmas holidays."

185. The case of the Overseer suspended in the aforesaid Memorandum requires to be further noticed. In the same letter, dated 11th December 1873 I wrote as follows:—

186. "7. In the matter of the suspended Overseer, Mr. Goudie, it would seem from one part of your Memorandum (paragraph 4) that you have some definite information. If so you will please repair to the locality yourself without delay so as to bring the matter to light, if possible, before Christmas, so that arrangements may be made for the range. But if you have no definite grounds at all, nothing better than a mere "suspicion," as your first paragraph would imply, then the man must be reinstated, and a fair inquiry made by you on the spot, and the result reported to me fully for orders.

187. "8. In either case, therefore, I desire that you will make a personal inquiry without delay and report thereon to me."

188. After this I had to send further calls to Mr. Cherry, which he practically disregarded, for he went only to Udipi on the coast for two or three days and not to the Overseers' depôts in the interior, where it was, I imagine, that fraud took place. I had to send also frequent reminders not to delay, which after a delay of nearly three months, during which the range was without an Overseer, eventually resulted in a report, dated 28th February 1874. This report, even when received, was ill-digested and unarranged, so that it cost me much labor to unravel, and was without even a list of enclosures. Extracts from my letter disposing of it will show what was Mr. Cherry's conduct in the affair—

189. "11. Then as to the accounts it seems to me that Mr. Goudie's plea is not without weight. The accounts were so frequently changed by you that he did not and could not understand them, was not allowed to come in to head quarters to master them, was not enlightened by you when you visited his range.

Extract from my letter to Deputy-Conservator, No. 514, dated 16th March 1874.
On one occasion, but one only, it was I that prohibited the Overseer's coming away from his range for the few days during which his presence was necessary to an inquiry being made about him by the Tahsildar.

190. "12. That the accounts were changed and rechanged by you, I know not how many times, is, I believe, unquestioned. From your frequent reference to them they seem to have cost you yourself great labor to master. It is intelligible that to a man of Mr. Goudie's little education they would have been still more difficult to grasp, or at least enough so to shelter him from the charge of intentional falsification. I find it difficult to conclude dishonesty. I can only conclude certain incompetency.

191. "17. Some of the charges laid against Mr. Overseer Goudie appear to reflect against yourself as well as him.

192. "18. Knowing, as your own letters show you did, in April and reverted to in September and October 1873, that his accounts were in such disorder that you contemplated ordering their being submitted by him to the Tahsildar before being submitted to you, and threatened to degrade and report him to the authorities, why did you not go out into his range and thoroughly look into them yourself. It was your obvious duty, even if the errors arose out of nothing more than an inability to comprehend your newly introduced accounts; but when it seems that you had growing suspicions also of dishonesty,—suspicions which culminated at a time when you were actually in his range,—it is surprising to me that even then you should not have gone into his accounts. And later on again after you had left his range without bringing the matter to a point, and on these suspicions took the decisive step of suspending him, even then also you did not yourself compare his accounts and timber, but left it to his 10-Rupee Gumastah to take charge from him.

193. "19. Furthermore, when on the top of all this, which should have sufficed to open your eyes to your proper course, you had also distinct orders from me to conduct such an inquiry yourself in person on the spot and without delay: as far as I am aware you have thoroughly disregarded those instructions, and in the face of them deliberately allowed the 10-Rupee Gumastah to go on taking charge from Mr. Goudie. I wish to know if this is so.

194. "20. With reference to these accounts again Mr. Goudie says the errors in the timber are not his but his predecessor's. Had you, during the whole tenure of his office, once gone thoroughly through his accounts, such a statement would surely have been impossible. As it is, you appear unable to confute him. If you can, it should be done explicitly. If you cannot, it is obvious that I cannot tell which Overseer is to blame, and in what degree.

195. "21. With reference to these very accounts again Mr. Goudie states he actually brought these very inaccuracies in the Timber Register, with which he is now charged, to your notice as the legacy of his predecessor, saying, that both numbers and measurements failed to correspond with the stock, and that your orders were that he was 'not to alter Mr. Carroll's entries, but if any difference in measurement is found *to strike it off the accounts* (the italics are mine). Not only is he thus given rather a wide freedom to strike off, but the inaccuracies in numbers were not set right by you from that date to this, or he would not be charged with them now, and no inquiry seem to have been made by you about the sixteen original logs missing, nor how there came to be fifty-seven extra logs in his possession without their being brought to any account.

Mr. Cherry explains this to be the difference between two Overseers' measurements which is ordinary.

196. "22. All this, and much more to the same effect in your letters, shows the grave necessity for distinct rules and clear accounts, and especially for more frequent and thorough personal supervision by range inspections as noticed in other letters that I have had the honor to send you within the last two months. Major Beddome, the late Inspector of Forests, has said only too truly that 'there is much want of system throughout the range, and that you are too much in Mangalore, and your tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too much hurried to be really of much use.'"

197. In the matter of Casuarina planting again there has been the same negligence, disobedience, and correspondence-making cavil. I instructed Mr. Cherry to make a Casuarina plantation on a sea sand-flat adjoining a plantation that I had formerly made. It was a complete failure. Out of some nine or ten thousand seedlings not half a dozen are alive. I animadverted strongly on the neglect which had caused such a wastage of Government money. Mr. Cherry had "reasons as plenty as blackberries" for the failure, but the fact still remained that in decidedly poorer sand close by the Revenue plantation of former years had been a success, while his had been a complete failure. The simple explanation was that there had been like difficulties in both cases; they had been well overcome by painstaking care in one case, they had in other cases been allowed by negligence to be masters and ruin the undertaking. The Revenue Department avoided a like failure by having earlier sown and therefore stronger seedlings by planting in June instead of July, by watering and shading in the breaks, and we had breaks too.

198. In semi-accordance with verbal instructions given months previously, and before I had conceived it possible that Mr. Cherry could be so very negligent as I afterwards learnt, he had made a Casuarina nursery for the renewal of the experiment. On receipt of Major Beddome's letter (paragraph 8), I ordered the idea* to be given up, and the seedlings† sold off. My order was distinct, still it has been shuffled with, so that up to this present time of writing the nursery is still maintained in the face of my orders. When I order him to sell off the boxes he wants instructions as to what is to be done with the seedlings in them. When I tell him that the seedlings were meant to be sold off as they stood in the boxes and by public auction, he wants to know what reserve price is to be put on them at the auction, so that the valuable time, the paper, the nursery up-keep, that has been spent during the *six months* that he has been making these frivolous references, is worth much more than could possibly have been lost if all the seedlings had been thrown into the sea. Thus has Mr. Cherry been playing at disobedience in a way which has thrown all authority into contempt, for it has been well known to my office and his, and to not a few of the public, that in such a petty little matter as this even the Collector of the district could not get his orders attended to, but was trifled with under a pretence of scrupulosity which was so transparent that it could not by the most charitable be mistaken even for a decent cloak for disobedience.

* 20th December 1873.
† 9th January 1874.

13th July 1874.

199. When I desire him to send me a monthly reminder of all letters remaining unanswered between us he tells me no, he is too busy, and he thinks I had much better send it to him.

Mr. Cherry's letter, No. 80, dated 7th February 1874.
"5. Besides this, I have been unable to introduce several important observances in my office for the better control of operations, let alone such little matters as keeping a register of communications, docketing of letters, etc.; you, therefore, cannot be surprised at my asking you to refrain from making demands on my present feeble establishment that are not absolutely necessary.
"6. At the best, I would submit that the list called for in your first letter regarding unanswered communications addressed *by me to you* might, with greater ease and accuracy, be compiled in your office.

200. When I desire him to docket his letters he writes he cannot, he is too busy with more important things. In nothing will he obey, in nothing does he lose an opportunity of showing his quiet indifference to all orders emanating from the Collector, to all orders except from the Board and the Inspector of Forests, whom alone he professes on paper to serve, though how he has practically done his duty to them also the character of his work above indicated will be the best evidence.

201. I desire him to send an Overseer to inspect Kunyangai. He regrets he cannot. Sufficiently regretful, but none the less disobedient. He has other "important" work for him, but what may be the important work that is flouted before me, and that not once only by any means, I am not informed except most generally, so that I cannot tell whether there really is a *bonâ fide* reason why my orders should be stayed, or whether it is merely an excuse. I call him to be definite, and he is not; and I come to the conclusion that there is no good reason or it would be given. Tired of being thwarted at every turn I have in two cases of varying

emergency [illegible] order direct to the Overseer, requiring him to accompany me, and I sent a copy to Mr. Cherry for information. Then he complains that I ignore his position, upset his arrangements, and so forth, forgetting that he has driven me to it by first setting me aside. I had no help for it. I knew full well from past experience that if I sent the order through him it would be delayed just long enough to practically thwart, and the semblance of obedience would have been given when the time for it to be of any real use was past. Not wishing that my Revenue subordinates should see me waiting at the wood by myself, and not having the time to spare, I had no other course open but to send the order to the Overseer direct.

202. When 802 logs in an Overseer's range are, no one knows where, and I desire him to promptly stop felling in that range till the doubt is cleared up, so that it may not be rendered more difficult of solution by the presence of extra logs, the answer is slow in coming, and it is vague, not telling me whether the order was prompt, which was the pith of the whole matter; and though he says he has stopped felling there, he goes out of his way to tell me it was not because I wished it, but for another reason of his own; and whether the 802 logs in question which lay at the bottom of the matter have been found, or even searched for, I have not a particle of information from Mr. Cherry. I only learn verbally from the Overseer that he has found *more* than 802, more than are in his accounts, which is again a wonderful thing needing explanation. But it is useless, utterly useless, for me to write to Mr. Cherry. He has had more than enough from me to leave him without excuse as to what is wanted of him; if he will not do it I cannot help it; and whether he positively refuses or is silent and forgets, or regrets difficulties in the way, or asks trifling put-off questions, the result is all one, the Government work is not done.

203. Perhaps I may be held to blame for not reporting him earlier. To this my answer is that for a long time I could not conceive it possible he was so indolent. As Major Beddome has done I too accepted his plausible excuses thoroughly, and believed he was doing his best, and that he only wanted time to work out what he was trying to grapple with. Major Beddome writes (paragraph 3): "I cannot say that Mr. Cherry is to blame for much of this; he is fully alive to it himself, but scarcely sees a remedy, and it is a very difficult question, etc." I too had accepted just that position, and I gave Mr. Cherry time, and an Accountant, and verbal advice, and then written suggestions, and when I was driven to the conclusion that it was nothing but sheer indolence then, too, I did not rush into reporting him, because I thought I ought to try first if I could not myself press him into working before I complained to my superiors of the tools given me to work with. I determined first to exhaust all efforts of my own. Furthermore, it was a matter that was semi-professional, was his speciality and not mine, and he was so plausible that he might well get the Board and Government, as he had got both Major Beddome and myself, to believe in him as the unfortunate victim of adverse circumstances, it was, therefore, necessary that I should be not only quite sure but able to prove that I was in the right before I reported. Had I reported without sufficient proof and failed in consequence to obtain the Board's support, the result of the recoil would have been only more disastrous to forest management. Now that I am reporting it is because I am called upon in the Board's Proceedings under reply, and that call cannot be answered without showing that it is Mr. Cherry that is really at the bottom of the great majority of the faults existing. I have also two appeals of Mr. Cherry's which put me on my defence.

204. Though I have endeavored to submit my report under two main heads, the Forests and Mr. Cherry, still it has not been possible altogether to dissever the latter from the former. To save the Board labor, therefore, I have the honor to state that the paragraphs which refer to Mr. Cherry, both favorably and unfavorably, are the following:—

Close of paragraph 6—Disobedient.
Paragraph 7—Impracticable any way.
Paragraphs 17, 18, 19, 21—His kumaki stump fee scheme.
Paragraph 43, near the end—No reply about hand-book.

Do. 50—Neglected and ignored orders about girdling.
Do. 51—Do. do. do. about felling.
Do. 52—Do. do. do. leaving good seeders.
Do. 54—Do. do. do. squaring timber.
Do. 55—Do. do. do. sending me account forms; superficial examination of accounts himself.

Paragraph 63—Satisfied with absence of accounts.
Do. 64—Always professing to be studying accounts.
Do. 67, near the end—Neglect of orders about seasoning.
Do. 74—The subject of this paragraph also was brought to Mr. Cherry's notice, but with the usual result.

Paragraphs 92, 93—Selling timber; subject neglected; orders neglected; frivolous objections.

Paragraph 122—Could not define a sapling.
Do. 123—Nor draw up an agreement.
Do. 124—Nor carry out simple instructions.
Paragraphs 146, 147, 148—Nor select sites for coppice.
Paragraph 162—Nor for catechu; but threw his work on me.
From paragraph 164 to the end.

205. Whether it is possible for me to work with such a tool any more is, I venture to think, beyond question. In my humble opinion, Mr. Cherry has shown himself unfit to be entrusted with the forest management of any district, and should be subordinated to some forest officer who will be able to see he gets some work out of him. No Collector can have time to give him the close and constant supervision he requires.

206. I have been at great pains to make this letter just and accurate. I have written first from memory, which, from the constant attention I have had to give to the subject, has been comparatively easy; but then the laborious task has been the verifying of the accuracy of every expression by reference to the actual correspondence, and this has necessitated the searching through packets on packets of letters, altogether some fifty times as bulky as this report, and in which the subjects are spread unconnectedly. Though it is possible that in so long a correspondence on a subject which is not my only one, but one of many, some minor points may have escaped me, still I do not think it. I have taken more than ordinary pains to prevent it, so that Mr. Cherry may have no fair exception to take in any explanation he may render. At the same time when I say that a subject has been neglected, I do not mean it to be understood that nothing has been written; on the contrary, it is one of my complaints that Mr. Cherry has flooded my office with his correspondence, but still he has not done any good by it. He has stayed in Mangalore and argued, not gone to his forests and worked. I do not mean to say that the letters I have quoted without any statement of nonreply have not been replied to, but what I do say is that they have not been answered, and that if I had the leisure to do nothing but write to Mr. Cherry I could fully maintain every position I have taken up. Again, where I have said that I have received no reply there I mean that there has been absolutely none.

From the same officer, dated Mangalore, 10th August 1874, No. 1,523.

I HAVE the honor to forward an appeal* to the Revenue Board from the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, Mr. Cherry.

* Enclosure 1.

2. I very much regret that its forwarding has been so long delayed. It was quite unintentional on my part. It was at first delayed from day to day unavoidably, because it necessarily

entailed a long explanatory covering letter from me in my justification of the light in which my conduct is represented, which covering letter I could not get the leisure to write, and then when my report, No. 1,489, dated 10th August 1874, was called for, it seemed to me that the subjects which would have to be introduced there would embrace a reply to this appeal also, and that so labor might be spared to both the Board and myself. But then that letter, too, has, under the pressure of circumstances, been long delayed, and was itself a lengthy task, and so this letter has been again kept waiting for it. I very much regret the delay that has thus occurred, for if there is one letter, about the early forwarding of which I should be more punctilious than about any other letter, it is an appeal against myself. With these apologies for the unintentional delay I beg to submit the appeal.

3. Its paragraph 1, clause 2, "Recent actions."—It is thus admitted that they were recent. The Board will please not lose sight of the fact that for a whole year Mr. Cherry had been let alone for reasons shown in my letter, No. 1,489, dated 10th August 1874, paragraphs 7, commencement, 165 end, 203 *et passim*, and that any "recent" seeming peremptoriness of language and action had been the last resource to which I had been driven by Mr. Cherry himself by his neglect of duty and neglect of orders.

4. Paragraphs 2 to 10 of the appeal are about the Subramani Overseer Carroll, with reference to whom Major Beddome remarked that he was "located at the office at Mangalore."—The correspondence* being attached the Board can judge for itself whether or not paragraph 1 of my letter, No. 333, dated 18th February 1874, was justified. The stress laid by Mr. Cherry on the word "range" loses its force when it is seen that in my first letter I spoke markedly of "forests," and there is very little forest in the Mangalore Taluq, none certainly in or near the Mangalore town. There is only depôt work (paragraph 15 of the appeal), which should not have taken up a tenth of the time spent in Mangalore. Reference may be made here to paragraph 167 of my report, No. 1,489, dated 10th August 1874.

* Enclosure 2.

5. My allusion to Sunday work was in compliance with the Notification of Government, published at page 83 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 1847.

6. Mr. Cherry's want of a clerk was duly submitted by me to the Board of Revenue, No. 87, dated 17th January 1874. I too am in want of one, but I do not for that reason call in a Tahsildar and employ him as a clerk in my office, and had I done so and the Board desired its discontinuance, I think the Board would have been mightily astonished if I had written them letters laying the responsibility on them and nevertheless kept him, and even set the Board's direct order aside as Mr. Cherry has with this Overseer.

7. After what had passed I do not see how Mr. Cherry could "feel that I had accepted his representations." Is it to be admitted that after the unmistakable letters he had he should be at liberty to do the exact reverse, simply because he had sent another excuse. If nothing is to be done till all his excuses are answered there is an end to all work.

8. This correspondence, and the one about Casuarina (paragraph 198 of my long report) is an indication of the amount of correspondence created by Mr. Cherry, and then complained of as hinder his work as well as mine; but I think it is a matter for me rather than for him to complain of as he does.

9. The appeal, paragraph 10. My order to Overseer Pollet.—I annex my order† and Mr. Cherry's letter, and I leave the Board to judge therefrom whether, after the experience I had had in connection with Mr. Carroll and the many other things mentioned in my long report, it was not a fair inference from Mr. Cherry's letter that he had set my order to Mr. Pollet also aside.

† Enclosure 3.
Memorandum to Overseer Pollet, dated 6th February 1874, No 226.
Mr. Cherry's letter, No. 90, dated 11th February 1874.

10. This letter shows that Mr. Pollet was just then coming into Kassergode, from which place he could, in one night by dawk or in two days on his pony, have come to Mangalore. What he did was to go into the interior after me, and, of course, miss me and to come without some of his books for which he had to send again, though that was the object of his coming. Thus he wasted a month, whereas he need not have been more than five or six days absent, *i.e.*, two in coming, two in going, and one or two with me. The *onus* of this delay my Forest *Assistant* is pleased to place gravely on me.

11. That there was a necessity for my seeing him and his books is obvious from the close of paragraphs 55 and 56 of my long report above quoted, and my letter, No. 542, dated 20th March 1874, therein enclosed.

12. The reasons for my sending the order to the Overseer direct are obvious, and are mentioned in paragraph 201 of my long report. I could get no obedience from Mr. Cherry. I was weary of endless argument and delay. I wanted something *done*, and there was no other way of getting it done. I should never have done it if I had not been compelled. Mr. Cherry has drawn it on himself.

13. The appeal, paragraph 13.—In my humble opinion his orders to Overseer Carroll to stay nevertheless in Mangalore *were* "conflicting" with my order to go out of Mangalore to Uppinangadi.

14. The question is where has been the "disregard for position," with Mr. Cherry or with me? The previous remarks and my long report will be sufficient answer.

15. Paragraph 28 of the appeal.—This is replied to in paragraph 22 of my Administration Report,* and paragraphs 185 to 196 of my long report.

* Letter to Board, No. 1,524, dated 11th August 1874.

16. Paragraph 29.—It would seem I am not to stir without Mr. Cherry's advice even in a matter in which there is no professional knowledge involved. There being no necessity for his advice I was not disposed to ask it of one who lost no opportunity of showing disrespect of superior authority. The transfers were well considered, were, in my opinion, necessary, and, if the Board desire, I can give good reasons.

17. Paragraph 30.—The transfers were ordered on the 16th March. They were not carried out till June, and yet an examination and transfer of stock was apparently not made (see paragraph 97 of Mr. Cherry's Administration Report), though the special necessity for it was conspicuously pointed out in two ranges and an opportunity for it was thus presented.

18. Paragraph 31.—Mr. Cherry called† on me for an explanation without even forwarding the letter to which he referred. That he should expect me to answer such letters is a little surprising. What I propose to do he was six days later left in no doubt, for I wrote him as follows:—

† His letter, No. 160, dated 10th March 1874, Enclosure 4.

"25. If, on the revision of the Forest establishment, lower posts are provided, he (Overseer Goudie) must be degraded, for both he and Overseer Pollet are very inferior selections.

Letter, No 514, dated 16th March 1874.

"26. If I had posts of minor importance in my own establishment to which I could transfer them, I would do so at once, and put better men in their places, but their education is so inferior."

I may add that Mr. Pollet was a drunkard, but I spared him. If he had not appealed, I should not have mentioned it.

19. Paragraph 32.—The reasons for the direct order are given in the last half of paragraph 201 of my long letter. Overseer Carroll was employed in showing the Maistries over a large gang of men how best to clear out the under-growth, what to spare, and what to cut in a jungle conservancy plot. As soon as he had fairly started them he was relieved. He told me the forest work for which he was wanted, and he was back in time for it. Both going and coming included he was only absent five days.

20. I trust the Board will be pleased to allow a fortnight of the delay to the mere labor of copying the letters and enclosures in the two appeals, the long report, and the Administration Report.

Enclosure No. 1.—Appeal from the Deputy-Conservator of Forests.

Enclosures Nos. 2 to 4.—Copies of Correspondence.

With the first of these letters the Collector forwards, at the requisition of Mr. Cherry, an Essay on the expediency of reserving forest tracts between the mountains and the sea-board of South Canara, which is thus summarised in paragraph 22: "Appreciable conservancy will, for the present and for some years to come, consist in reserving and planting away *from* the ghaut forests, and where operations can be carried out with the greatest facility. Along the coast and near all the towns and large villages the tracts of remaining vegetation should receive first attention. One or more blocks (according to anticipated demand) of a square mile or so each should be secured as close as possible to where demand will require to be satisfied. The closer to a town the more communal rights will have to be over-ridden, but the greater the blessing hereafter to the community. Other and much larger extents on the banks of navigable rivers or near the coast should be reserved if desirable for export supplies."

2. There is nothing novel in this idea, and the great difficulties in the way of carrying it out, which result from undefined proprietary and kumaki rights are simply ignored. The Essay adds nothing to the information already before the Board, and the Collector was right in his first intention not to send it on. The position taken by Mr. Cherry in his second letter, which, in effect, *requires* the Collector to submit the Essay to the Board, is improper, and is not justified by the circumstances of the case.

3. Mr. Thomas's second letter is a very long one, dilating on many most important points of forest administration. It must be sent to the Inspector for his remarks, and it cannot be disposed of until his reply (made perhaps after a visit to the district) is received. In the mean time, it seems to the Board to be necessary to take immediate action with regard to that part of it which relates to Mr. Cherry, and purports to show that forest administration is impossible whilst Mr. Cherry remains in the district. Mr. Thomas gives instance after instance of insubordination, assumption of undue authority, negligence that leaves room for defrauding Government, and delay which is so obstinate and chronic that it is impossible for the Collector and Conservator to exert any efficient control over his Deputy-Conservator. He declares that it is impossible for him to work with Mr. Cherry, and says: "In my humble opinion Mr. Cherry has shown himself unfit to be entrusted with the forest management of any district, and should be subordinated to some forest officer who will be able to see he gets some work out of him. No Collector can give him the close and constant supervision he requires."

4. Mr. Thomas's third letter forwards an appeal from Mr. Cherry against certain orders which he considers subversive of his authority. Without going into the details, the Board may remark that this appeal shows clearly that Mr. Cherry entirely misunderstands his position as the Collector's subordinate.

5. Leaving out of consideration the faults with which Mr. Cherry is charged, it appears to the Board impossible that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Cherry can ever work amicably together after the acrimonious correspondence which has passed between them.

6. The Board resolve accordingly to recommend Government to remove Mr. Cherry to another charge as soon as possible, and to request the Inspector of Forests to report direct to Government the arrangements by which he thinks this transfer can best be carried out.

No. 2. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th September 1874, No. 2,640, Forest No. 167A.

Abstract.—Referring to Inspector of Forests report of Collector of South Canara on certain points connected with Forest Administration in the district, etc.

No. 3. Order thereon, 2nd November 1874, No. 1,383.

Forests, No. 1.

The professional portions of Mr Thomas's letters, embodied in the later of the Proceedings of the Board above recorded, must await, for disposal, the report of the Acting Inspector of Forests to whom they have been referred by the Board, and who purposes proceeding shortly to South Canara.

2. It will be sufficient now to dispose of the reference regarding Mr. Cherry. The Government desire to make every allowance for the altered position in which Mr. Cherry found himself placed by the new régime under which, from being practically independent, he came directly under the control of a local superior; but they observe, with regret, that his proceedings have throughout been characterised by apparent efforts to thwart or neglect the orders he received.

3. They attach particular importance to the most improper letter from Forester Pollett, which Mr. Cherry accepted without reproof, and even made the subject of a reference to the Collector. Nothing could show more clearly his ignorance of his position.

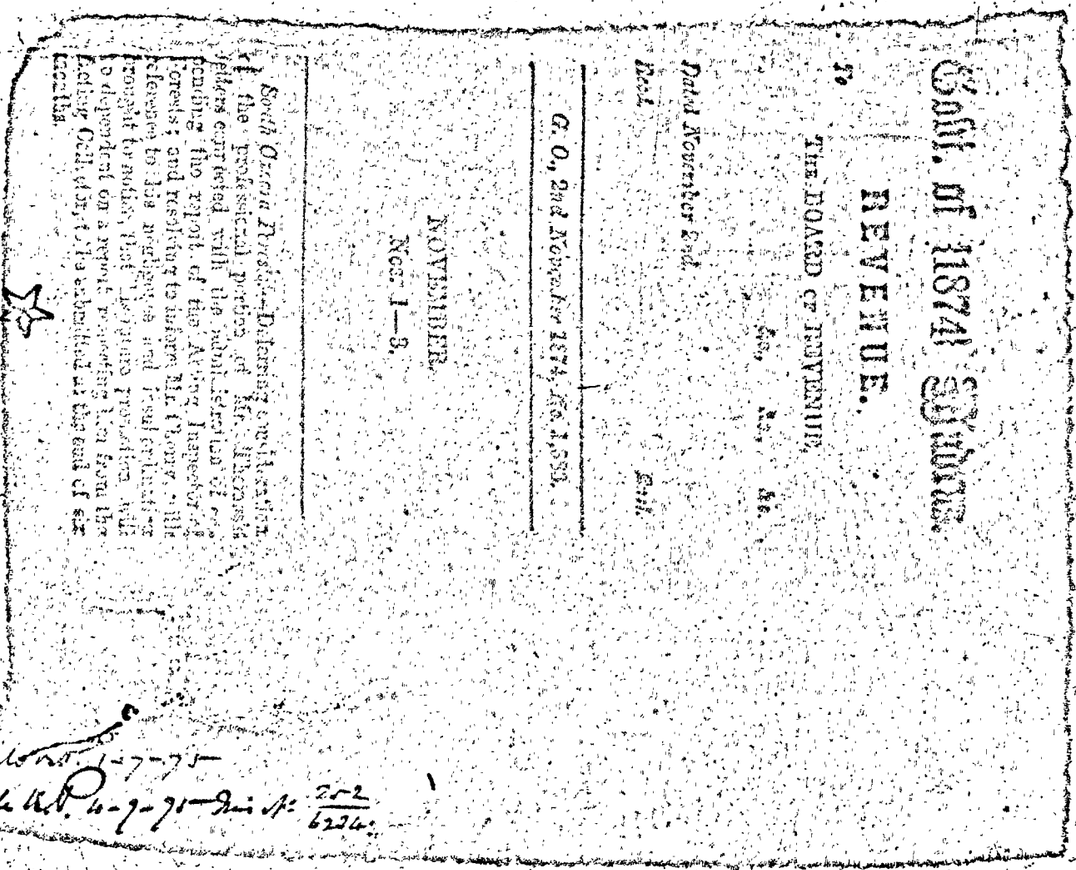
4. They notice, moreover, that the Collector's strictures are confirmed in some important respects by Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome's report, and that there is reason to consider that Mr. Cherry has been negligent and inefficient as well as insubordinate. They are willing, however, to give him an opportunity of redeeming his position in the district; but to mark their dissatisfaction with the mode in which he has conducted his professional duties, they resolve to inform him that his future promotion will be dependent on a report respecting him which the Acting Collector will submit at the end of six months.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.


Govt. of India
REVENUE.
To
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
Fort St. George.
Dated November 2nd
Rec'd
G. O., 2nd November 1874, No. 1,653.
NOVEMBER
Nos. 1—3.
South Canara Forests.—Determining with reference to the professional duties of Mr. Brandis, the relations to be established between the Forest officers and the ryots, and resulting in the appointment of a Conservator of Forests, and resulting to inform Mr. Cherry, the Deputy Conservator, that proposals and proposals connected with the administration of the Forests;

5. The denudation of the land might not be judged, were it giving way to profitable cultivation, but of this I see no appreciable signs, neither can it be anticipated to any great extent, for on Indian plains there is seldom cultivation without irrigation, and the *sine qua non* is debarred in South Canara by the innumerable marked undulations of the surface.

6. Give the ryots their way in Forest matters, and they ignore all thoughts for the morrow, hence the absence of indications that they are husbanding their supply.

7. A great many general remarks in reference to this subject might be introduced here which have already been made in my Report No. 402, dated 23rd August 1873, but I desire to direct present attention more particularly to those important woody portions of South Canara which are the least under conservancy or control, and therefore deserving special notice.

8. I allude to the extents between the sea-board and the out-of-the-way ghat forests, important because of their proximity to the demand, and the least under conservancy and control because subject to so many ill-defined and disputed rights shared in by ryots, Communities, Jungle Conservancy Establishment, and Forest Department.

9. It is these undemarcated portions intersected by "Kumakies," village "hardies" private properties, and subject to so many unsatisfactory and antagonistic rights that are so worthy of attention, and yet so difficult to attend to.

10. Treating then of these tracts where the supply is yet plentiful, there is an indiscriminate cutting that can only be justified by the assurance that the spontaneous growth will always cheaply and easily meet all probable demands.

11. That this end will not, under the present system, meet even the present rate of demand, is evident from the way in which denudation is extending, and the failure will be greatly augmented should population increase, communications (a Railway for instance) improve, or exports be acquired.

12. The spoliation is slow but sure first; the unreserved trees sometimes for timber, but often merely for firewood (for where large pieces of hard wood are obtainable they are always preferred to small unmatured stems) then gradually the few reserved trees, which, left as they are scattered on any undefined and public browsing ground, fall an easy prey to illicit felling; and lastly, the undergrowth and scrub for fuel and manuring and there remains a bare hill which will soon be washed of all surface soil, and in all probability never yield again more than a crop of poor grass. The picture is not overdrawn, and will be appreciated by any one interested in the Forest Conservancy of the district.

13. What tends to this bare result more than even the wasteful cutting and consumption of wood, is the practice of periodically stripping scrub foliage for the manuring of cereal wet cultivation, thereby effectually depriving the ground of its only chance of recovering its natural woody vegetation.

14. And how to remedy or provide for this?

Not knowing what power Government propose to give to the Department, or how it is intended to support us, it would not be wise to sketch out a plan for the general conservancy of such tracts as I have depicted. We had best, therefore, confine our attention to an exclusive control of special defined localities, that is endeavour to have secured to us strict reserves.

Even should such questions as ryot's rights; Kumaki privileges; unrestricted carriage of Forest produce; a Forest law; increase of Establishment and powers; and other pertinent and important questions be eventually decided with a view to strengthen the department as much as possible, it is a matter of doubt whether the extent of that possibility admits a strength that will enable us to control so large an area of intermingled properties, so as to ensure a constant supply of timber and fuel from the present bearing tracts, though for a certainty we should be able greatly to retard the process of denudation.

15. Be this as it may, under present circumstances, we stand to turn out more than useless in trusting so important a timber and fuel conservancy in the district to the desultory working of a few departmental restrictions, for they prove derogatory to the department, where powers are too limited to effectually secure them, demoralizing to the people who are tempted to commit depredations under cover of the extreme difficulty of their detection and punishment; injurious to the district inasmuch as they tend to encourage the ryot to make hay while the sun shines, and before a stricter conservancy is introduced, or there remains nothing to conserve, and mischievous to the name of conservancy to which they are referred, and which is held up to scorn because they fail.

16. If it is to be considered that we are only permitted here under the sufferance of the ryots, then Government must be prepared to undergo enormous and doubtful expenditure in reclaiming and planting up for their own exclusive use those tracts which timely interference might have saved from destruction.

17. I cannot think that this will be required. The wants of the ryots cannot be so exigent as to warrant denudation, neither can their rights be so imperative as to justify so large an expenditure of public money.

18. The supply being equal to the demand, the value of timber and fuel is regulated by the cost of supplying, and the object therefore should be to place the first as near as possible to the second.

19. To keep up the supply in this district we must no doubt go in for reserves and planting, but I strongly deprecate putting into practice (as long as there is so much waste going on, and so much to be saved) the idea that the department is expected to clothe again with vegetation those lands that are stripped and discarded by the ryot.

20. In place of this I urge the gradual taking up as required, and strict reservation of portions of what remains of the timber and fuel tracts in the generally denuded parts of the district.

21. I do not forget the ghauts and their forests.

There is there absolutely a supply of immense proportions and value, but relatively of less importance than that which might be secured elsewhere.

22. Appreciable conservancy will for the present, and for some years to come, consist in reserving and planting away *from* the ghaut forests, and where operations can be carried on with the greatest facility. Along the coast, and near all the towns and large villages, the tracts of remaining vegetation should receive first attention. One or more blocks (according to anticipated demand) of a square mile or so each, should be secured as close as possible to where demand will require to be satisfied. The closer to a town, the more communal rights will have to be overridden, but the greater the blessing hereafter to the community. Other and much larger extents on the banks of navigable rivers or near the coast should be reserved if desirable for export supplies.

23. I anticipate little difficulty in securing these reserves. Those bent on Forest mischief will nevertheless have a great respect for a well-defined boundary with Sircar notices thereon, that "Trespassing under any pretence will be prosecuted" and the reserves would be fairly preserved from cattle and surrounding grass fires by the usual South Canara mud wall and ditch.

24. All operations in these enclosures should be done exclusively by the Department or upon their licenses.

25. Special watchers would seldom be necessary if the Village authorities, Police and Forest peons, one and all made occasional visits and secured trespassers.

26. An executive establishment for conservancy and planting would not be large, and I believe the cost of the reserves would be repaid several fold.

27. I cannot too highly recommend this system for securing future timber and fuel supply to the district over that of planting up bare wastes. With the first you have a natural growth and supply to start with, which care and planting will keep up with little expenditure and trouble, for the ground from its annual deposit of leaf manure, the moisture retained, and shade and

protection afforded by the standing foliage, will greatly facilitate growth from seed, which I think will, as a rule, merely require to be dibbled.

On the other hand we have a piece of land washed of all nourishing soil in the monsoon, and baked to scorching in the dry weather upon which to operate. Nurseries will be required, pits dug, seedlings protected from the wind, and expensive waterings in the dry weather for perhaps two or three years. In the first I anticipate that timber trees of large size and good quality may be reared close to the coast, and this, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to do on bare exposed situations.

28. I trust I have said enough to attract the notice of the ruling powers, and I shall look forward to the time when my tours in the more civilized portions of the district will be made pleasant by the contemplation of the satisfactory and useful conservancy going on, instead of as at present, when I find nothing but signs of failing departmental authority, and feel that our operations are being just confined to far off unhealthy tracts where forestry and forest supply can only be met by strenuous efforts under great difficulties.

29. I have the honor to request that this may be forwarded for consideration, and trust that I may have the support of your views *on* the subject.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Deputy-Conservator of Forests, South Canara, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 19th February 1874, No. 112.

With reference to your letter No. 260, dated 11th February 1874, I have the honor to draw your attention to the last paragraph of my letter (No. 588, dated 10th December 1873, in question, in which I shewed an unmistakeable desire that my remarks should be forwarded.

2. Even without such desire, I deem the subject of my letter of sufficient importance to justify its submission to the authorities (*Vide* Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 210, dated 4th February 1874, paragraph 2) and trust that the delay may not have detracted from whatever value there may be in the remarks I then made.

3. In reply, I have, therefore, the honor to request that my letter may be forwarded.

H. S. THOMAS,
Collector.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of S. Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 10th August 1874, No. 1,489:—

* * * * * * *

164. It thus only remains for the Board to judge whether or not Mr. Cherry is the Assistant he is meant to be by Government.

165. Major Beddome observes, (paragraph 3 of his report,) "that there was much want of system throughout the range. The Deputy Conservator is too much in Mangalore, and his tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too hurried to be really of much use, etc." In fairness to Mr. Cherry the whole paragraph should be re-read by the Board. This paragraph I quoted to Mr. Cherry, but his idea was that it was anybody but himself that was to blame for the want of system, and impliedly that it was I. How this could be when he had himself full control over his own office and his Overseers I fail to see. Up to the date of that remark of Major Beddome, though not quite till its receipt by me, I had been hoping to call forth Mr. Cherry's energies and sense of responsibility by letting him feel he was trusted. Thus he was let alone and could have no one to blame but himself for "want of system."

166. That he did not tour enough could by no process of argument be made out to be my fault. I find that out of 182 days (I can get returns for no more) he was 150, or about $\frac{5}{6}$ths of his time in Mangalore, and only thirty-two on tour. His excuse was his office work. My office

work is much heavier, still I was out 154 days in the past official year. My idea is that a Forest Officer should, except in fever times, live almost entirely in the midst of his work, and be very little in at head quarters. How much was neglected by Mr. Cherry's not being amongst his Overseers, Forests, and Depôts will be seen hereafter.

167. "The Subramani Overseer was located at the office at Mangalore." Of course this should not have been even without my remonstrance, much less after I desired its discontinuance. Three times did I write to Mr. Cherry that the Overseer should be employed in his range, and not as a copyist in Mr. Cherry's office. But here as elsewhere my orders, however positive, were not complied with, the Overseer was nevertheless kept continuously in Mr. Cherry's office, and almost every letter addressed to me is in that Overseer's hand-writing. I find that this Overseer was out in his range only seventy-seven days out of 441, and though drawing Rupees 60+15 =Rupees 75 a-month was, for the rest of the time, occupied mainly in doing mere copyist's work in Mr. Cherry's office. For this the Overseer is not to blame, for he only obeyed the orders of his immediate superior.

168. "The Kumaki and other rules seem to be less understood." Is it meant that this is my fault or Mr. Cherry's? I thereon asked him what was his Kumaki file that I might see if it was complete and make it so. He has not replied.

169. "There appears to be less system generally than in former years." Was this my fault again or Mr. Cherry's? He had the matter entirely in his own hands. That it was he that caused less system than there was formerly is, in my opinion, clearly deducible from his having upset the system of his predecessors without introducing any of his own, though Mr. Cherry's view is that the Overseers had no accounts before he came, and that he introduced improvements. The books of the Overseers show no lack of conflicting orders and counter-orders from Mr. Cherry. In the investigation into the conduct of one Overseer, Goudie, these orders and counter-orders were made a strong excuse for confusion. In my opinion Mr. Cherry was not amongst his Overseers and forests enough to know the working of his own orders.

170. What these orders were I did not know till I found them in the Overseer's books, for Mr. Cherry sent me no copies or intimation of them. Till I called upon him to do so, he sent me [illegible] of the department, and even then his diaries were so meagre that they gave me little or no information. My idea is that a Deputy Conservator should send copies of orders to the Collector much as does a Salt Deputy Collector under the orders of the Revenue Board (Circular Order, No. I. of 1874), but lest I should in ignorance be unnecessarily exacting I sent those Board's orders to Mr. Cherry, asking [illegible] how their spirit could best be adapted to our position. I have had no reply.

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171. Perhaps it will be well that the Inspector of Forests should suggest, for the Board's decision, the class of orders of which copies should be submitted to the Collector so as to keep him informed.

172. In the absence of information as to what was being ordered and done in the Forests by Mr. Cherry and his Overseers I had recourse to the only source open to me. As I came to an Overseer's head quarters in his range I sent for him and waded laboriously through his whole file of correspondence to and fro, questioning the Overseer and taking notes as I went. I went also through his accounts and looked cursorily at depôts. That done I wrote on each occasion a letter to the Deputy Conservator. Those letters (Enclosure A) are enclosed for the Board's information. They will show whether, in spite of the difficulty in the way of getting information, I endeavored to remedy the want of system; yet I believe it to be no better than it was. Whether after this Mr. Cherry or I is to be held responsible it will be for the Board to judge. I submit that if my orders are at one time ignored or postponed, at another positively disobeyed, at another time evaded and cavilled about, the responsibility for the result rests not with me.

173. But Major Beddome's third paragraph proceeds, "there is not that systematic assistance from the Revenue subordinates that I trusted might result from the new organization." This is rather general, untangible, I venture to think unreal, and the reflex rather of Mr. Cherry's excuses,

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to Major Beddome than the fact. What it was exactly that was wanted of the Revenue authorities and wherein they have failed is not said. What I required of the Revenue authorities may be seen precisely in the enclosed orders* issued in the District Gazette. Those orders gave to the Deputy Conservator the position of a Divisional Officer—the position of a Head Assistant Collector whose division or charge was the forests. They subordinated all Revenue authorities from the Tahsildars downwards to his orders. That these my general instructions have in a single instance been neglected by any one Revenue authority has never been brought to my notice, that they have been freely obeyed is within my knowledge. The orders of Overseers to Potails are frequent. The charge against the Revenue authorities seems therefore vague, unsupported, and mistaken. I am not aware that they are in any way to blame.

* Notice No. 54, published at page 197 of the District Gazette for 1873, (Enclosure B.)

174. On the contrary the authority given to the Deputy Conservator over the Revenue subordinates has been abused by being too freely used. Mr. Cherry in suspending an Overseer called upon two Tahsildars to do his work in a Memorandum† on which I had to write as follows:—"Your Memorandum also throws on the two Tahsildars with all their village authorities all the conservancy work of an Overseer for an unlimited time. It was never contemplated that the Revenue staff of two taluqs should thus be made a Forest staff." So I had to ask him to issue no more orders direct to Tahsildars, but to apply to me when he wanted unusual aid from the Revenue authorities, or in cases of emergency to the Divisional Officer, sending me a copy of his communication. The assistance of Potails continued to be freely used.

† Copy enclosed, Memorandum No. 558, dated 2nd December 1873, (Enclosure A.)

175. This "Memorandum," it will be noticed, was an order to my Head Assistant's two Tahsildars, and I thus learn at second hand how he had decided to use these Tahsildars. The Head Assistant did not even get so much as this copy of an order for his information. This same copy of an order was also my only intimation of other important steps. A few days later I heard from Mr. Cherry, but that did not [illegible] been placed from my letter written thereon to Mr. Cherry.

176. "3. From this copy of a Memorandum I learn with surprise that Forest Overseer Goudie has been suspended by you, but when that event took place and on what grounds I have as yet no intimation whatever from you; indeed it would seem that I was talking with him about Forest matters and taking up his time, unconscious that he was the while out of employ, he apparently thinking that I was aware but powerless, as he did not mention it. I am also left in complete ignorance what arrangement, if any, has been made for the care of the depôts and other work in the range during Mr. Overseer Goudie's suspension.

177. "4. Similarly I find from a notice in the Gazette that the whole old stock of timber in the district is to be sold off by auction without any reference to me whatever.

178. "6. It is not right that you should take upon you to issue such sweeping orders without any manner of reference to me. I have hitherto left it to you to keep me informed of Forest matters, but I find I am kept in ignorance. It should be unnecessary for me to tell you that it is your duty to keep me informed and consult me in every matter of any importance. If your discretion cannot guide you to do this in future it will be incumbent on me to lay down more rigid rules than I would otherwise desire."

179. If I extracted the whole of this letter it would show that, at this date, which was prior to my receipt of Major Beddome's letter of the 8th of the same month, I had ceased relying on Mr. Cherry, and begun to look thoroughly into Forest matters myself. I will only quote five paragraphs shewing that I was quite alive to the necessity of Revenue and Forest authorities working together, and was resolved to spare no pains to take my own share of the joint work.

180. "11. Your independent conduct is an undesirable example to your Overseers, who show the like to Tahsildars as if superior to them. You will please take every opportunity of making them thoroughly understand that they are by no means so, but must promptly give every facility and explanation to Tahsildars inquiring about any of their sales, contracts, movements, or operations generally. They will wait on Tahsildars for this purpose when in their neighbourhood. It is desirable that Tahsildars should be able to watch and check malpractices.

181. "12. I have not yet received any explanation from Overseer Pollet, who, when in the same village, refused to come to me even when sent for. I desire it may be expedited.

182. "13. My Divisional Officers are as ignorant as I am of the forest operations in their divisions. That they should be thoroughly conversant with them is highly desirable. You and your Overseers should facilitate their becoming so whenever personal opportunity offers, and you will be good enough to inform me how you would propose keeping them and me more regularly informed of what is going on. The main object of the late change of régime must be lost if this is not done.

183. "14. It occurs to me that some insight will be gained by a perusal of the Overseers' diaries. Please arrange therefore that a copy of the Overseers' diaries be sent regularly every month as marginally noted. They should be despatched by the Overseers direct on the same date as those to you.

The Mangalore, etc., Range to me.
The Kundapur, etc., do. to Mr. Gibson.
The Kassergude etc., do. to Mr. Stokes.

184. "15. Please send me all the back diaries from the commencement of the present régime to date for perusal and return. I shall be glad to have them before the Christmas holidays."

185. The case of the Overseer suspended in the aforesaid Memorandum requires to be further noticed. In the same letter, dated 11th December 1873, I wrote as follows:—

186. "7. In the matter of the suspended Overseer, Mr. Goudie, it would seem from one part of your Memorandum (paragraph 4) that you have some definite information. If so you will please repair to the locality yourself without delay so as to bring the matter to light, if before Christ[illegible] made [illegible] the range. But if have no definite grounds at all, nothing better than a mere "suspicion," as your first paragraph would imply, then the man must be reinstated, and a fair inquiry made by you on the spot, and the result reported to me fully for orders.

187. "8. In either case, therefore, I desire that you will make a personal inquiry without delay and report thereon to me."

188. After this I had to send further calls to Mr. Cherry, which he practically disregarded, for he went only to Udipi on the coast for two or three days and not to the Overseers' depôts in the interior, where it was, I imagine, that fraud took place. I had to send also frequent reminders not to delay, which after a delay of nearly three months, during which the range was without an Overseer, eventually resulted in a report, dated 28th February 1874. This report, even when received, was ill-digested and unarranged, so that it cost me much labor to unravel, and was without even a list of enclosures. Extracts from my letter disposing of it will show what was Mr. Cherry's conduct in the affair—

189. "11. Then as to the accounts it seems to me that Mr. Goudie's plea is not without weight. The accounts were so frequently changed by you that he did not and could not understand them, was not allowed to come in to head quarters to master them, was not enlightened by you when you visited his range.

Extract from my letter to Deputy Conservator, No. 514, dated 16th March 1874.
On one occasion, but one only, it was I that prohibited the Overseer's coming away from his range for the few days during which his presence was necessary to an inquiry being made about him by the Tahsildar.

190. "12. That the accounts were changed and re-changed by you, I know not how many times, is, I believe, unquestioned. From your frequent reference to them they seem to have cost you yourself great labor to master. It is intelligible that to a man of Mr. Goudie's little

education they should have been still more difficult to grasp, or at least enough so to shelter him from the charge of intentional falsification. I find it difficult to conclude dishonesty. I can only conclude certain incompetency.

191. "17. Some of the charges laid against Mr. Overseer Goudie appear to reflect against yourself as well as him.

192. "18. Knowing, as your own letters show you did, in April and reverted to in September and October 1873, that his accounts were in such disorder that you contemplated ordering their being submitted by him to the Tahsildar before being submitted to you, and threatened to degrade and report him to the authorities, why did you not go out into his range and thoroughly look into them yourself. It was your obvious duty, even if the errors arose out of nothing more than an inability to comprehend your newly introduced accounts; but when it seems that you had growing suspicions also of dishonesty, suspicions which culminated at a time when you were actually in his range, it is surprising to me that even then you should not have gone into his accounts. And later on again after you had left his range without bringing the matter to a point, and on these suspicions took the decisive step of suspending him, even then also you did not yourself compare his accounts and timber, but left it to his 10 Rupee Gumastah to take charge from him.

193. "19. Furthermore, when on the top of all this, which should have sufficed to open your eyes to your proper course, you had also distinct orders from me to conduct such an inquiry yourself in person on the spot and without delay: as far as I am aware you have thoroughly disregarded those instructions, and in the face of them deliberately allowed the 10 Rupee Gumastah to go on taking charge from Mr. Goudie. I wish to know if this is so.

194. "20. With reference to these accounts again Mr. Goudie says the errors in the timber are not his but his predecessors. Had you during the whole tenure of his office once gone thoroughly through his accounts such a statement would surely have been impossible. As it is you appear unable to confute him. If you can it should be done explicitly. If you cannot it is obvious that I cannot tell which Overseer is to blame and in what degree.

195. "21. With reference to these very accounts again Mr. Goudie states he notice as to [illegible] his predecessor, saying, that both numbers and measurements failed to correspond with the stock, and that your orders were that he was 'not to alter Mr. Carroll's entries, but if any difference in measurement is found *to strike it off the accounts* (the italics are mine). Not only is he thus given rather a wide freedom to strike off, but the inaccuracies in numbers were not set right by you from that date to this, or he would not be charged with them now, and no inquiry seems to have been made by you about the sixteen original logs missing, nor how there came to be fifty-seven extra logs in his possession without their being brought to any account.

Mr. Cherry explains this to be the difference between two Overseers' measurements which is ordinary.

196. "22. All this, and much more to the same effect in your letters, shows the grave necessity for distinct rules and clear accounts, and especially for more frequent and thorough personal supervision by range inspections as noticed in other letters that I have had the honor to send you within the last two months. Major Beddome, the late Inspector of Forests, has said only too truly that 'there is much want of system throughout the range, and that you are too much in Mangalore, and your tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too much hurried to be really of much use.'"

197. In the matter of casuarina planting again there has been the usual negligence, disobedience, and correspondence-making cavil. I instructed Mr. Cherry to make a casuarina plantation on a sea sand-flat adjoining a plantation that I had formerly made. It was a complete failure. Out of some nine or ten thousand seedlings not half-a-dozen are alive. I animadverted strongly on the neglect which had caused such a wastage of Government money. Mr. Cherry had "reasons as plenty as blackberries" for the failure, but the fact still remained

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that in decidedly poorer sand close by the Revenue plantation of former years had been a success, while his had been a complete failure. The simple explanation was that there had been like difficulties in both cases, they had been well overcome by pains-taking care in one case, they had in other cases been allowed by negligence to be masters and ruin the undertaking. The Revenue Department avoided a like failure by having earlier sown and therefore stronger seedlings by planting in June instead of July, by watering and shading in the breaks, and we had breaks too.

198. In semi-accordance with verbal instructions given months previously, and before I had conceived it possible that Mr. Cherry could be so very negligent as I afterwards learnt, he had made a casuarina nursery for the renewal of the experiment. On receipt of Major Beddome's letter (paragraph 8) I ordered the idea* to be given up, and the seedlings† sold off. My order was distinct, still it has been shuffled with, so that up to this present time of writing the nursery is still maintained in the face of my orders. When I order him to sell off the boxes he wants instructions as to what is to be done with the seedlings in them. When I tell him that the seedlings were meant to be sold off as they stood in the boxes and by public auction, he wants to know what reserve price is to be put on them at the auction, so that the valuable time, the paper, the nursery up-keep, that has been spent during the *six months* that he has been making these frivolous references, is worth much more than could possibly have been lost if all the seedlings had been thrown into the sea. Thus has Mr. Cherry been playing at disobedience in a way which has thrown all authority into contempt, for it has been well known to my office and his, and to not a few of the public, that in such a petty little matter as this even the Collector of the district could not get his orders attended to, but was trifled with under a pretence of scrupulosity which was so transparent that it could not by the most charitable be mistaken even for a decent cloak for disobedience.

* 20th December 1873.
† 9th January 1874.

13th July 1874.

199. When I desire him to send me a monthly reminder of all letters remaining unanswered between us he tells me no, he is too busy, and letters he writes he cannot, he is too busy with more important things. In nothing will he obey, in nothing does he lose an opportunity of showing his quiet indifference to all orders emanating from the Collector, to all orders except from the Board and the Inspector of Forests, whom alone he professes on paper to serve, though how he has practically done his duty to them also the charge of his work above indicated will be the best evidence.

[illegible] letter [illegible] ant of [illegible] control or operations, [illegible] done such little matter as keeping a register of communications, docketing of letters etc; you therefore cannot be surprised at my asking you to refrain from making demands on my present feeble establishment that are not absolutely necessary.

"6. At the best I would submit that the list called for in your first letter regarding unanswered communications addressed *by me to you* might with greater ease and accuracy be compiled in your office.

201. I desire him to send an Overseer to inspect Kunyangai. He regrets he cannot. Sufficiently regretful, but none the less disobedient. He has other "important" work for him, but what may be the important work that is flouted before me, and that not once only by any means, I am not informed except most generally, so that I cannot tell whether there really is a *bonâ fide* reason why my orders should be stayed, or whether it is merely an excuse. I call him to be definite and he is not, and I come to the conclusion that there is no good reason or it would be given. Tired of being thwarted at every turn I have in two cases of varying emergency sent my order direct to the Overseer, requiring him to accompany me, and I sent a copy to Mr. Cherry for information. Then he complains that I ignore his position, upset his arrangements and so forth, forgetting that he has driven me to it by first setting me aside. I had no help for it. I knew full well from past experience that if I sent the order through him it would be delayed just long enough to practically thwart, and the semblance of obedience would have been given when the time for it to be of any real use was past. Not wishing that my Revenue

subordinates should see me waiting at the wood by myself, and not having the time to spare, I had no other course open but to send the order to the Overseer direct.

202. When 802 logs in an Overseer's range are, no one knows where, and I desire him to promptly stop felling in that range till the doubt is cleared up, so that it may not be rendered more difficult of solution by the presence of extra logs, the answer is slow in coming and it is vague, not telling me whether the order was prompt, which was the pith of the whole matter; and though he says he has stopped felling there, he goes out of his way to tell me it was not because I wished it, but for another reason of his own; and whether the 802 logs in question which lay at the bottom of the matter have been found, or even searched for, I have not a particle of information from Mr. Cherry. I only learn verbally from the Overseer that he has found *more* than 802; more than are in his accounts, which is again a wonderful thing needing explanation. But it is useless, utterly useless, for me to write to Mr. Cherry. He has had more than enough from me to leave him without excuse as to what is wanted of him; if he will not do it I cannot help it; and whether he positively refuses or is silent and forgets, or regrets difficulties in the way, or asks trifling put-off questions, the result is all one, the Government work is not done.

203. Perhaps I may be held to blame for not reporting him earlier. To this my answer is that for a long time I could not conceive it possible he was so indolent. As Major Beddome has done I too accepted his plausible excuses thoroughly, and believed he was doing his best, and that he only wanted time to work out what he was trying to grapple with. Major Beddome writes, (paragraph 3,) "I cannot say that Mr. Cherry is to blame for much of this, he is fully alive to it himself, but scarcely sees a remedy and it is a very difficult question, etc." I too had accepted just that position, and I gave Mr. Cherry time, and an Accountant, and verbal advice, and then written suggestions, and when I was driven to the conclusion that it was nothing but sheer indolence then too I did not rush into reporting him, because I thought I ought to try first if I could not myself press him into working before I complained to my superiors of the tools given me to work with. I determined first to exhaust all efforts of my own. Furthermore, it was a matter that was semi-professional, was his speciality and not mine, and he was so plausible that I believe in him as the unfortunate victim of adverse circumstances, it was [illegible] Major [illegible] re necessary that I should be not only quite sure, but able to prove, that I was in the right before I reported. Had I reported without sufficient proof, and failed in consequence to obtain the Board's support, the result of the recoil would have been only more disastrous to Forest management. Now that I am reporting it is because I am called upon in the Board's Proceedings under reply, and that call cannot be answered without showing that it is Mr. Cherry that is really at the bottom of the great majority of the faults existing. I have also two appeals of Mr. Cherry's which put me on my defence.

204. Though I have endeavored to submit my report under two main heads, the Forests and Mr. Cherry, still it has not been possible altogether to dissever the latter from the former. To save the Board labor, therefore, I have the honor to state that the paragraphs which refer to Mr. Cherry, both favorably and unfavorably, are the following:—

Close of paragraph 6—Disobedient.
Paragraph 7—Impracticable any way.
Paragraphs 17, 18, 19, 21—His Kumaki Stump fee scheme.
Paragraph 43, near the end—No reply about hand-book.
Do. 50—Neglected and ignored orders about girdling.
Do. 51—Do. do. do. about felling.
Do. 52—Do. do. do. leaving good seeders.
Do. 54—Do. do. do. squaring timber.
Do. 55—Do. do. do. sending me account forms; superficial examination of accounts himself.
Paragraph 63—Satisfied with absence of accounts.
Do. 64—Always professing to be studying accounts.
Do. 67, near the end—Neglect of orders about seasoning.
Do. 74—The subject of this paragraph also was brought to Mr. Cherry's notice, but with the usual result.
Paragraphs 92, 93—Selling timber; subject neglected; orders neglected; frivolous objections.
Paragraph 122—Could not define a sapling.
Do. 123—Nor draw up an agreement.
Do. 124—Nor carry out simple instructions.
Paragraphs 146, 147, 148—Nor select sites for coppice.
Paragraph 162—Nor for catechu; but threw his work on me.
From paragraph 164 to the end.

205. Whether it is possible for me to work with such a tool any more is, I venture to think, beyond question. In my humble opinion Mr. Cherry has shown himself unfit to be entrusted with the Forest management of any district, and should be subordinated to some Forest Officer who will be able to see he gets some work out of him. No Collector can have time to give him the close and constant supervision he requires.

206. I have been at great pains to make this letter just and accurate. I have written first from memory, which from the constant attention I have had to give to the subject, has been comparatively easy; but then the laborious task has been the verifying of the accuracy of every expression by reference to the actual correspondence, and this has necessitated the searching through packets on packets of letters, altogether some fifty times as bulky as this report, and in which the subjects are spread unconnectedly. Though it is possible that in so long a correspondence on a subject which is not my only one, but one of many, some minor points may have escaped me, still I do not think it. I have taken more than ordinary pains to prevent it, so that [illegible] explanation may re[illegible] his representations." Is it to be admitted that after the unmistakable letters he had he should be at liberty to do the exact reverse, simply because he had sent another excuse. If nothing is to be done till all his excuses are answered there is an end to all work.

8. This correspondence, and the one about casuarina (paragraph 198 of my long report) is an indication of the amount of correspondence created by Mr. Cherry, and then complained of as preventing his doing his work. No doubt his always writing and arguing instead of doing did hinder his work as well as mine; but I think it is a matter for me rather than for him to complain of as he does.

9. The appeal, paragraph 10. My order to Overseer Pollet.—I annex my order† and Mr. Cherry's letter, and I leave the Board to judge therefrom whether, after the experience I had had in connection with Mr. Carroll and the many other things mentioned in my long report, it was not a fair inference from Mr. Cherry's letter that he had set my order to Mr. Pollet also aside.

† Enclosure 5.
Memorandum to Overseer Pollet, dated 6th February 1874, No. 226.
Mr. Cherry's letter, No. 90, dated 11th February 1874.

10. This letter shows that Mr. Pollet was just then coming into Kassergode, from which place he could, in one night by dawk or in two days on his pony, have come to me at Mangalore. What he did was to go into the interior after me, and of course miss me and to come without some of his books for which he had to send again though that was the object of his coming. Thus he wasted a month, whereas he need not have been more than five or six days absent, *i. e.*, two in coming, two in going, and one or two with me. The onus of this delay my Forest *Assistant* is pleased to place gravely on me.

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is one letter, about the early forwarding of which I should be more punctilious than about any other letter, it is an appeal against myself. With these apologies for the unintentional delay I beg to submit the appeal.

3. Its paragraph 1, clause 2, "Recent actions."—It is thus admitted that they were recent. The Board will please not lose sight of the fact that for a whole year Mr. Cherry had been let alone for reasons shown in my letter, No. 1,489, dated 10th August 1874, paragraphs 7 commencement, 165 end, 203 *et passim*, and that any "recent" seeming peremptoriness of language and action had been the last resource to which I had been driven by Mr. Cherry himself by his neglect of duty and neglect of orders.

4. Paragraphs 2 to 10 of the appeal are about the Subramani Overseer Carroll, with reference to whom Major Beddome remarked that he was "located at the office at Mangalore."—The correspondence* being attached the Board can judge for itself whether or not paragraph 1 of my letter, No. 333, dated 18th February 1874, was justified. The stress laid by Mr. Cherry on the word "range" loses its force when it is seen that in my first letter I spoke markedly of "forests," and there is very little forest in the Mangalore Taluq, none certainly in or near the Mangalore town. There is only depôt work (paragraph 15 of the appeal), which should not have taken up a tenth of the time spent in Mangalore. Reference may be made here to paragraph 167 of my report, No. 1,489, dated 10th August 1874.

* Enclosure 2.

5. My allusion to Sunday work was in compliance with the Notification of Government, published at page 83 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 1847.

6. Mr. Cherry's want of a Clerk was duly submitted by me to the Board of Revenue, No. 87, dated 17th January 1874. I too am in want of one, but I do not for that reason call in a Tahsildar and employ him as a Clerk in my office, and had I done so and the Board desired its discontinuance, I think the Board would have been mightily astonished if I had written them letters laying the responsibility on them and nevertheless kept him, and even set the Board's [illegible] do as Mr. Cherry has [illegible] Overseer.

[illegible] say that [illegible] meant it to be understood nothing has been written; on the contrary it is one of my complaints that Mr. Cherry has flooded my office with his correspondence, but still he has not done any good by it. He has stayed in Mangalore and argued, not gone to his forests and worked. I do not mean to say that the letters I have quoted without any statement of non-reply have not been replied to, but what I do say is that they have not been answered, and that if I had the leisure to do nothing but write to Mr. Cherry I could fully maintain every position I have taken up. Again, where I have said that I have received no reply there I mean that there has been absolutely none.

From the same Officer dated Mangalore, 10th August 1874, No. 1,523.

* Enclosure 1.

I HAVE the honor to forward an appeal* to the Revenue Board from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mr. Cherry.

2. I very much regret that its forwarding has been so long delayed. It was quite unintentional on my part. It was at first delayed from day to day unavoidably, because it necessarily entailed a long explanatory covering letter from me in my justification of the light in which my conduct is represented, which covering letter I could not get the leisure to write, and then when my report, No. 1,489, dated 10th August 1874, was called for it seemed to me that the subjects which would have to be introduced there would embrace a reply to this appeal also, and that so labor might be spared to both the Board and myself. But then that letter too has under the pressure of circumstances been long delayed and was itself a lengthy task, and so this letter has been again kept waiting for it. I very much regret the delay that has thus occurred, for if there

11. That there was a necessity for my seeing him and his books is obvious from the close of paragraphs 55 and 56 of my long report above quoted, and my letter, No. 542, dated 20th March 1874, therein enclosed.

12. The reasons for my sending the order to the Overseer direct are obvious, and are mentioned in paragraph 201 of my long report. I could get no obedience from Mr. Cherry. I was weary of endless argument and delay. I wanted something *done*, and there was no other way of getting it done. I should never have done it if I had not been compelled. Mr. Cherry has drawn it on himself.

13. The appeal, paragraph 13.—In my humble opinion his orders to Overseer Carroll to stay nevertheless in Mangalore *were* "conflicting" with my order to go out of Mangalore to Uppinangadi.

14. The question is where has been the "disregard for position," with Mr. Cherry or with me? The previous remarks and my long report will be sufficient answer.

* Letter to Board, No. 1,524, dated 11th August 1874.

15. Paragraph 28 of the appeal.—This is replied to in paragraph 22 of my Administration Report,* and paragraphs 185 to 196 of my long report.

16. Paragraph 29.—It would seem I am not to stir without Mr. Cherry's advice even in a matter in which there is no professional knowledge involved. There being no necessity for his advice I was not disposed to ask it of one who lost no opportunity of showing disrespect of superior authority. The transfers were well considered, were in my opinion necessary, and if the Board desire I can give good reasons.

17. Paragraph 30.—The transfers were ordered on the 16th March. They were not carried out till June, and yet an examination and transfer of stock was apparently not made (see paragraph 97 of Mr. Cherry's Administration Report), though the special necessity for it was conspicuously pointed out in two ranges and an opportunity for it was thus presented.

18. Paragraph 31.—Mr. Cherry calledt on me for an explanation without [illegible] expect me to answer such letters is a little surprising. What I propose to do he was six days later left in no doubt, for I wrote him as follows:—

† His letter, No. 160, dated 10th March 1874, Enclosure 4.

"25. If on the revision of the Forest establishment lower posts are provided, he (Overseer Goudie) must be degraded, for both he and Overseer Pollet are very inferior selections.

Letter, No. 514, dated 16th March 1874.

"26. If I had posts of minor importance in my own establishment to which I could transfer them I would do so at once, and put better men in their places, but their education is so inferior."

I may add that Mr. Pollet was a drunkard, but I spared him. If he had not appealed I should not have mentioned it.

19. Paragraph 32.—The reasons for the direct order are given in the last half of paragraph 201 of my long letter. Overseer Carroll was employed in showing the Maistries over a large gang of men how best to clear out the undergrowth, what to spare, and what to cut in a jungle conservancy plot. As soon as he had fairly started them he was relieved. He told me the Forest work for which he was wanted and he was back in time for it. Both going and coming included he was only absent five days.

20. I trust the Board will be pleased to allow a fortnight of the delay to the mere labor of copying the letters and enclosures in the two appeals, the long report, and the Administration Report.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Appeal from the Deputy Conservator of Forests.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 4.—Copies of Correspondence.

With the first of these letters the Collector forwards, at the requisition of Mr. Cherry, an Essay on the expediency of reserving Forest Tracts between the Mountains and the Sea-board of South Canara, which is thus summarized in paragraph 22: "Appreciable Conservancy will for the present and for some years to come consist in reserving and planting away *from* the Ghat forests, and where operations can be carried out with the greatest facility. Along the coast, and near all the towns and large villages, the tracts of remaining vegetation should receive first attention. One or more blocks (according to anticipated demand) of a square mile or so each should be secured as close as possible to where demand will require to be satisfied. The closer to a town the more communal rights will have to be overridden, but the greater the blessing hereafter to the community. Other and much larger extents on the banks of navigable rivers or near the coast should be reserved if desirable for export supplies."

2. There is nothing novel in this idea and the great difficulties in the way of carrying it out, which result from undefined Proprietary and Kumaki rights are simply ignored. The Essay adds nothing to the information already before the Board, and the Collector was right in his first intention not to send it on. The position taken by Mr. Cherry in his second letter, which in effect *requires* the Collector to submit the Essay to the Board, is improper and is not justified by the circumstances of the case.

3. Mr. Thomas' second letter is a very long one, dilating on many most important points of Forest administration. It must be sent to the Inspector for his remarks, and it cannot be disposed of until his reply (made perhaps after a visit to the district) is received. In the meantime it seems to the Board to be necessary to take immediate action with regard to that part of it which relates to Mr. Cherry, and purports to show that Forest administration is impossible whilst Mr. Cherry remains in the district. Mr. Thomas gives instance after instance of insubordination, assumption of undue authority, negligence that leaves room for defrauding Government, and delay which is so obstinate and chronic that it is impossible for the Collector and Conservator to exert any efficient control over his Deputy Conservator. He declares that it is impossible for him to work with [illegible] and says "In my [illegible] Cherry has shown himself unfit [illegible] Forest Officer [illegible] [illegible] work [illegible] him the close and constant supervision he requires."

4. Mr. Thomas' third letter forwards an appeal from Mr. Cherry against certain orders which he considers subversive of his authority. Without going into the details the Board may remark that this appeal shows clearly that Mr. Cherry entirely misunderstands his position as the Collector's subordinate.

5. Leaving out of consideration the faults with which Mr. Cherry is charged it appears to the Board impossible that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Cherry can ever work amicably together after the acrimonious correspondence which has passed between them.

6. The Board resolve accordingly to recommend Government to remove Mr. Cherry to another charge as soon as possible, and to request the Inspector of Forests to report direct to Government the arrangements by which he thinks this transfer can best be carried out.

(True Copies and Extract,)

J Grote

Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with four original enclosures to be returned.
„ the Collector of South Canara.
Copy to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Copy sent
Circular 1874. Revenue
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH SEPT. 1874, No. 2,639.

Despatch by Mail 24 Encl. 4
Bob 1889 - Collr... 18/14
Received.

SEPTEMBER.

Forest No. 167.

Cherry, Mr., Deputy Conservator of Forests—in charge of South Canara Forests.—Removal of —— to another charge for insubordination, neglect of orders, etc., recommended to Government. Inspector of Forests requested to report direct to Government arrangements by which he thinks this transfer can best be carried out. Remarks passed on Mr. Cherry's Essay on the expediency of reserving Forest Tracts between the Mountains and the Sea-board of South Canara.

For orders
Ent

1.

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(33)

FOREST No. 167A.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th September 1874, No. 2,640.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 10th August 1874, No. 1,489 :—

THE late Inspector of Forests, after a tour in South Canara, reported that there was "very much that requires serious attention" therein, and the Board, in forwarding his report to Government, with remarks in their Proceedings, dated 21st February 1874, No. 391, Forest 14, desired a report from me. I have the honor to submit that report.

2. I should commence with an apology for delay in its submission. The delay is partly the result of my having waited for replies on certain subjects from the Deputy Conservator, and partly to its having been really impossible for me to earlier find the necessary time for the setting forth in order of such a heavy subject, requiring the re-perusal of so much correspondence.

3. I cannot but agree with Major Beddome, and should have thanked him for his report had he not so shortly after left the country for England. But there is little, if anything, new in his report. It almost entirely consists of matters which had equal existence, and about which we were equally agreed, when the forests were under his charge ; and not a few of the opinions are only a reflex of such as I have myself expressed to him.

4. This is, however, of no importance except to satisfy the Board that it was not by this report of Major Beddome's that my eyes were first opened to the duty of giving "serious attention" to a subject in which I have long taken a real interest, and on which I have frequently written earnestly from as long ago as 1868, and that it was not at this date, and since forests came under Collectors, that serious attention was first needed.

5. There are also many more subjects unnoticed in that report of Major Beddome's which are of no less importance, and which I shall bring forward below.

6. The position of the Canara forests has not, that I am aware of, undergone any marked change for the worse since it passed from forest to collectorate control ; it has only remained unsatisfactory, highly unsatisfactory, still. It has only not reaped the benefit that was expected to follow its coming under the Collector, because the evils which existed then exist still. The evil of want of control over the forest establishment is still as bad as ever. Formerly the head of the department was so far removed, and could come so seldom into his ranges, that the young men in charge thereof were practically left very much to themselves. Though this should be remedied now that the supposed head, the Collector, is on the spot, and can give his personal attention, still the want of control is as bad as ever, and the young man immediately responsible for the working of the range still does just what he likes, and does'nt do what he does'nt like simply because he does not choose to obey.

7. I have tried every course with Mr. Cherry. Seeing that he had enough of ability *professed* an interest in his work, I believed him, relied on him, and treated him as I do [illegible] officers, that is, I let him alone, trusting to his own sense of his own responsibilities. Th[illegible] did all too long, not out of negligence, but because he spoke disheartedly of his own prospects and position since the department had been handed over to Collectors, and I wished him to understand that he should at least be treated with no less consideration than before the change. The result was indolence. I then looked carefully into matters myself, and pointed out the details requiring his attention ; the result was cavil. Do what I will, I can get nothing from Mr. Cherry but indolence and cavil. In theory he is my Assistant, in practice he has given more trouble than all the rest of the district, and after it all there is, for the labor, neither resulting improvement nor prospect of it.

8. In support of this sketch of the position I proceed to details which will, I hope, place the Board and Government in a position to apply the fitting remedies.

9. I will take forest matters first and then Mr. Cherry. Of the forest matters there are some on which Government alone can decide ; there are some on which the Board will, I think, desire to take the opinion of the Inspector of Forests ; and there are some which I might and

should have decided and carried out myself if only I could have got my so-called Assistant to do as he was asked. But, as I could not, I will lay them all before the Board. They are briefly as follows :—

I. Kumari—paragraphs 10—15.
II. Kumaki—paragraphs 16—41.
III. Forest Establishment—paragraph 42.
IV. Forest Hand-book—paragraphs 4 —44.
V. Working System—paragraphs 45—49.
VI. Girdling Timber—paragraph 50.
VII. Felling Timber—paragraphs 51—53.
VIII. Squaring Timber—paragraph 54.
IX. Accounting for Timber—paragraphs 55—65.
X. Seasoning Timber—paragraphs 66—75.
XI. Selling Timber—paragraph 76—101.
XII. Depôts—paragraphs 102—104.
XIII. Auctions—paragraph 105.
XIV. Sandalwood oil-stills—paragraphs 106—124.
XV. Firewood—paragraphs 125—161.
XVI. Catechu tracts—paragraph 162.

10. *Kumari.*—This matter was disposed of in G. O., dated 24th October 1861, No. 2,032, Revenue Department, and if that order had been allowed to stand, and were effectively enforced, it would seem to be a sufficient settlement of this too much vexed question. But after that there arose the rules proposed by Mr. Webster, and given effect to by Mr. Collector Morris, and then the agitation of petitioning on Lord Napier's visiting the district, and then Mr. Collector Cadell's and my ideas on reports being called for, and then the suit against Government, and the discontinuance by my predecessors of criminal prosecutions and substitution of punitory assessments in deference to the general sympathies of the Board and Government, and the Board ordered compromise of a suit, and the strong opinions of one member of the Board, now in Council, which may be supposed to be likely to influence the Government decision, and then no order of the Board thereon, only an opinion, and the constant prospect ever since 1869 of a final order of Government. The natural result has been an expectant temporizing administration of which the ryot has taken full and increasing advantage, and the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,222, dated 21st March 1871, issued and received here while I was on furlough in England, have made no change in that *statu quo*. The Board's last opinion was that Kumari should remain in *statu quo*. Looking carefully into the matter, I imagine that the Board did not mean the state into which the Kumari position had gradually lapsed by the action of several Collectors under the agitation and pressure above sketched, but the state in which Government ordered it to be put. The Government not having cancelled or modified its Order, No. 2,032, Revenue Department, dated [illegible]tober 1861, I conclude I am to make it respected. This I cannot possibly do without [illegible] prosecutions ; the experiment of a punitory assessment has been all too long tried in vain.

I am, therefore, republishing the said Government order, and arranging to enforce it by rec[illegible]encing criminal prosecutions for breach thereof in forests more than nine years unkumaried. To excess of kumari or unlicensed kumari in forests not more than nine years unkumaried I shall still apply only punitory assessment.

12. Our small teak plantation at Kunyangai has been claimed as an old kumari, and the extension of it has been prevented by the same claim. I shall now make known my intention of holding and extending it under the above Government order.

13. To give thorough effect to these Government orders will cause some revulsion from the policy handed down to, and continued by me ; but that policy having utterly failed to give any real effect to the wishes of Government, it is clear I must revert to the original steps taken by Mr. Collector Fraser. It must be expected that there will be the like clamour, Board petitioning and Government petitioning, and possibly suing, though I doubt it ; but till I have other orders, I shall thoroughly carry out those I have. If I have ordinary support, and there be no temporizing orders from Madras, I have little doubt that the opposition will soon yield, and the kumari difficulty disappear.



14. Under these same orders of Government the Sircar Kumari question also which has been revived in Board's Proceedings, No. 437, dated 27th February 1874, and No. 742, dated 31st March 1874, shall be set at rest. The Government having left the discretion to me, I shall exercise it as indicated in the letters which are enclosures to those Proceedings, and as I had exercised it before till my orders were modified by my successor.

15. In view of the weary waiting for further orders, and the destruction that is going on the while, I feel compelled, living as I do in the midst of it, to take at once these decisive steps in pursuance of the orders I already have.

16. *Kumaki*—(Paragraph 14 of Major Beddome's report enclosed in Board's Proceedings under reply). Similarly the Kumaki difficulty may be tided over. The following compromise of opinions on which the Board can itself pass orders promises, I think, to remove at once the worst features of the present difficulty, leaving the ultimate question of right and policy to be decided at better leisure by the Government, unless indeed Government also should prefer to adopt the additional alternative hereinafter suggested.

17. The present position is that the ryot can for the kumak or assistance of cultivation cut and use anything within 100 yards thereof, except six reserved timbers, but that he may sell nothing and remove beyond his village limits. This sounds well enough. But the difficulty is that if he wants a reserved timber tree off his Kumaki, he must apply for permission to cut it, which is not given till the approximate seigniorage is fixed on the standing tree by the Forest Department, and paid into the Taluq Treasury by the ryot, and a Taluq receipt produced before the Forest officer, and when the tree is felled the ryot must again apply to have it measured by the Forest Department, and wait till the actual seigniorage is calculated, must pay that difference of seigniorage in the taluq, and again wait till he gets from the Deputy Conservator a pass for removal ; so that there is much delay before he can get the tree he emergently wants. All this vexation and weary waiting can be saved by the imposition of a uniform stump fee, which will also simplify matters on the Government side by doing away with the necessity for the labor of much measurement and calculation.

18. The idea is Mr. Cherry's, and I should like to have obtained sanction for its introduction long ago, but only after three letters have I lately obtained from him the rates which he proposes, as hereunder extracted from his letter :—

"Seripoon ... ...
Sandal ... ...
Ebony ... ...
Catechu ... ...
} Should not be sold on seigniorage or stump fee.

Names of Trees.	Average contents per tree in cubic feet.	Value per cubic foot.	Proposed stump fee.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Teak	20	0 12 0	15 0 0
Blackwood			
Kullpooni			
Kiralboghi			
Tiruva	24	0 6 0	9 0 0
Jack			
Wild Jack			
Matty			
Kulboghi			
Haidenjee			
Haicotty	16	0 4 0	4 0 0
Benteak			
Marawa			
Bengay			

" Junglewood at Rupees 2 per tree.

" These rates are calculated on the market value of the different timbers on the coast *minus* the cost of carriage, which throughout the district averages 8 Annas a cubic foot."

19. In a subsequent letter, Mr. Cherry wishes this list to be looked on as tentative only, and subject to the addition of other timbers, as their value may become known and appreciated.

20. To facilitate comparison, I annex a Statement showing in one view Mr. Cherry's proposals, and the rates obtaining in Mysore and North Canara.

Names of Trees.	South Canara.		North Canara.		Selling price in Mysore.		Remarks.
	Seigniorage rates enforced by the Forest Department in South Canara per cubic foot.	Proposed stump fee.	Seigniorage per Cart.	Per cubic foot.	Per cart-load of 25 cubic feet.	Per cubic foot.	
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	A. P.	
Teak (*Tectona grandis*)	0 5 1	15 0 0	Reserved.	Not known.	18 0 0 to 20 0 0	12 0 or 13 0	Reserved in Mysore.
Blackwood (*Dalbergia Latifolia*) ...	0 5 1	15 0 0	Do.	Do.	Not known. 12 0 or 5 0	Junglewood at Annas 6 and Pies 0·96 per cubic feet.	
Kallpooni (*Calophyllum Weightianum*)	0 5 1	9 0 0	Not known.	Do.	25 0 0	1 0 0	Reserved in Mysore.
Kiralbhogi (*Hopea Parviflora*) ...	0 5 1	9 0 0	Do.	Do.	Junglewood at Rs. 9-8-0 per cart-load of 25 cubic feet.		
Tirwa (*Xylia Dolabriformis* or *Inga Xylocarpa*)	0 1 3	9 0 0	Do.	Do. Rs. 0 3 9	12 8 0 to 17 3 0	0 8 0 ... ... 0 11 0	Reserved in Mysore.
Jack (*Artocarpus Integrifolia*) ...	0 5 1	9 0 0	Rs. 3 0 0	,, 0 3 9			
Wild Jack (*do. Hirsutus*)	0 5 1	9 0 0	,, 3 0 0	,, 0 3 9	18 0 0 to 20 0 0	12 0 or 12 0	Reserved in Mysore.
Matty or Banapoo (*Terminalia glabra* or *Tomentosa*)	0 1 3	6 0 0	Reserved.	Not known.			
Kalbhogi (*Albizzia Odoratissima*) ...	0 1 3	4 0 0	Rs. 1 8 0	Rs. 0 1 10			
Haidenjee (*Andromeda Ovalifolia* ...	0 0 8	4 0 0	,, 3 0 0	,, 0 3 9			
Haikotty (*Schleichera Trijuga*) ...	0 0 8	4 0 0	Not known.	Not known.			
Benteak (*Lagerstræmia Macrocarpa*)	0 0 8	4 0 0	Rs. 1 8 0	Rs. 0 1 10			
Marawa (*Terminalia Paniculata*) ...	0 1 3	4 0 0	,, 3 0 0	,, 0 3 9			
Bengay (*Pterocarpus Marsupium*) ...	0 1 3	4 0 0	,, 1 8 0	,, 0 1 10	18 0 0 to 20 0 0	12 0 or 12 0	Reserved in Mysore.
Junglewood	... ...	2 0 0	... ...	... ...	varying from 4 0 0 to 13 0 0 per cart-load.	0 2 10 to 0 8 9	It is not stated what woods are reserved and what not in Mysore.

21. With the leading idea of this scheme of Mr. Cherry I concur, but not with the de. I think it is a mistake to altogether interdict any timbers as Mr. Cherry proposes, for it can on lead to their being surreptitiously cleared out by the ryot on his finding that, as far as he is concerned, they are weeds from which he can never reap any advantage, and furthermore, I do not think we ought to swell the number of trees reserved in Kumaki lands. At present they are six to wit—

Teak. Wild Jack.
Blackwood. Poon.
Jack. Saudal.

and dealing with these only I would prefer to have only one uniform rate for all reserved timbers and one for all unreserved timbers cut for sale;—say Rupees 8 for reserved and Rupees 4 for unreserved timbers. This simplicity will leave no room for perplexing uncertainty so fruitful of vexation of many sorts. When the course is made so simple that the poorest ryot can understand it as well as the official, the former is much more likely to see he is not imposed upon, and the latter not to try it.

22. The only proposal which Mr. Cherry makes about the practical working of the idea is that the trees and stumps should be stamped by the Forest Overseer. By stamped, I presume, he means having a number chiselled on them like Government trees. But for this purpose the Forest Overseer must either take a village carpenter about with him or wait till one is procured, which is not done by any means so readily among the detached homesteads of this district as in the villages of the other coast. If it is found that there are abuses, and this stamping of logs and stumps is advisable, we must then see if it can be managed.

23. But chiefly I demur to the forest intervention at all in Kumakis. The only necessity for it at present lies in the misfortune that our Revenue Village officers do not all understand the *arcana* of measurement. That mystery being got rid of by the stump fee system, the necessity for forest intervention ceases. In the tenements of the ryots it is an irritant and an evil to be expelled. I would not have Forest Officers put foot in Kumakis. It is not forest proper. It is more allied to cultivation. Let the cultivator's ordinary masters, the Revenue authorities, arrange these matters, and let not the cultivator have to look to two masters. The Revenue authorities are also more numerous and oftener on the spot, and can dispose of matters more expeditiously; and delay is vexatious.

24. I would have the ryot go to the head of his own village, the potail; obtain from him a receipt for the uniform stump fee; go personally and get it exchanged for a pass from the Revenue Inspector, who is always within easy reach, because there are three of them in each taluq, and then cut his tree and remove it as soon as he likes, being required to leave the stump only for a twelve month, or till the Revenue Inspector shall earlier see it and permit its removal.

25. Forms would make the matter simple. Each potail would have a cheque book, on the cover of which would be printed the stump fees and short rules. The cheques would be consecutively numbered and in triplicate. Not more than one tree should be entered in each cheque. The potail would then have only to enter the name and warg of the applicant, the word "reserved" or "unreserved," and one of the two uniform fees and sign the triple form on receiving the stump fee. One copy he would retain in his book, two he would tear out and give to the ryot. These the ryot would carry to the Revenue Inspector who would file one himself, send one by post the same day to the Tahsildar for information and voucher, and then and there give the ryot a corresponding pass, one for each tree, in printed forms, and send the Tahsildar a duplicate. These passes would for two months be the ryot's safeguard if challenged by any Forest or Police Officer while removing his timber by road or river. Any one of those officers might, however, endorse on the pass that he had seen it being used on such a day at such a place, and return it at once to the holder. This would preclude the ryot's using it again for a fresh tree. There being one pass for each tree

When the potail or head of the village cannot write, the Shanbogue or Village Accountant will have to do it.

d thus be convenient to the ryot, and by the consecutive numbers would enable us to check oth the Potail and the Revenue Inspector, whose accounts would have to tally, and could not be raudulently made to fit by the entry of more or less trees in a pass.

26. When making his monthly remittances of kists the potail would make up his account from his counterfoil, would enter at the foot of his irsalnama fees on reserved trees so much, on unreserved so much, and the former would be carried to forest revenues by the Tahsildar, the latter to Jungle Conservancy Funds.

27. When sending his monthly accounts, the Tahsildar would forward the Potail's triplicate receipts as his vouchers, and would retain the Revenue Inspector's as his office memorandum on which to make local inquiries when moving in the neighbourhood, and so check the potail and Revenue Inspector's Proceedings.

28. When it will be so simple and so cheap to use or sell their kumaki timbers in a legitimate way, the ryots will be inexcusable if they transgress the rules.

29. Against the uniform rate it may be urged that trees are not always uniform in size, and that the price will consequently be unequal. True, and the effect ought to be to discourage the felling of saplings, and encourage the maintenance of mature trees, for the finer they grow the greater will be the advantage of the ryot when eventually he comes to cut them. In short he will have a reservation of property in them, and as for junglewood trees, trees fit only for firewood and classed by Mr. Cherry at Rupees 2 a stump, the ryot would cease to grow them in excess of his own wants, preferring any of the many trees on which he can better afford to pay Rupees 4.

30. But if it be thought that the Rupees 4 stump fee would unduly check the rearing of firewood, then there might be a third rate of Rupees 2, but I do not advocate it because of its divergence from simplicity.

31. The wording in Board's Proceedings, No. 490, dated 30th January 1865, taken in connection with Board's Proceedings, No. 5,905, dated 20th August 1866, implies that ryots may fell and use the non-reserved timbers "*within their village*" without payment of seigniorage. Though not imperative, still if any change is made, I think it would be an advantage if it were *farm* instead of *village*. In other districts where the ryots live in streets on the Gramanattam the word "village" will be necessary, for the convenience of the cultivator wishing to repair his house, his cowshed, or his plough; but here where every homestead is on the warg or farm, it only opens to the ryot a door which was not contemplated. It was not contemplated, I imagine, that the ryot should have the timber for more than his own use to aid his cultivation, not for sale to his neighbours, or for removal under pretext of not taking it beyond his village limits.

32. If it is made "farm limits" he will still be able to sell to his fellow-villagers or any one else, and at a profit, after paying the moderate stump fee charged by Government in recognition of its rights.

33. In the last sentence of his 14th paragraph, Major Beddome is strongly opposed to ryots selling Kumaki timber even after payment of seignorage. But that paid I do not see why they should not sell as well as use. He bases his objection, I imagine, either on the fear he has already expressed, and I have combated in the enclosures to Board's Proceedings, No. 1,222, dated 21st March 1871, that unless restricted the ryots will denude their own Kumakis or else he bases it, I presume, on the proposal he has more than once urged, and Mr. Cherry repeatedly urges that as long as private timber is removable without a pass any amount of Government timber can continue to be stolen with impunity.

34. Major Beddome revives the Government right, which has been allowed to slumber, of cutting reserved timber for its own use from Kumakis. The evil of this power having been used by the Department of Public Works has been sufficiently shown (Board's Proceedings, No. 1,222, dated 21st March 1871, paragraph 23) and it should never be re-exercised by the Forest Department. It would be well that there should be a Board Order disallowing such interference in Kumakis till otherwise ordered by Government.

35. Should the Government eventually accept the Board's proposal* to renounce all claims to proprietary right in Kumaki, whether with or without a light assessment, all restrictive rules will be swept away; but, should they, in deference to the late Inspector of Forest's fears, prefer to take the medium tentative course of doing away with the reserved list only and allowing ryots to use on their farms, free of all seigniorage, *all* trees of whatever sort growing on their Kumakis, but only not to sell them, then my above proposed arrangements will equally suit the position, and no change will be necessary. Changes which involve doubt are undesirable.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 1,222, dated 21st March 1871.

36. If any change at all is then made, it should be in the direction of still further simplicity by having only one rate of stump fee for all sorts of woods in Kumakis, striking Kumakis off the forest books altogether, and crediting the fees to Jungle Conservancy.

37. But the obvious objection to this course would be that, if there is to be only one rate, it must be the lower of the two—to wit Rupees 4, and that, if it is only Rupees 4 for trees which are paying Rupees 9 or Rupees 15 in the forests, the Forest Department could not attempt to compete with the Kumakis and would be driven out of the market.

38. It seems then that it will be best to keep the stump fees at Rupees 8 and Rupees 4 for Kumaki trees wanted for *sale*, even though Government should make their *use* free to the wargdars.

39. The stump fees would be derived from cultivators from land connected with cultivation and in no way connected with forests, would be collected by the revenue officers without any intervention whatever of forest officers, and, by being credited to Jungle Conservancy Funds, would necessarily be spent in the district and for the sole benefit of the inhabitants of the district. It will be for the Board to consider whether, under these circumstances, the stump fees of all Kumaki trees should be credited to Jungle Conservancy, or only the fees on the unreserved sorts which may be reckoned as chiefly, though with a few notable exceptions, firewood, the proceeds of which are, I believe, in all districts carried to Jungle Conservancy Funds.

40. Briefly, then, I propose with reference to Kumakis, that the Board be pleased to sanction the immediate introduction of stump fees of Rupees 8 and Rupees 4 in lieu of seigniorage on a system by which the ryot can avoid delay in using and selling his Kumaki timbers.

41. And for the consideration of Government, I put forward this additional alternative of allowing the ryot to take freely without reservation, question or tax of any sort all and every tree growing on his Kumaki so long as it is for *use* on his farm, but to remove or sell nothing without paying the light and uniform stump fees of Rupees 8 and Rupees 4 a tree, and obtaining a pass from the Revenue authorities in the prompt way I have suggested. This suggestion implies the free gift to the ryots of all they can possibly use themselves, and at the same time protects the Forest Department from the much-feared competition.

42. *Forest Establishment.*—It is very desirable that this subject should be disposed of early, as it is the foundation stone of improvement. More subordinates are required in the forests; the Deputy Conservator says his office is at a stand-still for want of a clerk, and, for my part, as Conservator, I may say in one word that I have to be clerk and all but copyist myself, for I have not a single extra clerk for the work. I have not one that knows anything about it, or has any leisure to learn, and I have consequently to look into every detail myself and to remember every detail of past correspondence myself, though going in the interim to fifty different subjects, and having the work made as troublesome as possible the while by a recusant Forest Officer. If everything had been digested and set in order by the Forest Department before it was handed over to the Collector, so that things ran in grooves, and there was little but routine work to do, little in fact but to look on and say yes, then my ordinary Collectorate establishment might perhaps be equal to this slight extra work. But it is not well that my Office should be so weak as to be quite unequal to exercising any real supervision without my doing it with my own fingers and my own eyes, and throwing other Collectorate matters into arrears the while. I should have office enough to enable me without delaying or hurrying over

other duties to exercise a real supervision, or I can scarcely be held responsible; and offic
enough to meet the contingency of the Deputy Conservator requiring more than ordinary supervi
sion. I submitted proposals for an improved establishment in my letter, No. 1,178, dated 23r
July 1873. In this scheme the want most emergently felt is that of a clerk in my office and a
clerk in the Deputy Conservator's.

43. *Forest Handbook.*—When we have laid the foundation stone of a proper establish-
ment, the next step is that the members thereof shall know what they ought to do, and the
Conservator too (*alias* Collector) should have some guide as to how best to employ the machinery
given him. From the questions which will crop up in the course of this letter it will be obvious
that many of them should be no questions at all, but settled principles. In this district the
Forest Overseers handed down by the late Inspector are, with one good exception, ignorant men
of no education, no ability, and, I might add, no character. They have been the unwise selec-
tions of the young men who have, from time to time, been Deputy Conservators here. These men
know nothing of their duties. They cannot even keep their books and accounts properly, much less
answer questions about girdling, squaring, felling, seasoning, pruning, planting, etc., etc. Future
Overseers, though they can scarcely help being much better educated men generally, will have to
be selected from the natives of the district, and will almost necessarily have no special forest
education. Any new Overseer freshly appointed will also be in a perfect maze as to what is
required of him. He will find no code of rules in his office to guide him. He will only find a
mass of past correspondence from which he will glean about as much of what is not wanted as of
what is wanted. He will find order after order which has since been countermanded, and he will
find and follow the mistakes and faults, as well as the correct practice of his ignorant, and
perhaps sinful predecessor. It is not fair on the novice Overseer that, however well intentioned,
he should find it impossible to know what is required of him except under a process of repeated
reprimands for months; it is not fair on the Deputy Conservator that he should have the
unnecessary labor of taking each new man in hand and teaching him all his work from the very
commencement; it is not fair on the Conservator that in addition to all his Collectorate work,
he should have similar difficulties to contend with as have both the above two officers; it is not
fair on the forests that they should the while be the unfortunate patients.—It is desirable I think
that a Handbook or Forester's Guide should be drawn up giving as simply and succinctly as
possible the several duties to be performed by the several grades of the department. It need not,
because it probably could not, be an absolute law of the Medes and Persians never to be deviated
from, but it would be a most acceptable and useful guide to all grades of the department. In
view of the great confusion in this range, I asked my Deputy Conservator to draw up some such
code of rules for our Overseers; but though I
wrote some five months ago I have as yet had no
reply. It would be more satisfactory if it were done for all districts by the present Inspector of
Forests, and printed and circulated. English books are wide of Indian requirements. A
profound treatise in the hands of ignorant Overseers and overworked Collectors would perforce
be shelved as a Mega Biblion Mega Kakon. What we want is the simplest, briefest little pamphlet
possible, referring in foot notes to the means of further study, but itself as succinct as possible.
Among the subjects to be dealt with therein would be girdling, felling, measuring and valuing
cubic contents, measuring and valuing sawyers' work, marking, orderly storing, seasoning,
selling, accounting, diaries, depôts, leave rules, tools, seigniorage, Kumaki, planting, pruning,
average deduction for shrinking in seasoning, average deduction for sapwood.

11th February 1874.

44. Since writing the above, I find this proposal has already been made and approved in G. O., 5th September 1872, No. 1,280, Revenue Department. But I let it stand as it has not yet been done and the want is great.

45. *Working system.*—(Paragraph 4 of Major Beddome's report enclosed in Board's Proceedings under reply). There is no doubt, in my humble opinion, but that Major Beddome's view is right, and I accepted it. The astonishing thing is that as this date we should still have a Deputy Conservator Mr. Cherry "much divided in his opinion" and "mainly in favor of reverting to the license system," etc, as if the license system had not been regularly hooted out and died without a friend years ago. One would think too that Mr. Cherry had not months before had the clearest instructions from me to introduce the contract system for the very reasons set forth by Major Beddome. Mr. Cherry was not only so definitely instructed by me so long ago as April 1873, but had the matter re-urged on him.

30th April 1873.

11th December 1873.
11th February 1874.

46. In answer to these instructions Mr. Cherry writes, "your views about contracts are those which I have always possessed and are carried out whenever opportunity occurs," and I find in diaries some few casual allusions to contract work, and in his Administration Report Mr. Cherry says he is "doing his best to encourage it." From Major Beddome's remark it would seem, however, that at the time of his visit there was not given to the contract system that prominence which my instructions desired.

47. Thus though I am not fully informed and am not in a position to report positively, it would seem that a fair amount of attention is now being given to this subject.

48. Major Beddome says contract floating is largely used in North Canara. All the details of the North Canara Contract system being ascertained, some labor of thought and some failures might perhaps be saved here. I have written for them.

49. How it is proposed to work the stump fee system in Government forests I do not know. Mr. Cherry never mentioned it to me though it was he that first suggested such a system in Kumakis. I have asked him.

50. *Girdling.*—(Paragraph 5 of Major Beddome's report). Major Beddome says that "Mr. Cherry is anxious to introduce girdling," that he (Major Beddome) objects to it in certain trees, and would have it tried in others. I accepted Major Beddome's advice and at once (11th February 1874) instructed Mr. Cherry to give it effect. But if Mr. Cherry was previously "anxious to introduce it" he might have said so. I cannot find that he ever did. On the contrary even after these instructions he has not done it, though in his last diary, some five months later he is still suffering from the same anxiety. It is chronic this paper anxiety to do work without seeking mental relief in simply doing it.

51. *Felling Timber.*—I am under the impression that to be good, timbers should be felled in certain conditions of sap, and bamboos at certain stages of the moon. Hints on this subject might find a place in the handbook above suggested. I mentioned it to Mr. Cherry some four months ago, but have had no reply.

52. Felling again should not be indiscriminate, the practice is to fell all mature trees of the desired sorts, the undesired being of course neglected. The consequence is that of the good sorts no seeders, only saplings, are left, whereas of the useless sorts there are any number of seeders which fill the forests with their seedlings, and the forests thus steadily deteriorate in the quality of the timber they bear. Mature trees of the more valuable sorts should be spared at certain intervals for the purpose of replenishing the forests. This too I have mentioned months ago to Mr. Cherry, but have no intimation that it is being attended to.

53. I mention these and like matters as I go through the requirements that have cropped up that the Board may see that I have not failed to give the "serious attention" said to be "very much required" in this range. If Major Beddome had seen me as well as Mr. Cherry, he would probably have had a different impression as to where lay the blame. The Board will forgive my report being full, so that I may be exonerated in their eyes, and matters placed on a better footing hereafter. It may be too that some of the subjects brought up may be useful for the proposed manual, and thus for other districts also.

54. *Squaring Timber.*—(Sixth paragraph of Major Beddome's report) "Mr. Cherry is anxious to bring out his timber in round, "untrimmed logs." From this report one would think I

had been preventing him, and I suppose Major Beddome had that impression; whereas the fact is that something like a twelvemonth before Majore Beddome's report, I had personally showed Mr. Cherry that the native timber merchants of Malabar always brought their timber thus, and that the round sides had a saleable value when sawn off in planks in cantonments instead of being chipped away in the forests. I subsequently repeated this in writing (11th December 1873 and 11th February 1874) and pointed out that much money passed unnecessarily through the Overseer's hands in carpenter's hire, in trimming, and was worse than wasted for the sap-wood, further served the useful purpose of equalizing the moisture of the heart-wood, and so saving it from splitting, and facilitating its seasoning.

55. *Accounting for Timber.*—There can be no question that a good system of accounts is of great importance. Mr. Cherry informs me that for the guidance of Forest Overseers no forms have been laid down authoritatively; that those handed down to him by his predecessors were very defective, and that he has been endeavouring to improve them. In this endeavour he has been occupying himself for nearly two years, and has, at his own request, had the aid, on one or two occasions of the best Accountant in my office; what he has done I do not know. Repeatedly have my inquiries about divers neglected matters been met with the explanation that everything had been postponed to the engrossing labor of producing a perfect system of accounts. Fully recognizing the value of such a system, and nothing doubting but that the laboring mountain would, in process of time, parturiate, I hoped on, till at last I was driven to the conclusion that the task was too — either for Mr. Cherry's ability or for his energy. He said he had introduced some improvements and was contemplating more, and I found from a perusal of the Overseer's books that he had ordered repeated changes in his forms of accounts from Overseers. I asked him five months ago (11th February 1874) to send me a copy of his latest instructions, and to make no more changes without reference to me. I am not yet favored with a reply, and I can never count on getting a reply from Mr. Cherry till it perfectly suits his convenience. I must be content, therefore, to remain in ignorance of what he has produced, and judge only from the results I find in his Overseers, which results I have been able to arrive at, not by any assistance from my Forest Assistant, the said Deputy Conservator, but from laboriously wading through the correspondence and account-books of the Overseers. There I find that one Overseer* has on his accounts sixteen logs which he cannot produce, and produces at the same time fifty-seven logs which are entered in no account at all; and, though Mr. Cherry's attention was twice officially drawn thereto, and he was at the time engaged in an investigation and report on the Overseer in question, no use was, or apparently could be, made of the matter as against the Overseers. Another Overseer whose accounts by the way had been "quite recently," but surely as superficially, examined by Mr. Cherry, so that my examination thereof was deprecated by Mr. Cherry, was nevertheless found by me to have one log written off as floated to another depôt, and yet not brought on to that depôt account. For this the man, not the account, was to blame. For the rest the accounts seem answerable. I find I wrote about them to Mr. Cherry as follows:—

* Mr. Goudie, paragraphs 184 to 195 *infra*.

56. "2. About all the following numbers of logs in the Timber Register for 1872, Mr. Overseer Pollett declared his inability to say where they were, though many of them were felled so long ago as 1860 and 1865. They represent in the aggregate 802 logs, which is a large amount of Government property to be lying no one knows where.

No 542, 20th March 1874.

"5 to 12, 20 to 85, 87 to 89, 91 to 105, 107 to 154, 156 to 234, 238 to 578, 580 to 617, 619, 622, 658, 659, 662 to 667, 669 to 671, 674, 676, 678 to 683, 686 to 693, 696 to 757, 763, 768, 772 to 811, 817, 995 to 1017, 1019 to 1024, 1048, 1079, 1081 to 1111, 1114.

57. "3. Against some of these there is the pencil remark 'renewed' which Mr. Pollett explains to mean re-trimmed and re-squared, I presume, because it had deteriorated from long keeping under circumstances unfavorable to seasoning. Still where they are he knows not. He will have to look for them he says.

58. "4. Against some again is the pencil remark 'dragged' which he explains to mean dragged to the side of the road, but what road and where he cannot say.

59. "5. Some logs are again pencil marked 'sown,' but to the question where, he is still unable to give an answer.

60. "6. The presumption would seem to be that those logs which have not even these pencil remarks against them are in a still more obscure position.

61. "7. That the Overseer will find all these 802 logs when he goes to look for them is sincerely to be hoped.

62. As I write this letter, the said Overseer tells me that he has not only found the said 802 logs, but more than 802; he "has found more than ever he took charge of." The question then arises how came these extra trees to be felled without being brought to account?

63. It seems to me that there is no manner of use in an account which certifies in the abstract only to the existence of 802 logs, not one of which can be traced out, so as to see whether in truth it has, or has not, any real existence, for unless there is an account which gives it "a local habitation and a name," it is for all practical purposes an "airy nothing." A superior officer, wishing to check its existence, is perforce completely baffled. The Overseer may have sold all the 802 logs on his own private account; may, with the proceeds thereof, have refelled and sold as many again and again since 1860; or he may have done the like in moderation, cautiously in the larger rembter forests only. Or he may be an honest man and yet unable to find and show the fellings of his predecessors so long back as 1860, left lying in the forests no one knows where, without any account of their locality. Mr. Cherry is, however, well satisfied with the position, and says, "Mr. Pollett's inability to inform you of the exact locality of the logs mentioned in your paragraph 2, or indeed of any single log in his Range Register, is to me intelligible. In my Registers, I endeavour to get all possible information regarding my timber except that of "whereabouts," which, being subjected to repeated changes, it would be unadvisable to attempt to show in these records."

Mr. Cherry's letter No. 305, dated 24th May 1874, paragraph 3.

64. My view is that the moment a tree is even girdled, much more when it is felled, it should be entered in an account that the moment it ceases to live in the forest it should commence its existence in the accounts, and should be distinctly traceable from tree to logs, from forest to depôt, from depôt to depôt, and from depôt to sale, so that from first to last it should have an individual history by means of numbers, and its place of existence should always be known, so that it could be identified at any moment by any one wishing to check the timber stock in any one, or in all of the timber depôts and fellings. That the Forest Department has been going on so many years without any such accounts, I find it difficult to conceive. If it be really so, as the state of affairs in the Cassergode Range, and Mr. Cherry's remarks above quoted give me to understand, then I submit that there was at least nothing to indicate the existence of such a deficiency of account so that I may be held blameworthy for not having introduced a better system of accounts earlier. The late Inspector of Forests had been several times in the district when its forestry was immediately under him, and twice since it was handed over to Collectors; and it was a fair conclusion that, if there had been any such fatal deficiency of account, he would have rectified or at least noticed it. My Deputy Conservator, Mr. Cherry, has been most constantly impressing me with the assurance that he was giving his very best attention to accounts. In the face of such a position it was not at all to be expected that I should conceive the possibility of such a primary defect in the system of accounts. It would have been an ungenerous and unwarranted suspicion of the care and capabilities of my predecessors. It was from no such suspicion that I discovered it, but from a general supervision of books for reasons to be given hereafter in connection with Mr. Cherry.

Paragraphs 169 and 171 infra.

65. But as regards forestry, the practical question is whence is a through system of accounts for Forest Overseers to be obtained. Not from my Deputy Conservator obviously. Past experi-

ence and his reply above quoted dispel the hope. That it will be thought my duty as Collector to elaborate such details I hardly think. Besides I do not doubt that proper accounts already have an existence in other districts in which they have been subjected to the practical test of work, and that the present Inspector can supply them without any difficulty.

66. *Seasoning Timber.*—This again is a subject on which there should be no room for speculation, but one that should be provided for in simple rules in the handbook above suggested. Neither is it a matter which a Collector should have to settle. It is a purely professional matter which should have been unmistakably laid down by the Forest Department in Standing Orders long before that department passed over to the immediate control of Collectors. It is not a matter therefore in which I as Collector can, I hope, be held to blame. Yet it is a matter of primary importance and has come before me as follows:—

67. Our bridges are constantly rotting. The Engineers being blamed declined our forest timber and purchased as much as possible from the private timber merchants of Malabar and elsewhere. Observing this I asked why they declined our timber. They replied that it was because it was not seasoned. I told my Deputy Conservator verbally that he should season as did the Malabar merchants. He doubted. I applied officially to the late Inspector as it was one of those "mysteries" of the craft" on which I was entitled to his professional aid. He replied that my Deputy Conservator should be able to advise me. So I turned officially to him. He wanted me to ask what the Forest Department in Malabar did. Through the Collector of that district I inquired and learnt that the Forest Department there never seasoned. So I went back again to the fountain head of professional knowledge in forestry, the late Inspector, and this time he replied, "that there can be no better way of seasoning Teak, Blackwood, and your superior jungle timbers such as Tirwa (Xylia), Kiralboghi (Hopea), etc., etc., than by keeping them a certain time (1½ to 2 years) in shady places in the forests" This is the precise system which the Forest Department here has followed from the commencement, the very system which has resulted in rapidly rotting bridges, and forest timber consequently declined by the Engineers. That I should be content therewith was not to be expected. Had it not been a "mystery of the craft," I should have issued my own instructions for seasoning; but, in view of the number of difficulties always made by Mr. Cherry, I thought it more prudent not to undertake the onus of all the failures that would naturally result from obstructiveness and idleness, and I instructed Mr. Cherry to inquire of the native merchants how they produced the seasoned timber which the Engineers preferred to ours, and to report whether we could not follow the same process. This was some five months ago, but as usual he has not done it. He seldom does anything that gives him any trouble.

* Paragraph 21, G. O., 24th January 1872, R. D.

11th February 1874.

68. Of course I have not failed to make my own inquiries, and my idea is that the *fons et origo mali* especially in soft timbers, is the sap which requires to be eliminated. That the heat in India, even in the shady forests or under sheds is so great that it warps and splits logs, that it operates unequally and very partially, and that alternations of sun, rain, dew, heat above, damp soil below, are injurious, and that the native plan of immersing is the simplest practical way of seasoning. The natives immerse the logs as soon after felling as possible, always within a month. They prefer a miry place which is well covered by every tide. If this be not available, then they bury under the bank of a river or rivulet, and even this failing, they bury anywhere, and keep the spot moist by hand-watering, and thus the timber is kept for nine months after which it can be exhumed and exposed anywhere.

69. I would propose then that our forest timbers should, without delay, after felling be buried in the most suitable places available, and be there kept for nine months or more unless earlier purchased.

70. Whether there will be advantage in artificially seasoning by the not difficult process of hydraulically pressing a creosoted mixture into the log longitudinally is a question which has probably been considered by the Forest Department, and on which the present Inspector of Forests' opinion is desirable.

71. Seasoning is not ahead in Major Beddome's report, but it is touched on in paragraphs 11 and 12, wherein the course suggested is that there should be seasoned timber for the Department of Public Works, but none for the public, for all their timber is to be cleared off at half-yearly auctions, within which it cannot of course be seasoned. With this suggestion I do not concur. I think seasoned timber should be available for the public also. If we take the command of the forests, it does not seem right that we should use it so as to cut off the public from seasoned timber, for if my views about seasoning be correct, it follows that half-yearly sales must effectually prevent seasoning either by ourselves or by the purchasers. I think it is one main end of the Forest Department to supply the public with good timber, and it cannot be good unless it is seasoned, wherewith to build houses and ships, to make carts, implements, doors, windows, furniture, and so forth. Moreover these forced sales may not always secure fair prices, and how can we so exactly estimate the wants of the Department of Public Works in different places. They depend on the accident of a new building being wanted or the fall of a timber bridge.

72. Moreover, if timber is not seasoned in the proper way, it deteriorates. We have had forced auction sales of timber, because it was deteriorating, so that we dared not keep it any longer, whereas under a proper process of seasoning it should within a reasonable limit be improving instead of deteriorating. We have had "a large quantity" of timber which had to be simply "written off as altogether unsaleable," and we have had to spend money in "retrimming a large number" of logs with a view to make them saleable. Thus seasoning is a necessity for the forest as well as the public.

73. On the seasoning of inferior timbers a few passing remarks are offered in paragraphs 96 and 97 *infra*.

74. *Seasoning Bamboos.*—The annual revenue from bamboos is not inconsiderable, say about Rupees 4,000. It might, I imagine, be more. Bamboos are plentiful in the district, and are in great demand. Natives season them much as they do timber, but the Forest Department seasons not at all. I have seen heaps of forest bamboos bound to be sold at a nominal price, because they were riddled with borers and rapidly becoming powder. In Cassergode 1,850 bamboos were sold for Rupees 22, a good deal less, I imagine, than it cost to fell them. They ought to have realized about Rupees 300.

75. It is astonishing to my mind how any department with a conscience can placidly go on year after year cutting bamboos and storing them in a way in which their destruction by borers is a positive certainty, unless by good luck they are early sold off to some one who will take better care of them. It is true they have to be cut and used by the department for floating ebony, etc., but all this floating should be done by contract, and the contractors would not fail to season their bamboos. I think the trade sufficiently supplies seasoned bamboos; if it did not, it would be the duty of the Forest Department themselves to make seasoned bamboos also available to the public. To supply rotten bamboos is scarcely what they are entertained for. It certainly is not profitable.

76. *Selling Timber.*—Having felled and seasoned, the next point is to make the timber available for use, available to the Government and the public. This our present arrangements do, to my mind, very unsatisfactorily. A person wanting timber goes to the Forest Overseer who, as already shown, cannot always find his own timber (paragraphs 56 to 63), but, presuming it found and shown to the purchaser, he cannot inform the purchaser what is its value. The purchaser gives the Overseer an application for log No. 99 say, the Overseer measures it, and forwards the application to the Deputy Conservator; with a recommendation, the Deputy Conservator thereon fixes the price, the Overseer informs the purchaser thereof, the purchaser pays the same into the Taluq Treasury, and takes the receipt to the Overseer, who sends it to the Deputy Conservator, who sends a pass to the Overseer, who thereon delivers the timber to the purchaser. Thus Overseers have an opening, not unavailed of, for measuring favorably or unfavorably or recommending favorably or unfavorably. The position is demoralizing to Overseers and purchasers, or else unpleasant; the price is arbitrary and changeable; the Deputy Conservator trimming his prices from time to

time to suit the market as he terms it, as none but a petty shopkeeper would do, and as it is impossible for him to do correctly, witness the necessity for his Overseers' recommendations; there are subsequent objections made by purchasers both to prices and measurements, and what is still more annoying to the purchaser, there is a great deal of travelling to and fro and a delay generally of about two months. In view thereof, I wrote to the Deputy Conservator Mr. Cherry suggesting the following remedial measure:—

77. "20. The same books showed that a large quantity of timber remained unsold at the Depôts, and that the Public Works Department were almost the only purchasers. The general public seem to be deterred from purchasing by the inordinate delay caused by the circuitous process of purchasing. I shall be obliged by your informing me if there is any difficulty in the way of the following arrangement for sale, and if not, how soon it can be introduced, or if any better suggests itself to you."

Extract from my letter to Deputy Conservator, 11th December 1873, paragraphs 20 to 23, without No.

78. "I. Every log to be durably numbered consecutively for the year and range directly it is felled, and at once measured and valued, and the depôt, number, description, measurements, and value entered not only in the Overseer's Office Felling book for his whole range, a copy of which should be sent to you, but also in lists as under:—

79. "II. One general list for the taluq to be sent to the Tahsildar of each taluq in the range.

80. "III. Each depôt to have a similar list of its own timber which is to be readily available for public inspection.

81. "IV. The timber to be orderly stored with the numbers upwards.

82. "21. Every log will then have a fixed price on it, as goods in a shop, and any merchant, or other purchaser, can personally satisfy himself without delay both about the timber and its price; and if he wishes to buy, can, without any reference to the Overseer at all, pay the proper sum into the Taluq Treasury, and receive a brief printed form of receipt from the Tahsildar, on production of which at the depôt the timber should be at once handed to him by the depot peon, the receipt forwarded to the Overseer, and the numbers immediately scored off the lists in the Taluq, Depôt, Range Office, and your Office. A duplicate receipt could be sent to you by the Tahsildar.

83. "22. Any merchant wishing to purchase even without inspection would have in the Tahsildar's list information on which to buy at the Taluq Headquarters, could pay his money there and send his servant with the receipt to get the timber.

84. "23. At present it is frequently two months before they can get their timber, by this course it need not be as many hours, or at the very outside a week from the most distant depôts."

85. "5. From notes and memory of your Circular, No. 42, dated 12th January 1874, it would seem that Overseers require authority for the sale of each log. This Circular would seem to be both contrary and subsequent to my letter, dated 11th December last, in which I drew your attention to the objectionable delay obtaining in the sale of logs, by reason of the necessity for seeking your orders in each case, and desiring your attention to a proposal for prompt sales.

Extract from my letter to Deputy-Conservator, 11th February 1874, No. 264, paragraphs 5—10.

86. "6. It seems very unsatisfactory that after measurements have been made and the cubic feet of logs have been calculated by the Overseers and entered in their books, deductions for sapwood should be subsequently made in your office so as to render useless all their entries and calculations of feet and value. It would be much more satisfactory to give the Overseers a fixed table of the approximate amount of sapwood in trees of different sorts and different girths, so that they may make the allowance at once under fixed rules. They should also be provided with fixed tables for a similar allowance for shrinking in seasoning. If you cannot give this information from your office, I will endeavour to obtain it from the Inspector of Forests.

87. "7. This allowance, if sufficient, should preclude subsequent objections by purchasers, and the exceptional cases, if any, in which certain logs proved unsaleable, could be met subsequently by auction sales of such logs only, the rest being sold under the plan I have already proposed.

88. "8. Still further allowance seems to be necessary in exceptional cases, for flaws. This I am inclined to think should never be made by the Overseers, and only by yourself, except when selling to the Public Works or other department of Government. But I shall look for your opinion.

89. "9. In that plan for prompt sales I would also propose to make no distinction, except in prices, between Forest Depôts and Coast Depôts as you appear to do, but freely allow sales at all without in any way interfering with present arrangements for supplementing Coast Depôts by transfers from Forest Depôts. In Coast Depôts, the usual additional charge would be made to cover carriage."

90. "10. It seems a pity to have one consecutive number for the district as you have ordered, so that Forest Overseers are compelled to apply to you for permission to number their logs. It is another element of delay which is highly objectionable. Nothing is easier than to have one consecutive number for each range and year, in accordance with which the three Overseers could promptly number and sell logs without any previous reference to you. The three sets of numbers could be easily distinguished in your Accounts by the initial letter of the range. Thus M. 59, 60, etc., for 59 and 60 of the Mangalore and Uppinangady Range; U. 59, 60, etc., for No. 59 and 60 of the Udipy and Cundapur Range, and C. 59, 60, etc., for 59, 60, etc., of the Cassergode Range."

91. "12. I observe that you ask this Overseer what "offers" he has had for Blackwood, that you tell all Overseers in your Circular, No. 546 of 1873, to recommend rates for the sale of timber, and yourself fix varying rates per cubic foot. This seems to me a highly undesirable arrangement. It seems very objectionable that the Overseers should have any opening whatever for bargaining and recommending, very objectionable that purchasers should be in uncertainty about the price, and impossible that you can always fix the varying price fairly. Besides it is unseemly that you should be a retail timber seller, constantly altering the prices of your goods. It would seem better that one rate for the year should be fixed on all sorts and sizes of timbers in communication with me, and, if necessary, with the sanction of the Board of Revenue."

Extract from my letter to Deputy-Conservator, 20th March 1874, No. 542, paragraph 12.

92. Does Mr. Cherry give these selling instructions effect? No. What is his reply? "The order provided for in your Rule IV. (*i.e.*, paragraph 81 *supra*) is just what I want, and I would point out cannot be maintained if your wish about burying and sinking timber is to be observed."

93. This is Mr. Cherry all over. There is always "a lion in the way." If the burying of timber for the purpose of seasoning would prevent the long umbers from being visible, what is easier than to attach by wire a wooden label bearing the same number. Similarly it will be seen below (paragraph 122) that he could not define a sapling. If he cannot surmount a little difficulty like this, I leave the Board to judge of his energies, of the amount of assistance he gives me, and whether it is meant that a fully occupied administrator should have to elucidate such trifles to well-paid subordinates at Rupees 500 a month. Surely I am entitled to look for that amount of expenditure of brain tissue. For my part I should expect as much of a Rupees 15 Clerk, and would see I got it. But from Mr. Cherry I cannot extract it, he treats my letters with supercilious indifference, and nothing is done; therefore is it that it is reported that there is much in this district requiring serious attention, therefore is it that I am called on for this report, therefore is it that I have to go again at great labor over all the ground that has been gone over several times with Mr. Cherry till I am weary and ashamed of reminders that are simply neglected,

therefore is it that the Board itself is subjected to this wearisome report on matters of which I would otherwise have myself disposed, and been well content to say nothing of *ordinary labors*, if only they had borne fruit, which fruit I could have shown the busy Board in few words, perhaps in a single column of accounts. But my labor has all been in vain, Mr. Cherry will do nothing, and we have not advanced a step. Perhaps the Board's orders will be better obeyed.

94. The difficulty about exhuming may be met by charging purchasers the cost, 2 or 4 Annas a log, of exhuming such as they wish to examine and re-burying such as they do not wish to buy.

95. But this difficulty will not be an ordinary one. By my proposal logs are only to be buried for a definite time, within which they will be seasoned. When seasoned they are to be exhumed and stored in sheds in regular order, or kept floating with the numbers always upwards and at the same end. A column in the lists above proposed will show whether the timbers are seasoned or unseasoned. It is to be presumed the public will prefer the former, at any rate they cannot ask to see the latter without having their eyes open to the fact that they will have to pay the fixed exhuming charge.

96. Whether unseasoned timbers should be sold at all, is a still further question. Major Beddome (paragraph 13 of his report already quoted) thinks that "when Nanil (Lagerstræmia Microcarpa) Dindak (Conocarpus) wild mango. and such like jungle timbers are felled they should be sold off at once, as deterioration is very rapid with most of those timbers, and any attempt to keep them in store, results in much loss to the Department." Of course it does if they are deliberately subjected to conditions which from long experience are well known to ensure their rotting. But I am pretty confident I have read that a simple process of creosoting renders light timbers as lasting as heavy, and, though it may be rash in an unprofessional, I venture to hazard the opinion that many of our light timbers might, by proper seasoning suited to the Indian climates, be rendered as durable as the light timbers of Europe. The matter is one not to be disposed of cursorily but worthy of better consideration from the special department.

97. As an immediate proposal I think that if these timbers were immersed they would repay the labor as well as bamboos are found to do by private proprietors, and thus I would sell them also under the same rules as I have proposed for the sale of the better timbers.

98. Contemplating the sale therefore of timbers, whether of superior or inferior sorts, both alike by the same rules as I have above proposed, the question still remains whether any should be sold unseasoned. If the exhuming abovementioned is found by experience to be a practical difficulty, it can be disallowed. That sales should be made direct half yearly I have already objected to in paragraph 71. That they should be made direct from the Forests immediately on the trees being felled, opens, I think, a wide door to malpractices. Overseers would have their way made easy instead of difficult for the selling of a large tree as if a small one, for the selling of ten times as many as they credit to Government, and for selling superior in lieu of inferior sorts.

99. At present, the prices of timber vary from month to month and week to week, so many annas per cubic foot according to the ideas of the Deputy Conservator, and the recommendations of the Overseers. I think they should be fixed for the twelve month with my sanction, and if the Board so wish it, theirs too, on the average price realized at fair auction sales. I say fair sales because we have had one auction which should be struck out of the calculation, as to all appearances fraudulent.

100. The above proposals for the selling of timber amount briefly to this, that on felling, its value should be at once fixed by the Overseers in accordance with hard and fast rules, and advertized by means of lists open to the public at each depôt and each Taluq Cutcherry, and in the District Gazette, the said lists giving the sort, superficial dimensions, cubic contents, and price of each log, and whether seasoned or unseasoned, and that the priced timbers should be orderly arranged, so that any purchaser with a copy of the Gazette in his hand could find what he wanted and inspect it if he liked.

101. These rules will, I think, not only save a great deal of delay and annoyance to the public, and thus lead to their buying more of us, but also save much useless correspondence and remove some facilities for malpractices.

102. *Depôts.*—(Paragraph 11 of Major Beddome's report). The objections taken to depôts for the sale of timber will, I think, be removed by my proposed mode of selling. Under it the commonest clerk, or even a superior peon who knows just enough to recognize a Tahsildar's signature on a printed form of receipt, and who can just tell English numbers on the receipt and on the logs and tally them, can take the former and give over the latter, posting the receipt to his Overseer. The Overseer need not be on the spot at all. I would, therefore, study the convenience of the people by having Sale Depôts where forest operations allowed of its being done without the entertainment of an extra man, and it was convenient to felling and seasoning. This would generally be the case where planting or reboisement was being carried out; and wherever it was being done on at all a large scale, there would be a clerk on the spot who would be fairly educated, and the inspection visits of the Overseer would be frequent. A selection of such spots could be made and an extra depôt kept at each of the taluq head-quarters and ports of Mangalore, Kassergode, Kundapur and Kaliyanpur, near Udipi.

103. The depôts on the coast should, I think, generally contemplate the seasoning of timber under the mire, and the subsequent storing of it in orderly floats between high and low water marks, as the native merchants do, with next to none of it on dry land.

104. If this plan be approved, there is an uncompleted part of the quay at Mangalore which is central and easily approached on all sides, and which, in lieu of being filled in with sand like the completed part, could be easily made into a wet dock with self-folding doors admitting the ingress, but not the egress, of the tide. There the timber floated down to Mangalore could be easily brought in from the river, and when purchased could be as easily taken off by either the river or by road and carts.

105. *Auction Sales.*—These have been held without any sanction of mine, and superintended by Overseers. I have desired the Deputy Conservator to obtain my sanction in future before selling off large quantities of timber involving the main stock of the district, and always to superintend the sales in person. He promises to do so when he can, and at other times to make them subject to his approval.

106. *Sandalwood Oil Stills.*—(Paragraph 10 of Major Beddome's report). The history of these stills is that sandalwood is bought in large quantities in Mysore (one merchant alone has bought three lakhs worth) and brought into this district, some exported to China and elsewhere, and the rest cut into chips, and boiled for the extraction of oil. For this boiling much fuel is wanted. For the supply of this fuel I have given the following instructions, which, if properly carried out by the Deputy Conservator and his Overseers, should lead, I think, to regular plots of forest being thoroughly cleared of all the inferior sorts of trees, while all saplings and all the superior sorts of well-grown timbers are left standing. Thus the way will be cleared for the Forest Department to follow the fuel burners by sowing or otherwise filling in the gaps with more valuable sorts of timbers in the immediately ensuing monsoon, and by the regular carrying out of this process our forests should be converted into the growing places of superior timber instead of inferior junglewood. It has been already shown (paragraph 52 *supra*) that the present process is one of steady deterioration of the quality of the timber grown. This plan is calculated, I think, to invert the process by utilizing the fuel demand.

107. It may be that the contractors complain at past rules. The reason is twofold. In the first place those rules were in part to blame. Under the present rules they will, I think, have no fair cause for complaint. In the second place the contractors were only middlemen, who bought of Government and made their own arrangements with subordinates, whom they said they

could not control and should not be held responsible for. That I cannot admit. I cannot have men in the forests who, while they pay only for fuel, cut down also valuable timbers indiscriminately. I have ridden through their clearings and it is pitiful to see the wide extent of nothing but stumps and weeds. I am not for yielding to their complaints, but making them yield to conditions which will improve and not denude the forests. Some of them are quite satisfied with the proposed arrangements. The rest must learn to be so too, and abandon their former pillage.

108. One of their complaints is that the commoner woods do not evolve heat enough, so that they absolutely require the more valuable timbers for the extraction of oil. Of course we know that any dry wood will boil water, and that no wood in this world will ever make it any hotter. What they really want are better stills, and better fireplaces for the economy of heat and fuel. This little idea has dawned upon one of them at last, and it is to be hoped the others will learn of him. Meanwhile I am not for yielding to their idle complaints, and the arrangements I have made may be quoted as follows :—

Extract from my letter to the Deputy Conservator, No. 1,097, dated 15th June 1874.

109. "* * * I think the sale of stills and firewood sales may be amalgamated in the manner indicated in the enclosed notice."

110. "2. It will be for you to select, mark out, number on the ground, and show in a map a more than amply sufficient number of 10 or 20 acre plots in good time for parties to inspect them before the auction sales of those plots, and your Overseers should be instructed to see that the terms of the notice are not infringed.

111. "3. Some of the plots cleared of common firewood trees in this manner will be convenient for planting in the immediately following wet season with the better sorts of timber trees, and those not fit for the growth of timber, if there be any such, should be protected from encroachment, so that from the stumps, saplings, and seedlings, they will renew themselves as firewood plots."

* * *

112. "5. As soon as ever these arrangements are made, I will re-issue complete with list the enclosed notice in the Gazette, and propose to hold the auctions myself at Mangalore, when you will be good enough to attend, that all minor objections may be fully disposed of.

113. "6. The purchasers of plots having exclusive rights of cutting during the period assigned can be held responsible."

114. "7. I have defined a sapling clearly enough for practical purposes, and the ground, itself, if carefully gone over, will show if saplings have been cut or the rules otherwise contravened."

115. "8. Your Overseers should be instructed, while marking out and numbering the plots, to give every local information that may be desired by intending purchasers."

116. "9. The numbers should be dug out on a large scale on the ground somewhat as they are on the parade ground."

* * *

117. "3. No trees of the restricted* kinds are to be felled nor any saplings of any sort which can be grasped with the fingers of the two hands so as to meet at one foot from the ground nor are any trees to be cut at less than one foot from the ground, nor are stumps or roots to be dug out or removed. Purchasers acting in contravention of these restrictions shall forfeit their license and render themselves liable to punishment under the Indian Penal Code.

Extract from the notice above referred to.

* Sandalwood. Jack.
Teak. Wild Jack.
Blackwood. Poon.

N.B.—More are to be particularized in the complete notice, in accordance with the Deputy Conservator's recommendations of the sorts to be reserved, as asked in paragraph 119 *infra*.

118. "4. The purchasers will be subject to no restrictions whatever as to how they may use or dispose of their firewood, nor as to the number of sandalwood oil stills which can be worked on the plots if desired, nor will they be subject to any further claim of scignorage for the firewood, and their right to work the plots purchased will be exclusive."

* * *

119. "2.—He (Deputy Conservator) will be good enough to state what sorts of trees should, in his opinion, be exempted from felling both in this locality and in those which he may mark out under the letter above quoted, as they will differ according to localities."

Extract from Memorandum No. 1,174, dated 23rd June 1874.

120. "3.—He will prepare a short form of agreement to be signed by purchasers at the close of the auction."

121. "4.—He will report on the desirability or otherwise, and the manner of conserving good timbers in the make of those firewood clearings."

122. Paragraph 114 *supra* would be unintelligible if it were not explained that Mr. Cherry found an insuperable difficulty in the defining of a sapling. "The Forest Inspector's recent proposal and your approval to restrict nothing but saplings will, under the best arrangements, be a most troublesome restriction to enforce, as the difficulty of recognizing saplings when cut up into billets or clearly defining them in a Court of Justice will stand much in our way." With the matter thus simply defined in the notice, and repeated or alluded to in the agreements, I see no legal difficulty. The only difficulty is that as usual he cannot do it, and I have to do his work for him.

123. Similarly with the agreement he now reports his inability to draw it, and I have again to do it for him.

124. Since the above was written, I also learn that the above instructions have been entirely neutralized by being carried out very differently from what was ordered, and that done, the miscarriage thereby ensured has been safely prophesied by Mr. Cherry. I have been under the necessity of repeating and explaining the plainest of instructions, but meanwhile the valuable months of the year, the months in which, if any of the trees are wanted for firewood on the coast, floating is easy, have been irreparably lost, and the work done is all in the wrong direction. The science of how not to do a thing is well exemplified in his reply.

124A. Whilst this letter is being copied, these instructions have been yet again set aside, Mr. Cherry informing me the while that he has these my definite orders "under consideration."

125. *Firewood*—This is a decided want in this district. Forest-clad though it is in the interior, the neighbourhood of the coast and of most of the rivers leading thereto, has been so cleared that firewood costs twice as much in Mangalore as in Madras.

126. Thus we have the immediate difficulty of an insufficient supply of firewood, and the prospective difficulty of the supply being still more inadequate hereafter.

127. To meet the present demand nothing whatever has to my knowledge been done by the Forest Department, though a year ago (13th August 1873) I desired Mr. Cherry's special attention to the subject, and again in December 1873 in the following words :—"The matter alluded to in your last paragraph has long been admitted to be a question. It was personally discussed between us as a question. It is a question which cannot be decided without definite data. After the conversation, which passed I was under the impression that you would apply yourself to the collection and digestion of those data. To repeat the question without any effort to arrive at a solution can answer no practical end. It is particularly your duty to collect, consider, and submit to me such data, and you can ask my aid where your own records will not supply them. But I doubt not you will be able to gather from your own records and from Forest Overseer Carroll what is the cost in Madras of casuarina fuel and of other fuel, and what the cost of

Malabar fuel supplied in Mangalore, and at what cost you can supply fuel from the interior, or grow it in spontaneous coppice. It is an important subject which should not be longer delayed, and I shall hope to have your report on this question not later than the end of January."

128. As nothing has been done, I have now desired him definitely to report, after inquiry through his Overseers, if there are any localities not so remote, but that by marking out plots in the same way as for the sandal-wood oil distillers, there might be found firewood merchants ready to work from 200 to 500 acres of such plots annually. Not relying on his energies, I have also asked my Tahsildars to report if they know any places not so remote that their working would be unremunerative. My fear is that, in consequence of causes hereafter noticed, there will be found no firewood supplies that are not too remote to be workable, or that have not already been worked out.

129. If such an experiment can be made, I shall ask the Deputy Conservator to arrange that on the commencement of the ensuing monsoon the Forest Department shall be ready to follow up the clearing out of inferior timbers by broadcast sowing of good timbers.

130. The present insufficient firewood supply is made by small Moplah merchants, who buy up all fuel that is brought to them in the interior without inquiring where it is cut, and not ignorant that it is almost entirely cut from Government woods, and they take the very roots, which of course prevents renewal of the denuded places. But this must be expected under existing rules. Thus the Government waste coppice, or rather what remains of it from the former license system, is steadily receding from the Coast, and the carriage and consequent cost of fuel is steadily becoming greater, and our prospective difficulty is increasing.

131. The poorer ryots and farm laborers go on non-cultivating days to Government waste, and trusting partly to their village rights covering them if questioned, and still more to not being questioned at all, cut down firewood, and each bring in at eve a good bundle of as much as ever they can carry, not for their own use, but for sale to the Moplah firewood merchants.

132. The only remedy is the preservation and growth of coppice. This Major Beddome approves of, and "should much like to see" (paragraph 8 of his report). Such being the case, the wonder is why he did not do it; for long before the Canara forests passed from his charge to mine,

Board's Proceedings, dated 21st March 1871, No. 1,223.

I pointed out in letters that went through his hands, that the utilization of the proceeds of the interior on conservancy of this nature near the coast was the only way to restore to the neighbourhood of the coast population the firewood which had receded to the interior. I did more than point out. So long ago as 1868 I tried the experiment with the very meagre Jungle Conservancy funds at my disposal; and when the Forest Department came under my charge, I desired my Deputy Conservator to carry out the plan on a large scale, giving him all details in the following terms:—

133. "1.—Out of the funds available in the Budget for Forest operations, I propose to divert a portion to planting, and desire to see some attention given to the growth of firewood near the coast of the Kiralbhogi (*Hopea parvi flora*) and of the catechu.

No. 265, dated 11th February 1874.

134. "2.—On principles which I have long advocated, an experiment has been made at Udipi out of District Jungle Conservancy Funds, that has done so well that I desire to repeat it. A bare piece of ground which from being common property held scarcely a shrub more than a span high, has been simply allowed to rest from the knife and cattle, and it is now so full of Karamara (*Diospyros insculpta. Hamilt*) saplings of 8, 10 and 12 feet high, that it is about to be thinned out and pruned up. Moreover, seeds of Kiralbhogi sown broadcast without any preparatory ploughing or scarifying of the surface have, under the shade of the Karamara saplings, freely germinated where they were sown, and lived hitherto without any water. There are also not a few saplings of Mathi (*Terminalia Tomentosa*) of spontaneous growth.

135. "3.—The Tahsildar of Udipi having succeeded so well from his taking an interest in the matter, I propose to allow him to take up and enclose a plot called Ajjar Kádu of about 200 acres, close to his head-quarters for the similar growth of firewood and timber. I request you will place Rupees 400 at his disposal for the purpose.

* * *

136. "6.—I am desirous that you should take up the similar growth of mixed coppice and timber on a much more extensive scale, annually increasing it as funds are available.

137. "7.—As large suitable plots as can be found should be enclosed with a rough thorn fence similar to what ryots place round their Kumakis, and a watcher on Rupees 6 or 7 Rupees at most a month made to live on the plot in a hut built for the purpose. His business will be to be constantly looking to the fence, so that no cattle can possibly enter, and warning off all trespassers. If the place is not big enough to take his whole time, he should have two or three adjoining plots allotted to him."

138. "8.—But Pilar* Khan formerly under the charge of your Department will be amply large enough to take the whole of a watcher's time, and that would seem to be one of the earliest places to be taken up by you. I understand it is some three square miles, and that it contains Kiralbhogi."

*Pilar Santur village, in Balasivara Magane.

139. "9.—There are other fit places in the Udipi and Cundapur Taluqs, and I shall be obliged by your seeing these places at an early date, and if not found fit, selecting others and informing me of your preferences."

The names of these places seem to have been accidentally omitted from the margin.

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140. "10.—Men and cattle having been thus excluded, the Karamara (*Diospyros Insculpta* Hamilt:) coppice should be given time to re-assert itself, and where necessary, which will be very seldom supplemented by broadcast sowing of Karamara just before the monsoon. When the coppice has grown to four or five feet high, or when it is already so high or higher, there should be broadcast sowing of Kiralbhogi (*Hopea parvi flora*) the seed being from selected, well-matured trees."

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142. "12.—I shall look to you for detailed notes of the rate and cost of growth under the different methods that you may think well to try."

143. "13.—Out of consideration to cultivators, coppice should, I think, be ordinarily pruned up and thinned just at the time when they are in need of leaves for manure, which is just before the monsoon. If their convenience is thus considered, there will probably be no difficulty in obtaining sufficient labor to do it promptly under the immediate eye of the Forest Overseer. The leaves being sold by auction in small lots in the presence of the Potails, would more than cover the expense of cutting, and would supply the villagers. I am sanguine that if care is taken in this matter, the ryots will find that they will thus obtain a far better supply of leaf manure than by their present destructive manner of dealing with common. Their only competitors will be their neighbours, the price is therefore never likely to be harder upon them than is necessary to secure a fair division."

* * *

144. I may mention that in the clearing out of bush and undergrowth in one Jungle Conservancy plot, it was found in practice that the hopes entertained in paragraph 143 *supra* were actually experienced, and the supply of light fuel and leaf manure more than satisfied the local demand, and the rest of the under-clearing was left to be made in future years.

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141. "11.—This should be the general rule because it has already been abundantly proved by the ryots to be a successful plan, and more or less tested as above by myself; but if you think you can improve on it by pitting, transplanting or otherwise, it is desirable that you should also try experiments."

142. "12.—I shall look to you for detailed notes of the rate and cost of growth under the different methods that you may think well to try."

143. "13.—Out of consideration to cultivators, coppice should, I think, be ordinarily pruned up and thinned just at the time when they are in need of leaves for manure, which is just before the monsoon. If their convenience is thus considered, there will probably be no difficulty in obtaining sufficient labor to do it promptly under the immediate eye of the Forest Overseer. The leaves being sold by auction in small lots in the presence of the Potails, would more than cover the expense of cutting, and would supply the villagers. I am sanguine that if care is taken in this matter, the ryots will find that they will thus obtain a far better supply of leaf manure than by their present destructive manner of dealing with common. Their only competitors will be their neighbours, the price is therefore never likely to be harder upon them than is necessary to secure a fair division."

* * *

144. I may mention that in the clearing out of bush and undergrowth in one Jungle Conservancy plot, it was found in practice that the hopes entertained in paragraph 143 *supra* were actually experienced, and the supply of light fuel and leaf manure more than satisfied the local demand, and the rest of the under-clearing was left to be made in future years.

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145. Though the foregoing instructions were subsequent to Major Beddome's report, still the experiment to which they point, is of a long prior date, and the correspondence about it is in Mr. Cherry's Office, and will suffice, I trust, to show that I had not neglected the matter. By these instructions Mr. Cherry had his way made clear and easy for him even to the pointing out of a spot, though at the same time he was left scope for his own energies if he had any.

146. What was the result? The usual one with Mr. Cherry, that nothing was done, and that my instructions were simply set aside. Under such ever-recurring circumstances, how can I possibly be held responsible? how can I help it that my most promising district should be utterly neglected in the matter of Forestry?

147. Why was it that Mr. Cherry did nothing? He had "a lion in the way" as usual. He said he could not find sites, for the simple reason that he did not, and would not, try to find them. He said:— "With regard to the selection of blocks generally throughout the district, I must acquaint you with my inability to meet your wishes satisfactorily owing to my small departmental aid, and the extensive time it would take me single-handed. I should be blindly searching about without any means of locally ascertaining whether any particular locality was Government, Communal, Kumari or Wurg land."

Mr. Cherry's letter, dated 25th March 1873, No. 1,[illegible], paragraph 5.

148. Surely Mr. Cherry ought to be able to recognize a paddy field or even a cocoanut tree when he sees it, and to gauge in his eye a hundred yards therefrom. All within such limits, however well wooded, is calculated to be Kumaki, and must be renounced at once. All likely looking places beyond such limits, and of sufficient extent, should be jotted down for further and exact inquiry through the Revenue Inspector and Tahsildar. This is the course I follow and Mr. Cherry might easily have done the same.

149. But even this objection of Mr. Cherry is no manner of reason for his not having taken up or even inspected the site already specified by me in those instructions.

150. Anxious, however, to do my duty to Canara and Government in this respect, I then personally selected a number of spots on the Mangalore river, and am having them examined to see if there are any claims thereto.

151. What more could I possibly have done than I have done ever since 1868 to further this object? And yet it appears in Major Beddome's report, paragraph 8, as if it were a new idea; and Mr. Cherry in an appeal* before the Board actually brings it forward as a conception of his own, which he has to urge as against me on appeal; the fact being that Major Beddome did not do it himself when he might, and Mr. Cherry would not even when he was desired and helped.

*Forwarded to the Board, in my letter No. 1,417, dated 27th July 1874.

152. It may be argued that Mr. Cherry's proposal in the above appeal differs essentially from mine, in that it contemplates the conservation of already well wooded ground in preference to bared hill-sides. Of course there is not room for question but that such well-wooded, leaf-manured, shaded, self-sown, spots are, when available, far preferable. Therefore is it that I have shown in paragraph 131 *supra* how it follows from existing rules with reference to communal rights that such places are not exclusively available to us, and that the very existence of such places is already almost entirely a thing of the past in any locality within remunerative carriage of demand, in any locality, in short, where they would be of any use. Therefore is it that when called upon I submitted (No. 1,640, dated 24th September 1873,) that there should be some rational limit to the denuding of such spots. I beg a re-perusal of that letter in connection with this subject, for it is obvious that Government Conservancy is a public want, and that it is every way preferable to waiting till the damage is completed, and then expensively and slowly re-building the ruins.

153. In passing, it may be noticed that though at Pilar Santur (paragraph 138 *supra*) just such a spot as is desired by Mr. Cherry in his appeal, a spot that was amply large, well-wooded, and had formerly been under the Forest Department, though such a spot was particularly pointed out to him, and he was specially desired to conserve it, still he did not do so. Here at least there was no divergence in our theories of Conservancy, still he did nothing.

154. But though more might be said than has been urged in my above-quoted letter* on the time having arrived when in the interests of the public, it becomes the pressing duty of the ruling power to step in and stay the hand of the spoiler, still such movement is likely to take time, so I take my stand on a still more obvious position. It is this. Whatever may be said about communal rights, and the destructive limit, the amount of self-injury to which they should be allowed to run, still it will scarcely be maintained, even by the stoutest supporter thereof, that they can continue to have any existence where they have been used to exhaustion, used out, used till there remains for them nothing whereon to exist. Under the pressure of many duties to be disposed of without delay, I have not the leisure to enter thoroughly into the question, and argue it logically to its conclusive end with all its pros and cons; it may yet suffice to throw in one or two quotations from the law on this subject as indicative of the position, to give an outline sketch suggestive of details well known to the Board and Government.

*No. 1,640, dated 24th September 1873.

Essentials to a prescriptive right.

"207. The right claimed must not be so large as to extinguish or destroy all the ordinary uses or profits of the property, for every prescription must be reasonable.

"217. So, the extent of enjoyment is limited to what is reasonable and is needed for use and not for sale, and it must not be destructive of the substance or beneficial use of the servient property."—Collett on Torts.

155. Such thoroughly worked out forests only do I propose to take up, forests that have long had every tree levelled to the ground, and every stump and even the larger roots removed, former forests in which there is not now a bush above the level of one's knee, and seldom a leaf more than a span from the ground. Against the taking up of such there can surely be no law. Such we may surely take up and conserve freely wherever found beyond Kumaki limits, without waiting for the Government Order, or Forest law for stopping spoliation, and conserving what little still remains of real wood. That such an order or law will be promulgated before long, and a consequent better conservancy commenced, is, I think, very much to be desired. But in the meantime we need not wait altogether idle. We may be doing something for the renewal of the already thoroughly destroyed forests. That even such places can be conserved to advantage has, I think, been conclusively shown in paragraph 134 *supra*, only such have I taken up for Jungle Conservancy. They are not exactly "bare hill-sides" as Mr. Cherry writes. They are lands which in years gone by, some within, some beyond, the memory of man, have once borne forest. They are still full of small roots of the hardier sorts of the former trees. These roots throw up tender shoots which, if given rest from knife and cattle, and cleared of choking bushes, grow again into coppice—yielding firewood and shading timber seedlings.

156. On even these localities will the villagers put forward the claim to cut leaf manure. But with their Kumakis, and such as remain of Government Forests, or even without such, I do not think the claim is fairly tenable. I think it must be admitted that the communal forest claim on such spots may fairly be considered worked out; and moreover, that it will be much to the advantage of the cultivator that they should be conserved by Government. On this point I trust the Board will pass an opinion which will allow of *present* action.

157. In connection with this, it should be remembered that if the long since determined Kumaki limit of 100 yards be extended as claimed to the top of the hill, it will in some instances be fatal to conservancy; for while there are hill tops within reasonable limits of warg properties there are also level places in which the hill top would be a mile or more off, and such are the best places for conservancy, and if the long established 100 yard limit is abandoned, all such will become unlimited Kumaki.

158. These thoroughly exhausted plots cannot be expected to be financially remunerative all at once. They take years to renew. But the process of renewal is cheap, and from their localities they must in the end be highly remunerative as well as a great boon to the people.

159. Absolutely bare hill sides are far more unpromising, and I do not advocate any attempts thereon.

160. Before leaving this subject, I would take the opportunity to submit a reflection. The Government has, out of charity to the poor, lately (G. O., 31st October 1873, No. 1,225) cut down the price of firewood by more than half. The train of argument on which that order was based is applicable, I submit, only to existing natural supplies of firewood, and not to woods artificially created by expenditure, (1) where the natural supply has been exhausted, there the immemorial usage or right has also been exhausted, and ceases. They die together. To continue the existence of the latter after the former has passed away is not only, as I have above submitted, (paragraph 155) unequal, but, as I wish here specially to urge, impossible. To apply to artificial growths firewood the same rate of seigniorage as is applied by the above order to natural growths, is to apply a condition under which it cannot be grown, a condition calculated to defeat its own object, and thus to be in the end the reverse of merciful. I presume it was not anticipated that the Government Order would have this effect, but as it stands it applies, paragraph 3, equally to all Jungle Conservancy plantations. Such a thing as a reserve, except for railways, does not appear to be contemplated, though the Government has surely as much right to reserve a land for fuel growth as to give it for cultivation. I venture to submit, that artificial plantations should be exempted from the operation of that rule, and that as the cost of fuel depends much on the locality of its growth and the demand, the fair price in the case of artificial growths should be left to be ascertained by auction sales. The generous policy with reference to natural firewood will be not without competitive influence on artificially grown firewood also, and the latter will consequently not sell at a higher price except in obedience to laws of supply and demand which it would be unwise to ignore. The ordinary means of checking waste and economizing supply is to enhance the cost of the article in demand. Open auctions by small lots should enhance it in close approximation to the demand and no more. Such enhancement in the case of artificial growths would, I submit, be only true charity as well as good policy.

161. In brief, as touching the firewood supply of the future, the matter stands as follows—The want and desirability of self-growing conservancy is freely admitted. It has been neglected, but not by me. Every desire, aid and instruction has been given by me, and what is more, I have meanwhile been doing it myself as far as the very meagre Jungle Conservancy Funds have admitted, and have for this sole purpose earnestly sought an enlargement of those funds.

162. *Catechu tracts.*—(Paragraph 9 of Major Beddome's report). I quite agree with Major Beddome, and gave instructions to the Deputy Conservator to give effect to his advice, reminding him at the same time that he had previous orders from me in April 1873. But Mr. Cherry has not done it. He has only replied that "with the many matters on hand he fears he will not be able to make arrangements for carrying out what you propose this year." No very complicated arrangements were necessary. The chief thing was the selection of localities, which would have cost him personal trouble, so he turns it over as usual to me, requesting "to be informed of the extent available without opposition from ryots." Surely he could and should have made in this matter also, as in the matter of firewood plots, a primary selection subject to further examination of claims, as indicated in paragraph 147 *supra*.

163. Having written thus far, I see by my notes that I have still fourteen more subjects jotted down for discussion, or nearly as many more as I have already discussed. Seeing to what a length this report has already grown, I am disposed to think the Board will scarcely have leisure to read more, and I certainly find it most difficult to make the time to write it. Moreover I see by this day's post that the Inspector of Forests promises a tour here. So that perhaps the other matters may best be left till his arrival. Meanwhile, I hope I have written enough to satisfy the Board that I have not neglected my duty in connection with the Forests.

164. It thus only remains for the Board to judge whether or not Mr. Cherry is the Assistant he is meant to be by Government.

165. Major Beddome observes, (paragraph 3 of his report,) "that there was much want of system throughout the range. The Deputy Conservator is too much in Mangalore, and his tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too hurried to be really of much use, etc." In fairness to Mr. Cherry the whole paragraph should be re-read by the Board. This paragraph I quoted to Mr. Cherry, but his idea was that it was anybody but himself that was to blame for the want of system, and impliedly that it was I. How this could be when he had himself full control over his own office and his Overseers I fail to see. Up to the date of that remark of Major Beddome, though not quite till its receipt by me, I had been hoping to call forth Mr. Cherry's energies and sense of responsibility by letting him feel he was trusted. Thus he was let alone and could have no one to blame but himself for "want of system."

166. That he did not tour enough could by no process of argument be made out to be my fault. I find that out of 182 days (I can get returns for no more) he was 150, or about $\frac{4}{5}$ths of his time in Mangalore, and only thirty-two on tour. His excuse was his office work. My office work is much heavier, still I was out 154 days in the past official year. My idea is that a Forest Officer should, except in fever times, live almost entirely in the midst of his work, and be very little in at head quarters. How much was neglected by Mr. Cherry's not being amongst his Overseers, Forests, and Depôts will be seen hereafter.

167. "The Subramani Overseer was located at the office at Mangalore." Of course this should not have been even without my remonstrance, much less after I desired its discontinuance. Three times did I write to Mr. Cherry that the Overseer should be employed in his range, and not as a copyist in Mr. Cherry's office. But here as elsewhere my orders, however positive, were not complied with, the Overseer was nevertheless kept continuously in Mr. Cherry's office, and almost every letter addressed to me is in that Overseer's hand-writing. I find that this Overseer was out in his range only seventy-seven days out of 444, and though drawing Rupees 60+15 =Rupees 75 a-month was, for the rest of the time, occupied mainly in doing mere copyist's work in Mr. Cherry's office. For this the Overseer is not to blame, for he only obeyed the orders of his immediate superior.

168. "The Kumaki and other rules seem to be less understood." Is it meant that this is my fault or Mr. Cherry's? I thereon asked him what was his Kumaki file that I might see if it was complete and make it so. He has not replied.

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170. What these orders were I did not know till I found them in the Overseer's books, for Mr. Cherry sent me no copies or intimation of them. Till I called upon him to do so, he sent me not even a diary, though it was a standing order of the department, and even then his diaries were so meagre that they gave me little or no information. My idea is that a Deputy Conservator should send copies of orders to the Collector much as does a Salt Deputy Collector under the orders of the Revenue Board (Circular Order, No. I. of 1874), but lest I should in ignorance be unnecessarily exacting I sent those Board's orders to Mr. Cherry, asking him to inform me how their spirit could best be adapted to our position. I have had no reply.

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170. What these orders were I did not know till I found them in the Overseer's books, for Mr. Cherry sent me no copies or intimation of them. Till I called upon him to do so, he sent me not even a diary, though it was a standing order of the department, and even then his diaries were so meagre that they gave me little or no information. My idea is that a Deputy Conservator should send copies of orders to the Collector much as does a Salt Deputy Collector under the orders of the Revenue Board (Circular Order, No. I. of 1874), but lest I should in ignorance be unnecessarily exacting I sent those Board's orders to Mr. Cherry, asking him to inform me how their spirit could best be adapted to our position. I have had no reply.

171. Perhaps it will be well that the Inspector of Forests should suggest, for the Board's decision, the class of orders of which copies should be submitted to the Collector so as to keep him informed.

172. In the absence of information as to what was being ordered and done in the Forests by Mr. Cherry and his Overseers I had recourse to the only source open to me. As I came to an Overseer's head quarters in his range I sent for him and waded laboriously through his whole file of correspondence to and fro, questioning the Overseer and taking notes as I went. I went also through his accounts and looked cursorily at depôts. That done I wrote on each occasion a letter to the Deputy Conservator. Those letters (Enclosure A) are enclosed for the Board's information. They will show whether, in spite of the difficulty in the way of getting information, I endeavored to remedy the want of system; yet I believe it to be no better than it was. Whether after this Mr. Cherry or I is to be held responsible it will be for the Board to judge. I submit that if my orders are at one time ignored or postponed, at another positively disobeyed, at another time evaded and cavilled about, the responsibility for the result rests not with me.

173. But Major Beddome's third paragraph proceeds, "there is not that systematic assistance from the Revenue subordinates that I trusted might result from the new organization." This is rather general, untangible, I venture to think unreal, and the reflex rather of Mr. Cherry's excuses to Major Beddome than the fact. What it was exactly that was wanted of the Revenue authorities and wherein they have failed is not said. What I required of the Revenue authorities may be seen precisely in the enclosed orders* issued in the District Gazette. Those orders gave to the Deputy Conservator the position of a Divisional Officer—the position of a Head Assistant Collector whose division or charge was the forests. They subordinated all Revenue authorities from the Tahsildars downwards to his orders. That these my general instructions have in a single instance been neglected by any one Revenue authority has never been brought to my notice, that they have been freely obeyed is within my knowledge. The orders of Overseers to Potails are frequent. The charge against the Revenue authorities seems therefore vague, unsupported, and mistaken. I am not aware that they are in any way to blame.

* Notice No. 54, published at page 197 of the District Gazette for 1873, (Enclosure B.)

174. On the contrary the authority given to the Deputy Conservator over the Revenue subordinates has been abused by being too freely used. Mr. Cherry in suspending an Overseer called upon two Tahsildars to do his work in a Memorandum† on which I had to write as follows:—"Your Memorandum also throws on the two Tahsildars with all their village authorities all the conservancy work of an Overseer for an unlimited time. It was never contemplated that the Revenue staff of two taluqs should thus be made a Forest staff." So I had to ask him to issue no more orders direct to Tahsildars, but to apply to me when he wanted unusual aid from the Revenue authorities, or in cases of emergency to the Divisional Officer, sending me a copy of his communication. The assistance of Potails continued to be freely used.

† Copy enclosed, Memorandum No. 558, dated 2nd December 1873, (Enclosure A.)

175. This "Memorandum," it will be noticed, was an order to my Head Assistant's two Tahsildars, and I thus learn at second hand how he had decided to use these Tahsildars. The Head Assistant did not even get so much as this copy of an order for his information. This same copy of an order was also my only intimation of other important steps. A few days later I heard from Mr. Cherry, but that did not undo the position in which I had been placed. I extract from my letter written thereon to Mr. Cherry.

Dated 11th December 1873.

176. "3. From this copy of a Memorandum I learn with surprise that Forest Overseer Goudie has been suspended by you, but when that event took place and on what grounds I have as yet no intimation whatever from you; indeed it would seem that I was talking with him about Forest matters and taking up his time, unconscious that he was the while out of employ, he apparently thinking that I was aware but powerless, as he did not mention it. I am also left in complete ignorance what arrangement, if any, has been made for the [illegible] of the depôts and other work in the range during Mr. Overseer Goudie's suspension.

177. "4. Similarly I find from a notice in the Gazette that the whole old stock of timber in the district is to be sold off by auction without any reference to me whatever.

178. "6. It is not right that you should take upon you to issue such sweeping orders without any manner of reference to me. I have hitherto left it to you to keep me informed of Forest matters, but I find I am kept in ignorance. It should be unnecessary for me to tell you that it is your duty to keep me informed and consult me in every matter of any importance. If your discretion cannot guide you to do this in future it will be incumbent on me to lay down more rigid rules than I would otherwise desire."

179. If I extracted the whole of this letter it would show that, at this date, which was prior to my receipt of Major Beddome's letter of the 8th of the same month, I had ceased relying on Mr. Cherry, and begun to look thoroughly into Forest matters myself. I will only quote five paragraphs showing that I was quite alive to the necessity of Revenue and Forest authorities working together, and was resolved to spare no pains to take my own share of the joint work.

180. "11. Your independent conduct is an undesirable example to your Overseers, who show the like to Tahsildars as if superior to them. You will please take every opportunity of making them thoroughly understand that they are by no means so, but must promptly give every facility and explanation to Tahsildars inquiring about any of their sales, contracts, movements, or operations generally. They will wait on Tahsildars for this purpose when in their neighbourhood. It is desirable that Tahsildars should be able to watch and check malpractices.

181. "12. I have not yet received any explanation from Overseer Pollet, who, when in the same village, refused to come to me even when sent for. I desire it may be expedited.

182. "13. My Divisional Officers are as ignorant as I am of the forest operations in their divisions. That they should be thoroughly conversant with them is highly desirable. You and your Overseers should facilitate their becoming so whenever personal opportunity offers, and you will be good enough to inform me how you would propose keeping them and me more regularly informed of what is going on. The main object of the late change of régime must be lost if this is not done.

183. "14. It occurs to me that some insight will be gained by a perusal of the Overseers' diaries. Please arrange therefore that a copy of the Overseers' diaries be sent regularly every month as marginally noted. They should be despatched by the Overseers direct on the same date as those to you.

The Mangalore, etc., Range to me.
The Kundapur, etc., do. to Mr. Gibson.
The Kassergode etc., do. to Mr. Stokes.

184. "15. Please send me all the back diaries from the commencement of the present régime to date for perusal and return. I shall be glad to have them before the Christmas holidays."

185. The case of the Overseer suspended in the aforesaid Memorandum requires to be further noticed. In the same letter, dated 11th December 1873, I wrote as follows:—

186. "7. In the matter of the suspended Overseer, Mr. Goudie, it would seem from one part of your Memorandum (paragraph 4) that you have some definite information. If so you will please repair to the locality yourself without delay so as to bring the matter to light, if possible, before Christmas, so that arrangements may be made for the range. But if you have no definite grounds at all, nothing better than a mere "suspicion," as your first paragraph would imply, then the man must be reinstated, and a fair inquiry made by you on the spot, and the result reported to me fully for orders."

187. "8. In either case, therefore, I desire that you will make a personal inquiry without delay and report the result to me."

188. After this I had to send further calls to Mr. Cherry, which he practically disregarded, for he went only to Udipi on the coast for two or three days and not to the Overseers' depôts in the interior, where it was, I imagine, that fraud took place. I had to send also frequent reminders not to delay, which after a delay of nearly three months, during which the range was without an Overseer, eventually resulted in a report, dated 28th February 1874. This report, even when received, was ill-digested and unarranged, so that it cost me much labor to unravel, and was without even a list of enclosures. Extracts from my letter disposing of it will show what was Mr. Cherry's conduct in the affair—

189. "11. Then as to the accounts it seems to me that Mr. Goudie's plea is not without weight. The accounts were so frequently changed by you that he did not and could not understand them, was not allowed to come in to head quarters to master them, was not enlightened by you when you visited his range.

Extract from my letter to Deputy Conservator, No. 514, dated 16th March 1874.
On one occasion, but one only, it was I that prohibited the Overseer's coming away from his range for the few days during which his presence was necessary to an inquiry being made about him by the Tahsildar.

190. "12. That the accounts were changed and re-changed by you, I know not how many times, is, I believe, unquestioned. From your frequent reference to them they seem to have cost you yourself great labor to master. It is intelligible that to a man of Mr. Goudie's little education they should have been still more difficult to grasp, or at least enough so to shelter him from the charge of intentional falsification. I find it difficult to conclude dishonesty. I can only conclude certain incompetency.

191. "17. Some of the charges laid against Mr. Overseer Goudie appear to reflect against yourself as well as him.

192. "18. Knowing, as your own letters show you did, in April and reverted to in September and October 1873, that his accounts were in such disorder that you contemplated ordering their being submitted by him to the Tahsildar before being submitted to you, and threatened to degrade and report him to the authorities, why did you not go out into his range and thoroughly look into them yourself. It was your obvious duty, even if the errors arose out of nothing more than an inability to comprehend your newly introduced accounts; but when it seems that you had growing suspicions also of dishonesty, suspicions which culminated at a time when you were actually in his range, it is surprising to me that even then you should not have gone into his accounts. And later on again after you had left his range without bringing the matter to a point, and on these suspicions took the decisive step of suspending him, even then also you did not yourself compare his accounts and timber, but left it to his 10 Rupee Gumastah to take charge from him.

193. "19. Furthermore, when on the top of all this, which should have sufficed to open your eyes to your proper course, you had also distinct orders from me to conduct such an inquiry yourself in person on the spot and without delay: as far as I am aware you have thoroughly disregarded those instructions, and in the face of them deliberately allowed the 10 Rupee Gumastah to go on taking charge from Mr. Goudie. I wish to know if this is so.

194. "20. With reference to these accounts again Mr. Goudie says the errors in the timber are not his but his predecessors. Had you during the whole tenure of his office once gone thoroughly through his accounts such a statement would surely have been impossible. As it is you appear unable to confute him. If you can it should be done explicitly. If you cannot it is obvious that I cannot tell which Overseer is to blame and in what degree.

195. "21. With reference to these very accounts again Mr. Goudie states he actually brought these very inaccuracies in the Timber Register, with which he is now charged, to your notice as the legacy of his predecessor, saying, that both numbers and measurements failed to correspond with the stock, and that your orders were that he was not to alter Mr. Carroll's entries, but if any difference in measurement is found *to stand off the accounts* (the italics are mine). Not only is he thus given rather a wide freedom to strike off, but the inaccuracies in numbers were not set right by you from that date to this, or he would not be charged with them now, and no inquiry seems to have been made by you about the sixteen original logs missing, nor how there came to be fifty-seven extra logs in his possession without their being brought to any account.

Mr. Cherry explains this to be the difference between two Overseers' measurements which is ordinary.

196. "22. All this, and much more to the same effect in your letters, shows the grave necessity for distinct rules and clear accounts, and especially for more frequent and thorough personal supervision by ranges inspections as noticed in other letters that I have had the honor to send you within the last two months. Major Beddome, the late Inspector of Forests, has said only too truly that 'there is much want of system throughout the range, and that you are too much in Mangalore, and your tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too much hurried to be really of much use.'"

197. In the matter of casuarina planting again there has been the usual negligence, disobedience, and correspondence-making cavil. I instructed Mr. Cherry to make a casuarina plantation on a sea sand-flat adjoining a plantation that I had formerly made. It was a complete failure. Out of some nine or ten thousand seedlings not half-a-dozen are alive. I animadverted strongly on the neglect which had caused such a wastage of Government money. Mr. Cherry had "reasons as plenty as blackberries" for the failure, but the fact still remained that in decidedly poorer sand close by the Revenue plantation of former years had been a success, while his had been a complete failure. The simple explanation was that there had been like difficulties in both cases, they had been well overcome by pains-taking care in one case, they had in other cases been allowed by negligence to be masters and ruin the undertaking. The Revenue Department avoided a like failure by having earlier sown and therefore stronger seedlings by planting in June instead of July, by watering and shading in the breaks, and we had breaks too.

198. In semi-accordance with verbal instructions given months previously, and before I had conceived it possible that Mr. Cherry could be so very negligent as I afterwards learnt, he had made a casuarina nursery for the renewal of the experiment. On receipt of Major Beddome's letter (paragraph 8) I ordered the idea* to be given up, and the seedlings† sold off. My order was distinct, still it has been shuffled with, so that up to this present time of writing the nursery is still maintained in the face of my orders. When I order him to sell off the boxes he wants instructions as to what is to be done with the seedlings in them. When I tell him that the seedlings were meant to be sold off as they stood in the boxes and by public auction, he wants to know what reserve price is to be put on them at the auction, so that the valuable time, the paper, the nursery up-keep, that has been spent during the *six months* that he has been making these frivolous references, is worth much more than could possibly have been lost if all the seedlings had been thrown into the sea. Thus has Mr. Cherry been playing at disobedience in a way which has thrown all authority into contempt, for it has been well known to my office and his, and to not a few of the public, that in such a petty little matter as this even the Collector of the district could not get his orders attended to, but was trifled with under a pretence of scrupulosity which was so transparent that it could not by the most charitable be mistaken even for a decent cloak for disobedience.

* 20th December 1873.
† 9th January 1874.

199. When I desire him to send me a monthly reminder of all letters remaining unanswered between us he tells me no, he is too busy, and he thinks I had much better send it to him.

13th July 1874.

Mr. Cherry's letter, No. 80, dated 7th February 1874.

"5 Besides this, I have been unable to introduce several important observances of the office for the better control of operations, let alone such little matters as keeping a register of communications, docketing of letters etc.; you therefore cannot be surprised at my asking you to refrain from making demands on my present feeble establishment that are not absolutely necessary.

"6. At the best I would submit that the list called for in your first letter regarding unanswered communications addressed *by me to you* might with greater ease and accuracy be compiled in your office.

200. When I desire him to docket his letters he writes he cannot, he is too busy with more important things. In nothing will he obey, in nothing does he lose an opportunity of showing his quiet indifference to all orders emanating from the Collector, to all orders except from the Board and the Inspector of Forests, whom alone he professes on paper to serve, though how he has practically done his duty to them also the character of his work above indicated will be the best evidence.

201. I desire him to send an Overseer to inspect Kunyangai. He regrets he cannot. Sufficiently regretful, but none the less disobedient. He has other "important" work for him, but what may be the important work that is flouted before me, and that not once only by any means, I am not informed except most generally, so that I cannot tell whether there really is a *bonâ fide* reason why my orders should be stayed, or whether it is merely an excuse. I call him to be definite and he is not, and I come to the conclusion that there is no good reason or it would be given. Tired of being thwarted at every turn I have in two cases of varying emergency sent my order direct to the Overseer, requiring him to accompany me, and I sent a copy to Mr. Cherry for information. Then he complains that I ignore his position, upset his arrangements and so forth, forgetting that he has driven me to it by first setting me aside. I had no help for it. I knew full well from past experience that if I sent the order through him it would be delayed just long enough to practically thwart, and the semblance of obedience would have been given when the time for it to be of any real use was past. Not wishing that my Revenue subordinates should see me waiting at the wood by myself, and not having the time to spare, I had no other course open but to send the order to the Overseer direct.

202. When 802 logs in an Overseer's range are, no one knows where, and I desire him to promptly stop felling in that range till the doubt is cleared up, so that it may not be rendered more difficult of solution by the presence of extra logs, the answer is slow in coming and it is vague, not telling me whether the order was prompt, which was the pith of the whole matter; and though he says he has stopped felling there, he goes out of his way to tell me it was not because I wished it, but for another reason of his own; and whether the 802 logs in question which lay at the bottom of the matter have been found, or even searched for, I have not a particle of information from Mr. Cherry. I only learn verbally from the Overseer that he has found *more* than 802, more than are in his accounts, which is again a wonderful thing needing explanation. But it is useless, utterly useless, for me to write to Mr. Cherry. He has had more than enough from me to leave him without excuse as to what is wanted of him; if he will not do it I cannot help it; and whether he positively refuses or is silent and forgets, or regrets difficulties in the way, or asks trifling put-off questions, the result is all one, the Government work is not done.

203. Perhaps I may be held to blame for not reporting him earlier. To this my answer is that for a long time I could not conceive it possible he was so indolent. As Major Beddome has done I too accepted his plausible excuses thoroughly, and believed he was doing his best, and that he only wanted time to work out what he was trying to grapple with. Major Beddome writes, (paragraph 3,) "I cannot say that Mr. Cherry is to blame for much of this, he is fully alive to it himself, but scarcely sees a remedy and it is a very difficult question, etc." I too had accepted just that position, and I gave Mr. Cherry time, and an Accountant, and verbal advice, and then written suggestions, and when I was driven to the conclusion that it was nothing but sheer indolence then too I did not rush into reporting him, because I thought I ought to try first if I could not myself press him into working before I complained to my superiors of the tools given me to work with. I determined first to exhaust all efforts of my own. Furthermore, it was a matter that was semi-professional, was his speciality and not mine, and he was so plausible that he might well get the Board and Government, as he had got both Major Beddome and myself, to believe in him as the unfortunate victim of adverse circumstances, it was therefore necessary that I should be not only quite sure, but able to prove, that I was in the right before I reported. Had I reported without sufficient proof, and failed in consequence to obtain the Board's support, the result of the recoil would have been only more disastrous to Forest management. Now that I am reporting it is because I am called upon in the Board's Proceedings under reply, and that call cannot be answered without showing that it is Mr. Cherry that is really at the bottom of the great majority of the faults existing. I have also two appeals of Mr. Cherry's which put me on my defence.

204. Though I have endeavored to submit my report under two main heads and ~~Mr. Cherry, still it has not been possible altogether to disserver the let~~ Mr. save the Board labor, therefore, I have the honor to state that the paragraphs of Mr. Cherry, both favorably and unfavorably, are the following:—

Close of paragraph 6—Disobedient.
Paragraph 7—Impracticable any way.
Paragraphs 17, 18, 19, 21—His Kumaki Stump fee scheme.
Paragraph 43, near the end—No reply about hand-book.
Do. 50—Neglected and ignored orders about girdling.
Do. 51—Do. do. do. about felling.
Do. 52—Do. do. do. leaving good seeders.
Do. 54—Do. do. do. squaring timber.
Do. 55—Do. do. do. sending me account for superficial examination of accounts himself.
Paragraph 63—Satisfied with absence of accounts.
Do. 64—Always professing to be studying accounts.
Do. 67, near the end—Neglect of orders about seasoning.
Do. 74—The subject of this paragraph also was brought to Mr. Cherry's notice, but with the usual result.
Paragraphs 92, 93—Selling timber; subject neglected; orders neglected; frivolous objections.
Paragraph 122—Could not define a sapling.
Do. 123—Nor draw up an agreement.
Do. 124—Nor carry out simple instructions.
Paragraphs 146, 147, 148—Nor select sites for coppice.
Paragraph 162—Nor for catechu; but threw his work on me.
From paragraph 164 to the end.

205. Whether it is possible for me to work with such a tool any more is, I venture to think, beyond question. In my humble opinion Mr. Cherry has shown himself unfit to be entrusted with the Forest management of any district, and should be subordinated to some Forest Officer who will be able to see he gets some work out of him. No Collector can have time to give him the close and constant supervision he requires.

206. I have been at great pains to make this letter just and accurate. I have written first from memory, which from the constant attention I have had to give to the subject, has been comparatively easy; but then the laborious task has been the verifying of the accuracy of every expression by reference to the actual correspondence, and this has necessitated the searching through packets on packets of letters, altogether some fifty times as bulky as this report, and in which the subjects are spread unconnectedly. Though it is possible that in so long a correspondence on a subject which is not my only one, but one of many, some minor points may have escaped me, still I do not think it. I have taken more than ordinary pains to prevent it, so that Mr. Cherry may have no fair exception to take in any explanation he may render. At the

same time when I say that a subject has been neglected, I do not mean it to be understood that nothing has been written on the contrary it is one of my complaints that Mr. Cherry has flooded my office with his correspondence, but still he has not done any good by it. He has stayed in Mangalore and argued, not gone to his forests and worked. I do not mean to say that the letters I have quoted without any statement of non-reply have not been replied to, but what I do say is that they have not been answered, and that if I had the leisure to do nothing but write to Mr. Cherry I could fully maintain every position I have taken up. Again, where I have said that I have received no reply there I mean that there has been absolutely none.

ENCLOSURE 4.—Copies of letters from the Collector to the Deputy Conservator of Forests.

ENCLOSURE 5.—Notice No. 54 published at page 197, of South Canara District Gazette for 187[illegible].

REFERRED to the Inspector of Forests for his remarks.

2. The reflections on Mr. Cherry's conduct have been disposed of in separate Proceedings.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Inspector of Forests, with two original enclosures, to be returned.
" the Collector of South Canara.
Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

(15)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3409

From Pro: Bd of Rev.
Dated 16th Sept — 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

Spk to Mr Thomas about the matter. Have no doubt that there are faults on both sides - but Mr Thomas deprecates - as he was accompanied Mr C removed - Mr C is a good Forest Officer - Mr. H Nobbs likewise and I should retain him in Canara / but he leaves Nov 30th - & the arrangements will then require alteration

Rec- 1874. Dpatch

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH SEPTEMBER 1874, No. 2,640.

Sept 16 Oct 1874

Read Bombay 1383 - 28 Dec... Esqr.

Received 2nd Copy

SEPTEMBER.
Forest No. 167A.

Forest Administration—in South Canara.—Report of Collector on certain points connected with—referred to Inspector of Forests for his remarks, with intimation that the reflections on Mr. Cherry's conduct, have been disposed of in separate Proceedings.

Circulated in Sept
Revenue Board's
Proceedings No 2640
Oct 16

2

from the second year of the Marriage
of the Parties, and that
is enforced in your Lordships
respective Offices, - Affirm
the Allowance - and that
the Husband remove him-
self from the said Office
as aforesaid, and be
no more employed
in the Execution
of the said Decree, &
respectively dated, and Petition

directed to be dismissed
Appeal respectively
Costs

Affd
16/10

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of the Parties, and that
is enforced in your Lordships
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the Allowance - and that
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respectively dated, and Petition

directed to be dismissed
Appeal respectively
Costs

Affd
16/10

FOR ORDERS.

Mr Campbell

C 14/10/74
2 16/10/74
C 2 Oct 74

The Referees
Parts of the Three
Letters in the Bills
Nos. Nos 2639 to
2640. have been
referred to the
Inspector who has
the proceedings
Stayed to Comme
this suit must
by Court be awaited
to the Chief
Clerk
Clerk to
Clerk to
Scribed his Cer
duct. Some ob
been received

made for attack
circumstances
under the new
Defence Act is under
contest - under the
old Act he was practi-
-tically irresponsible.
Still his conduct
has been characte-
-rized throughout
by the "best & strictest"
I attach a brief
statement of the
first conviction
letter from Pollett -
Pollett - which is
accepted as fact
without and even
made to [illegible]

of a reference to the
Clerk stating under
what name clearly
his ignorance of
his position - I think
the first one brought
it to the notice
how else we have
or Keeling him
where he is, inform
him that his
notice will be
delayed for 6 mo
and he declared
then as to the best
of the knowledge
Mr Webster.

L.G.S.
13.10.

Revenue Department

No 1383.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 2nd Nov 1874.

Read the following papers

Pro: Board of Revenue Recommending removal of Mr. Cherry, Dy. Conservator of Forests, South Canara, to another charge, for insubordinate &c.	R. G. 16 Sept. 1874, No 2639
Pro: Board of Revenue Referring to Insp. of Forests report of Asst. of S. Canara on certain points connected with Forest Administration in the D. &c.	" 16 Sept. 1874, No 2640
From Offg. Insp. of Forests Reporting with reference to above Pro: that it will not now be necessary to transfer Mr. Cherry as Mr. Thomas has been transferred to another District	" 15 Oct 1874, No 378

Noted by the Board's Lr. dt. 13 Oct/74 on Rev Pro 3409 × 3464/74

24/10

J. D. S. 22/10
see note.

M.L. 24/10

The professional portions of Mr. Thomas' letters embodied in the later of the Proceedings of the Board above recorded must await for disposal the report of the Acting Inspector of Forests

to whom they have been referred by the Board and who purposes proceeding shortly to South Canara.

2. It will be sufficient now to dispose of the reference regarding Mr Cherry [whose Conduct the Board have correctly described.] The Government desire to make every allowance for the altered position in which Mr Cherry found himself placed by the new regime under which from being practically independent he came directly under the control of a local superior, but they observe with regret that his proceedings have throughout been characterized by [what they must consider] apparent studied efforts to thwart or neglect the orders he received.

3. They attach particular importance to the most improper letter from Forster Pollett which Mr Cherry accepted without reproof and even made the subject of a reference to the Collector. Nothing could show more clearly his ignorance of his position. 4. They notice moreover that the Collector's strictures are confirmed in some important respects by Lt Col. Baldwin's report and that there is reason to consider that Mr Cherry has been negligent and inefficient as well as insubordinate. They [do not] think it necessary to direct his transfer from the District and [are willing

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willing to give him an opportunity of redeeming his position in the Service, but to mark their dissatisfaction with the mode in which he has conducted his professional duties they resolve to inform him that his future promotion will be dependent on a report respecting him which the acting Director will submit at the end of six months.

J.C.

14 Lords Boards Rec'd
3 - the Inspectors of Hospitals

I think the Capt Walker's letter, & the Medical Testimony. It will have to let him & the Board in this way to defend themselves who are the

a manner

immediate Adminis-
-trators of the Orders
and of whom under
he is personally ser-
-vant - I would
inform him that
he has erred in
what touching any
decision on his
Charge conduct, that
is fully before him
and that Mr Thom
declaration has nothing
to do with the Re-
-tirement to which
Mr C. has rendered
himself liable.

J.W.S.

22/10

9/6

Brothers, 3d Lieut
First, South Cumb

(77)

Lieut. Respr. Blackwell to
I must observe that the
circumstances between
ourselves relative to
the Board Depd. to the
N. Hebrides will
respectively accept
action on both
the part and proceed
conformably to this
Order

I do not mean to
suspect you Brother
Officers of the preceding Jury
(and the Lieut. C. Wallis
as a personal Enemy
to Lieut Wallis par-

Y a particular detail,
for which Capt. Wallis
has ordered a signal
to be hoisted for
a pilot for
the Eastward Passage
of every Capt Wallis
Vessel under my Pro-
tection except that of the H.C.
ocean passed the Line