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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	139.	Press / Mis.

Dated 16.7-1874 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

FOREST No. 85.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23rd June 1874, No. 1,538.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 7th May 1874, No. 217:—

IN continuation of my letter of the 2nd March last, No. 105, I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter* from the Deputy Conservator of Forests, which only reached me yesterday, in which he asks for an allotment of about 28,550 Rupees for the up-keep and extension of plantations this year as detailed below:—

Dated 24th April 1874, No. 297.

	Rs.
Up-keep of plantations in existence (in round numbers)	20,000
Extension of plantations...	6,996
Managing and Office establishments	1,554
Total ...	28,550

in addition to the 5,000 Rupees allotted, at the cost of the village topes throughout the district for the conservancy of the Gingee Fuel Reserves.

2. Mr. Wooldridge entertains the idea of carrying out planting on a large scale for four years more, excluding the current year, and calculates on an average annual expenditure of 20,000 Rupees on the work. By 1880 he hopes that the older plantations will be bringing in enough revenue not only to pay for their own supervision, but also to repay the original cost of their formation. He seems, however, to think that Casuarinas show a tendency to die out when fifteen years old. He does not mention a fact which I have, in his company, had demonstrated beyond doubt, viz., that Casuarinas cut down at four or five years old will, at any rate near the sea-side, shoot up again from the stool, so that it will be a matter for determination hereafter between what ages the plantations should be felled to be most productive and reproductive.

3. I have not yet received from Mr. Wooldridge the detailed budget for this year, but it is very certain that unless a large sum of money is annually allotted either from Forest Funds or from the Surplus Jungle Conservancy Funds of other districts for expenditure in this district on plantations and reserves, both of which should properly be considered forest works in my opinion, the money already expended will have been wasted, and I, therefore, beg to recommend that the funds asked for by Mr. Wooldridge be allotted on the submission of his budget which I have again and again asked him to send in. The funds allotted should be looked on as loans to be repaid in instalments at the end of five years.

4. I beg also to recommend most strongly that the whole of the Rupees 5,000 allotted out of the current year's estimated receipts for expenditure on the Gingee Reserves be retransferred to Junge Conservancy Funds for expenditure on the up-keep of such village topes as require care and supervision.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. L. WOOLDRIDGE, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Arcot, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 24th April 1874, No. 297.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 31 of 31st ultimo, paragraph 3, I have the honour to report that the young Casuarina plantations will require for their up-keep the whole of the 5,000 Rupees allotted for new works at Gingee Reserves, and that I have found it necessary therefore, to request the Treasury Deputy-Collector to place that sum to the credit of plantations for my drawing, pending further special allotment, as the sum already allotted (Rupees 1,880) from Jungle Conservancy Funds for up-keep was insufficient even to meet the incurred charges on the plantations up to the end of March 1874, also that it will be impossible to keep the expendi-

ture for the year within the sum named in your letter as being available without the young plantations suffering much harm, indeed ceasing to be plantations altogether. This is an exceptionally dry year; no rain having fallen on any plantations since December; water in tanks and wells on the inland plantations has fallen very low, but the coast plantations are slightly better in this respect; and I am now in receipt of progress reports from Managers and Maistries in charge, stating that among the one year and two year old trees, numerous casualties have been caused by short watering. This of course is a consequence of the late reduction of working gangs, when instead, more people ought to have been employed on account of the distance, the water lay below the surface of the sand, and I have noticed that even three years old trees, on the sea-coast are dying back on the higher sand hills where water is further from the surface than usual.

2. I further beg to inform you that by estimates based on the actuals of the past half year, I find the lowest amount required for this year's (1874-75) up-keep alone of the Jungle Conservancy plantations under my charge to be Rupees 7,806 in addition to the present allotment, (Rupees 1,880), that the amount it is proposed to expend on extension of the plantations this year is Rupees 6,996, while the cost of the requisite managing and office establishments will be Rupees 1,554, or Rupees 26,000 in round numbers altogether; and therefore I beg you will, in making application for further allotments, name this sum as being required for expenditure in 1874-75 on Plantations, *quite irrespective of Reserves.*

3. I would also suggest for your consideration the advisability of applying at same time for a lump sum, to be provided in advance for distribution yearly in sums of 20,000 Rupees for planting operations in this district, which should be continued steadily for four or five years. I consider that to carry out the scheme successfully, an expenditure of Rupees 80,000 at least should be calculated on, commencing 1875-76 and concluding 1878-79, and provision made accordingly, but as a set off against this large expenditure, it is calculated that at the end of the year 1880 the older plantations will not only have proved a boon to the country and become self-supporting but should be returning a sufficient sum to balance the cost of those later formed; but on the other hand, if the requisite funds were not forthcoming at an important period for the welfare of the young trees, such as the season we are now experiencing, the scheme would result rather in loss than gain, as many of those young trees would not survive the ordeal.

4. It may be as well to state here in support of the above assertion as to the revenue to be derived from them, that the approximate cost of forming Casuarina plantations on the large scale proposed and commenced in 1872 has been found to be 3 Annas 4 Pie per tree of two years old planted in river sand, thirty miles inland, 8'' × 8' apart, and till the end of the fourth year, it may safely be said it would not exceed 6 Annas per tree, provided labourers wages remain as at present: and after the fourth year very little expenditure indeed would be necessary, the cost for cast plantation of the same age *would be less*, the present value of an average five years old tree out of the Cuddalore plantations (which are but a short distance from market) is 12 Annas when sold as firewood *on the plantation*, this value would of course vary according as to the plantation was near to, or far from a market, but it may be taken as a fair market, average as fuel in Cuddalore is quite as cheap as it is in any town in the eastern taluqs of the district, and the trees would increase in value with every year's growth till the 15th year, after which I am led to think from the appearance of the old trees at Fort Saint David and at Trivanellore they begin to decay.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

The Board consider that the Deputy-Conservator's estimate for maintaining the existing plantations is excessive, and the Officiating Inspector of Forests will be requested to favour the Board with his opinion.

Jungle Conservancy Receipts.

	Rs.
Balance Estimated Receipts during the year	8,200
Expenditure.	
For the Fuel reserves under notice	5,000
For the maintenance of topes	1,176
Inspecting Establishment and Contingent Charges.	138
Do. of Casuarina plantations.....	1,846
For Controlling establishment.....	40
	8,200

2. Board do not agree with the Collector that the entire cost should be borne by the Forest Department. They, however, observe that the Jungle Conservancy Funds cannot pay more than 5,000 Rupees for these reserves, the estimated receipts and expenditure in connection with them for 1874-75 being as shown in the margin.

3. The Board have provided Rupees 2,220 for these reserves in the revised forest budget for 1874-75, and special application has to be made for any further funds that may be required.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J Grole
Secretary.

To the Inspector of Forests.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th January 1874, No. 49.
,, to the Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No 2126.

Revenue 1874. Department

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD JUNE 1874, No. 1,538.

Dup. 25 June 74

Encl.

Received 26 June 74.

JUNE.

Forest No. 85.

Forest plantations—of South Arcot District.—Opinion of Inspector of Forests requested on estimate of Deputy Conservator of Forests for maintenance and extension of — during 1874-75. Collector informed that Jungle Conservancy as well as Forest Department should bear cost.

No 139 Recorded

16 July 74