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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1454. Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 26-11-1874 196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 141. Read the following Endorsement of the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Forests,) dated Calcutta, 2nd November 1874, No. 1,160 :—

Read the following despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India :—

Forests, No. 6.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON,
6th August 1874.

I HAVE received and considered in Council your Excellency's despatch, dated 8th May (No. 6, Forests) 1874, forwarding the Annual Reports of the Forest Administration for 1872-73, together with the Resolution of your Government expressing your sense of the excellent services of Mr. Baden-Powell, the Officiating Inspector-General of Forests.

2. The financial results of forest administration for the year under review are satisfactory, the surplus being the largest that has yet been attained. The remarks of Mr. Powell on the financial forms and the way in which they are filled up in the different provinces should receive attention. There is difficulty in exhibiting the actual profit and loss for a particular year. For instance, the time that elapses between the despatch of timber from the forests and its sale at the depôts must often have the effect of throwing the two transactions into different years, and a comparison of the expenditure of one year with the depôt receipts of the same year must, therefore, be misleading. It would be more clear to arrange the forms so that the transactions connected with sales shall refer to the year when the expenditure connected with the felling and transport of the timber sold was incurred. At all events, the assets of a preceding year should be distinguished from those belonging to a year the revenue of which is being stated, while the expenditure having reference to assets from which no revenue had been derived in the year should be debited to the following year. It is also important that all the returns should be uniform with regard to the assets which are to be included in the valuation of stock, for without such uniformity and close attention to what really constitute the assets of a given year, it is not possible to prepare a reliable profit and loss account of the proceedings of the whole department. A thorough revision of the way in which the financial tables are framed, some of which are said by Mr. Powell to be useless in their present shape, seems to be very desirable.

3. Steady progress has been made during the year, either in the examination and demarcation of forest-reserves or in the survey and conservancy of forests already demarcated.

4. In Bengal great improvements have been made by Dr. Schlich, who has inaugurated a system of examining the reserves and determining their value, and there is every prospect of continued progress under his management. In the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab the work of the year, as regards conservancy, has chiefly consisted in demarcating and surveying the Dehra Doon forests and in planting the leased Deodar forests of Chumba. A good deal of useful work has also been done in those provinces, as well as in British Burma and the Central Provinces, towards the eradication of creepers, the prevention of fires, and putting a check upon jungle cultivation. The plan that has been introduced into British Burma for planting the *Toungya* clearings with Teak should

be persevered in, and it would be well if some similar process was attempted in the numerous abandoned clearings in the forests of Assam and Bengal.

5. There is a deficiency of information in Mr. Baden-Powell's Report respecting the working of the survey establishment which was sanctioned a short time ago, and respecting the progress that has been made in the preparation of working plans. The surveying party appears now to be engaged upon the Dehra Doon forests, but I perceive that a valuable survey has also been made of most of the principal Deodar forests in Jounsar, and that the boundaries of the Kumaon Chabur forests and those of the Ranikhet forests are being settled. The working of the Forest Surveying Department, which appears to be under the direct orders of your Government, and the programme for its future operations should be fully explained in the next annual Forest Report. And, in connection with the progress of the demarcation and mapping of forest areas, it is important that forest statistics should be collected, which will be useful in the administration of the reserved tracts, both by giving accurate details respecting the quantity and quality of the materials and touching the requirements of the surrounding country. A more complete and exact register of such statistics will frequently both indicate the most useful and profitable modes of expenditure and prevent unnecessary outlay.

6. There appears, on the whole, to have been good progress in the formation of plantations, which must be considered to be one of the most important branches of forest work especially in regions where there is a present or prospective scarcity of fuel. The great Changa Manga plantation in the Punjab has been very successful, and is now finally completed, and, as regards the various *rakhs*, numerous works for their completion have been undertaken, and generally with success. In the North-West Provinces very extensive planting is being proceeded with round Ranikhet, and planting is going forward at the various blocks in different parts of Mysore. In British Burma the Teak planting work is confined to one spot, where 200 acres have been cleared for cultivation, and the plantations in Assam and Cachar, so far as really efficient management is concerned, are yet in their infancy.

7. From the latter provinces the most valuable of the forest-products is Caoutchouc, and I find that some experimental plantations of *Ficus elastica* have already been formed in Assam, while a few trees are being cultivated at the Teak plantation of Magayee in British Burma. With reference to the latter attempt, the same remark is applicable which Mr. Powell makes in speaking of the attempts to grow Teak in the unsuitable climate of Bengal: "A selection of the best natural localities, and a close imitation of the processes of nature, offer the only *primâ facie* probabilities of success." *Ficus elastica* plantations should be formed in the native habitat of the trees in Assam, and not in British Burma below Prome. In Assam, plantations should be commenced on a large scale and in accordance with a well-considered plan, as was recommended by Dr. Brandis in his memorandum attached to the report on Caoutchouc.

8. Meanwhile, various arrangements have been made for obtaining supplies of seeds of the tree yielding the far more valuable Para Caoutchouc, as well as of the Castilloa of Mexico, and the Vahea of Madagascar. Some plants of the seeds of

Hevea elastica were purchased with the sanction of my predecessor and raised at Kew, and I hear that six of the plants have arrived safely at Calcutta. I shall be glad to receive a report on their progress, and on the prospect of being able to propagate from them. It may be some time before further supplies of seeds can be procured; but I trust that eventually plantations of these valuable trees in suitable sites will add another product to the resources of India.

9. In conclusion, I am glad to express my full concurrence in your estimate of the services of Mr. Baden-Powell, both while acting as Conservator in the Punjab and during the time that he was officiating as Inspector-General of Forests. His able sketch of the forest area of India and of its administration forms a very useful introduction to the annual report.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

His Excellency the Right Honorable
The Governor-General of India in Council.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras in continuation of the Circular Resolution from this department, No. 11/459, dated 2nd May last.

(By order of the Governor-General in Council,)
(Signed) C. J. LYALL,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 26th November 1874, No. 1,454.

Forests, No. 10.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue and Inspector of Forests in continuation of G. O., dated 21st May 1874, No. 619.

(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 Commons
REVENUE.
To
The BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c, &c, &c.
Dated November 20th.
Recd.
Encl.
G. O., 20th November 1874, No. 1451.

NOVEMBER
Nos. 141-142.

Forest Administration Reports of the Bengal Presidency for 1872-73.—Communication to the Board of Revenue and Inspector of Forests' reports on the Secretary of State returns.—

No. 6 (Forests), dated India Office, London, the 6th August 1874.

From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,

To—The Government of India.

I HAVE received and considered in Council your Excellency's despatch, dated 8th May (No. 6, Forests) 1874, forwarding the Annual Reports of the Forest Administration for 1872-73, together with the Resolution of your Government expressing your sense of the excellent services of Mr. Baden-Powell, the Officiating Inspector General of Forests.

2. The financial results of forest administration for the year under review are satisfactory, the surplus being the largest that has yet been attained. The remarks of Mr. Powell on the financial forms, and the way in which they are filled up in the different provinces, should receive attention. There is difficulty in exhibiting the actual profit and loss for a particular year. For instance, the time that elapses between the despatch of timber from the forests and its sale at the depôts must often have the effect of throwing the two transactions into different years, and a comparison of the expenditure of one year with the depôt receipts of the same year must therefore be misleading. It would be more clear to arrange the forms so that the transactions connected with sales shall refer to the year when the expenditure connected with the felling and transport of the timber sold was incurred. At all events, the assets of a preceding year should be distinguished from those belonging to a year the revenue of which is being stated, while the expenditure having reference to assets from which no revenue had been derived in the year should be debited to the following year. It is also important that all the returns should be uniform with regard to the assets which are to be included in the valuation of stock, for without such uniformity, and close attention to what really constitute the assets of a given year, it is not possible to prepare a reliable profit and loss account of the proceedings of the whole Department. A thorough revision of the way in which the financial tables are framed, some of which are said by Mr. Powell to be useless in their present shape, seems to be very desirable.

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5. There is a deficiency of information in Mr. Baden-Powell's Report respecting the working of the survey establishment which was sanctioned a short time ago, and respecting the progress that has been made in the preparation of working plans. The surveying party appears now to be engaged upon the Dehra Doon forests, but I perceive that a valuable survey has also been made of most of the principal deodar forests in Jounsar, and that the boundaries of the Kumaon Chabur forests, and those of the Ranikhet forests, are being settled. The working of the Forest Surveying Department, which appears to be under the direct orders of your Government, and the programme for its future operations, should be fully explained in the next annual Forest Report. And, in connexion with the progress of the demarcation and mapping of forest areas, it is important that forest statistics should be collected, which will be useful in the administration of the reserved tracts, both by giving accurate details respecting the quantity and quality of the materials, and touching the requirements of the surrounding country. A more complete and exact register of such statistics will frequently both indicate the most useful and profitable modes of expenditure and prevent unnecessary outlay.

6. There appears, on the whole, to have been good progress in the formation of plantations, which must be considered to be one of the most important branches of forest work, especially in regions where there is a present or prospective scarcity of fuel. The great Changa Manga plantation in the Punjab has been very successful, and is now finally completed, and, as regards the various *rakhs*, numerous works for the completion have been undertaken, and generally with success. In the North-West Provinces very extensive planting is being proceeded with round Ranikhet, and planting is going forward at the various blocks in different parts of Mysore. In British Burma the teak planting work is confined to one spot, where 200 acres have been cleared for cultivation, and the plantations in Assam and Cachar, so far as really efficient management is concerned, are yet in their infancy.

7. From the latter provinces the most valuable of the forest products is caoutchouc, and I find that some experimental plantations of *Ficus elastica* have already been formed in Assam, while a few trees are being cultivated at the teak plantation of Magayee, in British Burma. With reference to the latter attempt, the same remark is applicable which Mr. Powell makes in speaking of the attempts to grow teak in the unsuitable climate of Bengal, "A selection of the best natural localities, and a close imitation of the processes of nature,

offer the only *primâ facie* probabilities of success." *Ficus elastica* plantations should be formed in the native habitat of the trees in Assam, and not in British Burma below Prome. In Assam, plantations should be commenced on a large scale, and in accordance with a well considered plan, as was recommended by Dr. Brandis in his memorandum attached to the report on caoutchouc.

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COPY forwarded to the Government of Madras, No. 1160 in continuation of the circular resolution from this Department, No. 459 dated 2nd May last.

By order of the Governor General in Council.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE, FORESTS;
Calcutta, the 2nd November 1874.

Alex. Mc-Lull

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

№ 3968

Revenue 1874. Sept

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

FORESTS.

To

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Dated 6th *Aug.*
Recd. 31st „ } 1874.
Recd 15 Nov

No. 0
Enclosures.
Spare copies.

D. No.
L. No. }

Progs. { *No.*

SUBJECT.

COMMUNICATES remarks on the annual reports of the forest administration for 1872-73.

Expresses full concurrence in the estimate of the services of Mr. Baden-Powell, both while acting as Conservator in the Punjab and during the time that he was officiating as Inspector General of Forests.

O. S. G. P., No. 1365, P., A. & C.—31-10-74—140

№ 14544
Communicated to the Govt
of Bom: & Inspector of Forests in
Letter dated 29 Nov 1874

14 Feb 09 Govt of Bombay & Inspector of Forests

141-142