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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1511	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 7.12.1874 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1511/1

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

No. 76. Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 17th October 1874, No. 380 :—

I HAVE the honor to report that I have recently inspected the fuel-reserve and plantations of the Trichinopoly District. Mr. Hadfield, the Assistant in charge, met me at Munaparay, and we visited all the reserves and plantations. The Acting Collector accompanied us to some of the latter.

2. *Fuel Reserves.*—The Punjumtangay Reserve, recently transferred from the Madura District, includes a much larger area than was originally proposed, and, although there is an ample area of uncultivated area available for grazing, etc., it will probably be found expedient to close it in blocks by rotation, and permit grazing of cattle under the necessary restrictions in the open portions.

The hill is well covered with fuel-yielding trees, and only requires care, the exclusion of fire, and broadcast sowing in bare spots, to become a most valuable reserve.

The Minnukaradoo Reserve in the vicinity is also well covered with trees. Both these reserves have been fenced in at considerable expense, but the fences have been allowed to fall into disrepair, and are now of little or no use.

The peons or watchers (two for Punjumtangay and one for Minnukaradoo) who appear to have been transferred from Tahnahs in the Madura District should, I think, be relegated to their own district and duties as soon as opportunity offers, and their places filled by men drawn from the neighboring villages in the Trichinopoly District. The greatest watchfulness is necessary here, if we are to supply the railway with wood-fuel, as these are really the only good tracts of Government jungle contiguous to the line, and no new land in the unreserved portions should be given for cultivation until the Forest Department has been allowed to clear it. The Collector has, I believe, already issued orders to this effect, but, unless carefully watched, the whole valley will be cleared on the opening of the railway, and the fuel wasted instead of forming a source of supply for a considerable period.

The Tainmullay Reserve near Munaparay has not been so carefully conserved as it ought, and we found marks of recent cutting and cattle trespass. Probably the orders of the Collector and Assistant Conservator have not been properly made known, or acted up to, by the Deputy-Tahsildar and village officers, and the watchers in charge appeared inefficient. Mr. Hadfield has recently also formed reserves on the neighboring low hills known as Poyar and Veeramullai ; if reservation will re-clothe their bare and barren slopes with trees and shrubs, it will indeed be a great point gained. The maistry in charge of all these plantations is a trained Casuarina planter formerly employed in North Arcot, whence he was transferred to Negapatam at my request with promises of promotion. He appears to have worked satisfactorily, and is not at all to blame for the so-called failure of the planting at Negapatam, which he maintains he could make successful. I brought his case to the notice of the Collector, and trust he may soon be transferred to planting operations and brought on the fixed establishment.

An Overseer or Sub-Overseer is required for the charge of the jungles in this Taluq (Kulitalai). The railway supply is of great importance.

3. *Fuel Plantations.*—The season has been very favorable for the growth, sowing, and planting out of trees, and there is a marked improvement since I visited the district in March last. Some portions of the Elamanore Plantation planted with *Acacia Arabica* and *Inga Dulcis* will be ready to fell for coppice in another year or eighteen months.

I have little doubt of the ultimate financial success of these plantations; the expense has doubtless been excessive, and they have been burthened with charges for Overseers, travelling allowances, etc., not fairly debitable to them; but even now I believe that the first crop will reimburse all expenditure, and the future yield be mainly profit. It must not be forgotten that we found the land waste and unprofitable, and so it would probably have continued had we not taken it up as there were strict orders against its cultivation, and those who have puttahs must have obtained them contrary to all orders. The area is being gradually extended, and the Collector has it under contemplation to transfer very extensive tracts on the northern side of the river.

The people naturally object in some cases to any curtailment of what they have grown to consider free grazing-grounds for their cattle and goats, but they have really no claim either legal or moral to the land, most of which may be said to have been reclaimed from the river (Cauvery) since the erection of the new banks a comparatively short time ago.

The officers of the Department of Public Works are allowed free access to the river and channels along which strips of twenty-five yards wide are retained for the purpose of river conservancy, and we are quite prepared to supply them with the necessary branches and leaves for the erection of dams and corumboo as required. Under those circumstances, I hope that any opposition on the part of that Department to our planting operations will soon cease. Nothing, I should think, can tend more to consolidate and strengthen the river-banks than covering them with trees. Full details as to these plantations will be given in separate reports called for by the Government and the Board, as well as in the half-yearly returns.

The subject of now undertaking the experiment of planting on irrigated land will also have attention in communication with the Collector, as directed by Government.

4. *Negapatam Railway Fuel Supply.*—Mr. Hadfield accompanied me to Negapatam, where I had an interview with Mr. Betts and the Locomotive Superintendent of the South India Railway with regard to the future supply of wood-fuel. The outlines of the system to be adopted were sketched out and agreed upon, and I hope that we shall arrive at definite conclusions on this important subject at the conference ordered by Government, the papers in connection with which are now with the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Mr. Betts and I agree that the more direct the supply can be carried on, the better both for the Forest Department and the Railway Company.

5. *Casuarina Planting.*—Whilst at Negapatam, I ascertained that there was no reason to attribute the failure of the Casuarina planting in 1871 to soil or climate. The maistry had already told me that the plants were put out too young by the Sub-Collector's order and against his wish, and I learnt that this had really been the case; after which Mr. Williams paid a hurried visit and pronounced the whole thing a failure.

The fact appears to be that on my proceeding to Europe there was no one who knew the arrangements which had been made *ab initio*; Mr. Williams was new to

the work and should never have had charge of more than one district, and the Collector (Mr. Cadell) and the Sub-Collector (Mr. Stokes) differed in their opinions. Hence the planting came to be considered as nobody's business, and what might have been a great success was summarily classed as a failure.

I trust that the planting along this coast may be undertaken *de novo* either as an Imperial or local undertaking. Mr. Weld, the Acting Head Assistant Collector, takes great interest in the subject, and is doing much; but I should like to see some definite scheme and plan of operations for a term of years drawn up, and the ways and means considered, so as to obviate the recurrence of such a dead-lock as lately occurred in the neighboring district of South Arcot, owing to extensive planting operations having been commenced from Jungle Conservancy Funds without sufficiently counting the cost.

At present there are no Imperial forest establishment or operations in the Tanjore District.

No. 77. ORDER THEREON, 7th December 1874, No. 1,511.

Forests, No 9.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

2. The latter part of paragraph 2 of G. O., 5th May 1873, No. 454, appears to have been hitherto overlooked, and, in future, the Inspector will forward his inspection reports through the Conservator as well as the Board of Revenue, so that the Government may be in a position to pass orders on them without further reference. Any emergent or special matter should still be reported direct.

3. On the completion of his tour through the charge of each Conservator, the Inspector should, if possible, meet and confer with that officer, and should furnish a separate report for each district.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. W. H. French.

Govt. of 1874 Entered
REVENUE.
To
The BOARD of REVENUE,
&c, &c, &c,
Dated December 7th.
Read
Encl.
G. O. 7th December, 1874, No. 1511.
DECEMBER,
Nos 76-77.
Fuel Reserves and Plantations of the Trichinopoly District.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue report of the Inspector of Forests on the same and desiring that future inspection reports may be forwarded through the Conservator and the Board of Revenue.

1511/3

Office of Inspector of Forests
Ootacamund 17th October 1874

No 380

From

Captain Campbell Walker
Officiating Inspector of Forests

To

C. G. Master Esqre
Acting Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have recently inspected the fuel reserves and plantations of the Trichinopoly District— Mr Hadfield the Assistant in charge, met me at Munaparay, and we visited all the reserves and plantations. The Acting Collector accompanied us to some of the latter.

Fuel Reserves

2. The Panjumtangay Reserve recently transferred from the Madura District includes a much larger area than was originally proposed and, although there is an ample area of uncultivated area available for grazing &c, it will probably be found expedient to close it in blocks by rotation, and permit grazing of cattle under the necessary restrictions in the open portions.

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The hill is well covered with fuel yielding trees and only requires care, the exclusion of fire, and broad cast sowing in bare spots to become a most valuable reserve.

The Minnakaradoo reserve in the vicinity is also well covered with trees. Both these reserves have been fenced in at considerable expense, but the fences have been allowed to fall into dispair, and are now of little or no use.

The peons or watchers (2 for Punjumtangay and 1 for Minnukaradoo) who appear to have been transferred from Tannahs in the Madura District should, I think, be relegated to their own District and duties as soon as opportunity offers, and their places filled by men drawn from the neighbouring villages in the Trichinopoly District. The greatest watchfulness is necessary here if we are to supply the railway with wood fuel as these are really the only good tracts of Government jungle contiguous to the line and no new land in the unreserved portions should be given for cultivation until the Forest Department has been allowed to clear it. The Collector has, I believe, already issued orders to this effect, but, unless carefully watched, the whole valley will be cleared on the opening of the railway and the fuel wasted instead of forming a source of supply for a considerable period.

The Jammullay reserve near Munapary has not been so carefully conserved as it ought, and we found marks of recent cutting and cattle trespass. Probably the orders of the Collector and Assistant Conservator have not been properly made known or acted up to by the Dy. Tahsildar and village officers, and the watchers in charge appeared inefficient. Mr. Hatfield has recently also formed reserves on the neighbouring low hills known as Payar and Veerannullai; if reservation will reclothe their bare

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An Overseer or Sub overseer is required for the charge of the jungles in this Taluq (Kulitalai) The railway supply is of great import-
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Fuel Plantations. 3. The season has been very favorable for the growth, sowing, and planting out of trees, and there is a marked improvement since I visited the District in March last. Some portions of the Elamanoor plantation planted with Acacia Arabica and Inga Dulcis will be ready to fell for coppice in another year or eighteen months.

I have little doubt of the ultimate financial success of these plantations. The expense has doubtless been excessive, and they have been burthened with charges for overseers, travelling allowances &c not fairly debitable to them, but even now I believe that the first crop will re-imburse all expenditure and the future yield be mainly profit. It must not be forgotten that we found the land waste and unprofitable, and so it would probably have continued had we not taken it up as there were strict orders against its cultivation and those who have puttahs must have obtained them contrary to all orders.

The area is being gradually extended, and the Collector has it under contemplation to transfer very extensive tracts on the northern side of the river.

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The Officers of the Department of Public Works are allowed free access to the river and channels along which strips of 25 yards wide are retained for the purpose of river conservancy, and we are quite prepared to supply them with the necessary branches and leaves for the erection of dams and Crumbos

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Full details as to these plantations will be given in separate reports called for by the Government and the Board, as well as in the half yearly returns.

The subject of now undertaking the experiment of planting on irrigated land will also have attention in communication with the Collector as directed by Government.

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were sketched out and agreed upon, and I hope that we shall arrive at definite conclusions on this important subject at the conference ordered by Government, the papers in connection with which are now with the consulting Engineer for Railways.

Mr Bells and I agree that the more direct the supply can be carried on the better both for the Forest Department and the railway Company.

5. Whilst at Negapatam I ascertained that there was no reason to attribute the failure of the Casuarina planting in 1871. to soil or climate - The Maistry had already told me that the plants were put out too young by the Sub-Collector's order and against his wish, and I learnt that this had really been the case after which Mr Williams paid a hurried visit, and pronounced the whole thing a failure.

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I trust that the planting along this Coast may be undertaken *de novo* either as an Imperial or local undertaking. Mr Weld the Acting Head Assistant Collector takes great interest in the subject, and is doing much, but I should like to see some definite scheme and plan of operations for a term of years drawn up and the ways and means considered so as to obviate the recurrence of such a dead lock as lately occurred in the neighbouring District of South Arcot owing

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the cost.

At present there are no Imperial
Forest establishment or operations
in the Tanjore District.

I have the hono. to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servt
Campbell Walker Captain
Offg Inspector of Forests

Revenue Department.

No. 1511

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 7th December 1874.

READ the following letter from
Offg. Inspector of Forests

Reporting on the fuel reserves and plantations of the Trichinopoly District

H. E. 17th October 1874 No. 380.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2 The latter part of para 2 of G O 5th May 1873 No. 454 appears to have been hitherto overlooked, and, in future, the Inspector will forward his Inspection Reports through the Conservator, as well as the Board

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Forest 9

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On the completion of his tour through the charge of each Conservator, the Inspector should, if possible, meet and confer with that Officer, and should furnish a separate report for each District

14. To the Board of Rev. Dr. & Dis.
3. The Offg Inspector of Forest &

Ex. W. Rbt.

9-0

Report of Offg Conservator of Forests on Forest Reserves
etc. Trichinopoly Dist.

76-77

Con
Gen

14/4/24. R 26/11/24. RC 28/4/24 R 30/11/24.