M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 36.

(2) Date of repair 7-4-67.

(3) Initials of the Referencer M.N.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1515	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 7-12-1874. 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 86. 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, 13th October 1874, No. 364 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit my Inspection Report on the Madura forests.

I entered the district from Coimbatore and met the Sub-Collector and Deputy-Conservator (Mr. Williams) at Pulney ; thence I proceeded over the Pulney Hills to Periacolum, inspecting the plantations and sholahs, and down the Cumbum Valley into Tinnevelly ; on returning from which district Mr. Williams met me at Tirumungalum and accompanied me to Dindigul, *viâ* Madura, where I spent several days conferring with the Collector.

2. PULNEY TALUQ.—The depôt contains a supply of seasoned sawn Vengay rafters which, at the price Rs. 1-2-0 per cubic foot, ought to command a ready sale to the Department of Public Works and private dealers ; but there is absolutely no demand, the cause of which it is difficult to ascertain. When I left the district in 1871 we could scarcely bring in wood fast enough ; but the Zemindari forests of Retiembady and Ayagudy have since been thrown open to felling on license, which opens a means of smuggling from the Government forests on Zemindari passes. Large quantities of private Teak are also available at Anamullay, from which place the contractor for the taluq cutcherry now building supplied himself. Periodical auction-sales might be tried as an experiment ; but we certainly cannot afford to sell sawn Vengay for less than the present rates.

3. VELANCOMBAY PLANTATION.—This experimental Teak plantation (referred to in paragraph 11 of G. O., No. 503, dated 29th April 1874) was commenced under my orders in 1870, and only contains at present some 2,000 trees, which have cost, up to the commencement of the present official year, upwards of Rs. 500, without including a per-centage for supervision. This is, of course, very high ; but it is invariably the case with regard to experimental planting on a small scale. The growth has been remarkably good, the older trees ranging from twenty-five to thirty feet in height, with a girth of nine inches to a foot at three feet from the ground. The great mistake which has been made in their treatment has been over-pruning, by which the trees have run up weak and whippy and without covering the ground so as to prevent a rank growth of grass. I pointed this out to Mr. Williams, who stated that this excessive pruning had been approved of by Colonel Beddome ; but I think there must have been some mistake. I advised Mr. Williams in future to allow of no pruning, except when he or the forester was present, and to use the knife as little as possible. I also suggested his ascertaining the extent and nature of ground available for planting, and submitting proposals for gradual extension with estimates, *etc.*, as prescribed in Circular No. 34.

4. KODAIKANEL.—I was glad to note that the main sholah was certainly much thicker than when I last saw it ; and Mr. Levinge says there is no doubt it has grown up since effectual measures were taken to conserve it and allow of only back-going trees previously marked being removed. The boundary and inspection paths dividing the blocks should be kept clear, and felling strictly restricted to one block at a time.

The Eucalyptus plantation planted on the site of the old native village contains upwards of 4,000 trees, the majority of which are thriving, though the soil in some portions is not favorable. The whole area should, I think, be planted up, casualties being replaced by well-rooted plants of the *Acacia melanoxylon* which will grow well where the Eucalypti will not, and surveyed so as to prevent any encroachment.

The Acacia plantation at upper end of the Lake is reported to contain some 3,500 trees, but has recently suffered greatly from the attacks of the rat (*Mus providens*) which at one time did great damage to the Nilgiri plantations. I gave Mr. Williams instructions regarding the measures found most effectual in dealing with this evil there, which, I trust, he has adopted ere this.

The older portion of this plantation has been several times burnt over, and I do not think the trees will ever do much good. I have recommended the planting up at least the lower portion of the area enclosed, replacing casualties by Wattle seedlings, and coppicing a portion of the plantation. I think it very desirable that the planting and consequent expenditure should be

finished as early as possible; in fact, it should never have been allowed to extend over a number of years as has been the case. The expenditure on both these plantations amounts to Rs. 2,000, considerably more than it ought, had the whole area been planted up in a couple of years as was intended; but the amount includes a share of compensation paid to the inhabitants of the huts in the old village, the planting of which site was undertaken more with a view to the improvement of the appearance of the settlement than mere profit. Still the plantations will eventually well repay expenditure if properly managed.

5. PERRACOLUM.—The demand at this depôt is slack, and it may be found advisable to substitute auction-sales for those at fixed rates. There is, however, no extra expenditure incurred by retaining the timber-yard, as the yard-keeper acts also as the forester's gumastah.

I cannot help thinking that a good deal of timber is clandestinely removed from the Government forests in the neighborhood and those of the Bodanikenur Zemindari at present under the management of the Forest Department for the Court of Wards. A system of restricting felling to well-defined tracts and closing the rest should, I think, be introduced; but we require a law to give it real effect. The whole of the forests are annually burnt over and quite open to cattle and cattle-drivers, and so long as this is the case any real conservancy or improvement of the forests is out of the question, and we must be prepared to see them deteriorating year by year. The forester's books and those of the timber yard-keeper's are well kept, but a thorough overhauling of both by the Deputy-Conservator is absolutely necessary. I impressed this on Mr. Williams.

6. CUMBUM.—There is a considerable stock of timber in the depôt. Periodical auction-sales for the disposal of the older portion, some of which is deteriorating rapidly, appear advisable, and greater care appears necessary in selecting the trees to be felled and their preparation for the market.

The greatest difficulty and annoyance is experienced by parties having obtained forest land on durkhast and setting up a regular timber-trade by issuing licenses. The standing orders of the Board, No. 151/6, dated 17th August 1869, prevent this in the case of land granted subsequent to that date; but I fear that much of the area referred to was granted previously on durkhast or cowle in which case we cannot interfere. Any further extension of cultivation appears generally unadvisable, and should be strictly guarded against, as there is ample assessed waste available, and cultivation, as a rule, extends right up to the foot of the hills.

7. VANATHA-PARAY TEAK PLANTATION.—The growth has been favorable, but expenditure high; 4,300 trees established, having cost Rs. 1,200. I would not recommend any extension of this plantation at present. There has at one time apparently been a considerable growth of indigenous Teak higher up the valley, at 2,000 feet above the sea level, and easily accessible by the ghaut-trace in connection with the Peryaur project, which might be maintained as a forest road. There is a fine field for experimental forestry in this valley, and small portions might even now be taken up and carefully conserved, pending the passing of a Forest Act, when a considerable portion of this forest should be constituted a State reserve. There are no inhabitants that I am aware of, and the grazing privileges of villages in the vicinity might be limited and restricted without injustice. At present cattle roam over the whole extent in the dry season, and fire devastates the whole tract.

8. SATHANGUDY PLANTATION, TIRUMUNGALUM TALUQ.—This is an experimental fuel plantation recently commenced by Mr. Williams. A portion of the land has been ploughed and seed of the *Acacia Arabica* sown broadcast, as yet without much success, and operations hitherto must therefore be considered to have failed. I recommend that one more trial be made during the north-east monsoon, as the soil and situation appear generally favorable. Should this not prove favorable, I recommend that the experiment be abandoned. Nothing has been done in this taluq with regard to taking up tank-beds for conservation and improvement of reproduction as sanctioned by Government in 1871. This is much to be regretted, and I trust now that Mr. Williams's attention has been called to the matter, there may be no further delay. Similar operations in Tinnevelly have proved fairly successful as already reported, and no loss results to the ryots who are to be allowed to remove the [illegible]

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

9. MADURA.—The formation of the fuel-reserves in the neighborhood of this large town to meet the railway and local demand has not been attended to, and I have called Mr. Williams's particular attention to the subject. The measures proposed are minutely detailed in reports and Government orders on record in the Forest Office, and were all approved of by Government in 1871. Mr. Williams states that want of funds has prevented his making the progress he should have liked; but I do not think he can ever have studied the orders, nor understood fully what a "fuel-reserve" meant. In the quarterly reports hitherto submitted by himself and the Collector mention is made of several which I regret to find exist only in name. One or two watchers have, it is true, been appointed to watch extensive areas, but not only have those not been fenced in, but no real attempt at demarcation, exclusion of fire, cattle, and goats, or improving the reproduction has, so far as I could ascertain, been made. There is one gratifying reflection that here at least there can have been no undue interference with the rights and immemorial customs of the people! And Mr. Williams assures me that there is still a large area of inexhaustible forest or jungle on the Alagherry Covil Hill. I confess, I do not believe in *inexhaustible* jungles in the face of a large and increasing demand, and should very much have preferred to have seen a much smaller extent really constituted a reserve, the extent and annual yield of which we could estimate and rely on; and I trust that steps in this direction may no longer be delayed. It may be found possible to constitute the whole Alagherry Covil Malley a reserve, partly close and partly open, arrangements being made for the necessary grazing ground and free supply of fire-wood to the neighboring villagers entitled to those privileges. In this case, it would, I think, be found advisable to lay down a light tramway to the foot of the hills, 10—14 miles, as the quantity to be supplied to the railway and Madura town will be very considerable; the former taking the large, and the latter the smaller wood. I have mentioned the matter to Mr. Williams, and, if we come to a definite arrangement in November regarding the railway supply for the future, think it should receive his best attention and that of the Collector. The timber-yard here is, I think, too far away from the centre of the town, and the taluq cutcherry into which purchasers have to pay their money. I originally selected a site close to the palace where all the public offices will eventually be located, and if that be still available would much prefer to see the timber removed there, or at least somewhere nearer the Office of the Deputy-Conservator, the Range Overseer, and the taluq treasury.

The demand is good, and the depôt wherever located should, I think, be properly and neatly enclosed, planted, and a yard-keeper's office and pandals erected.

Some of the older beams should, I think, be sold off by public auction, and it appears advisable to bring in a supply of bamboos as an experiment, as there is a great demand for them in Madura.

10. THE SIRRA-MULLAYS AND DINDIGUL.—The remarks as to the formation of fuel-reserves in the neighborhood of Madura apply equally here. Nothing has really been done to constitute real fuel-reserves in accordance with the plan originally sketched out and approved of.

Some attempt should, I think, be made to secure, by lease or purchase, the entire control of the forests on the Sirra-Mullays. They contain little valuable timber, but the production might be greatly improved both as regards quantity and quality, and, with proper care, should yield an everlasting supply of jungle and fire-wood for the supply of Madura and Dindigul, the railway, and surrounding country, besides beneficially affecting the climate. If these hills get into the hands of a clever and unscrupulous lessee or contractor, they will form a never-ending source of dispute and loss to Government. All timber, *etc.*, removed will be said to be from the Zemindari. I consider, therefore, that scarcely any price would be too great to pay for the acquisition of this Zemindari village, which yields but a small and precarious revenue to the Zemindar himself. The Sub-Collector (Mr. Bliss) is confident that he could arrange for its transfer to Government on terms liberal and just to the Zemindar, and I trust, therefore, he may be instructed to take steps to that effect in communication with the Deputy-Conservator.

11. GENERAL REMARKS.—Many of these suggestions which have been fully discussed with the Collector, to whom I have also communicated them in writing, will unfortunately have

to stand over for the present owing to the financial crisis which has occurred in this district owing to the curtailment of budget allotments and *non*-curtailment of working expenses in proportion; but I trust that the main points to which I have alluded may be steadily kept in view and worked up to as funds are made available.

The forest overseers in charge of ranges supported as I hope they will be after the revision by adequate fixed establishments should be held strictly responsible for the executive management of their ranges, and the Deputy-Conservator become more an inspecting and controlling officer under the Collector and not himself the executive. A forest officer cannot, of course, be too much in his forests, but, as he cannot be in every part of the district at one time, he should hold the reins only in his hands and not try to drag the coach himself; this can only be done by regular not excessive office-work performed, as a rule, daily and at certain hours, whether at head-quarters or in camp. I have never found any good result from an officer travelling rapidly about by himself, and would much rather that an officer inspected slowly and thoroughly one taluq or an overseer's range during the year than *rushed* through the district every month. I have impressed this on Mr. Williams with the Collector's approval. To enable him to carry on the duties efficiently he must have a second writer whose entertainment, as a temporary measure, pending the general revision of subordinate establishments, I have already recommended to the Board. Two more office-peons will also be required, as at present men are taken away from their tannahs to the detriment of conservancy and revenue. All these points will have separate attention in communication with the Board.

Perhaps the most pressing point connected with forest management in Madura at present is the making proper provision for the railway fuel supply, then the plantations and checking of unauthorised felling, and then the initiation of regular forestry and a pre-considered working plan for the ensuing year or term of years.

The last applies everywhere, and I am convinced little or no real progress can be made till we introduce it; but any attempt would, I fear, be futile at present for want of an Act, demarcation, settlement, and forest valuation surveys.

No. 87. ORDER THEREON, 7th December 1874, No. 1,515.

Forests, No. 10.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. A. Grubert.

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 7th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 7th December 1874, No. 1,515.

DECEMBER.

Nos. 86-87.

Madura Forests.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue the Inspection Report of the Officiating Inspector of Forests on —.

1515

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 13th October 1874, No. 364.

I HAVE the honor to submit my Inspection Report on the Madura forests.

I entered the district from Coimbatore and met the Sub-Collector and Deputy-Conservator (Mr. Williams) at Pulney; thence I proceeded over the Pulney Hills to Periacolum, inspecting the plantations and sholahs, and down the Cumbum Valley into Tinnevelly; on returning from which district Mr. Williams met me at Tirumungalum and accompanied me to Dindigul *viâ* Madura, where I spent several days conferring with the Collector.

2. PULNEY TALUQ.—The depôt contains a supply of seasoned sawn Vengay rafters which, at the price Rs. 1-2-0 per cubic foot, ought to command a ready sale to the Department of Public Works and private dealers; but there is absolutely no demand, the cause of which it is difficult to ascertain. When I left the district in 1871 we could scarcely bring in wood fast enough; but the Zemindari forests of Retiembady and Ayagudy have since been thrown open to felling on license, which opens a means of smuggling from the Government forests on Zemindari passes. Large quantities of private Teak are also available at Anamullay, from which place the contractor for the taluq cutcherry now building supplied himself. Periodical auction-sales might be tried as an experiment; but we certainly cannot afford to sell sawn Vengay for less than the present rates.

3. VELANCOMBAY PLANTATION.—This experimental Teak plantation (referred to in paragraph 11 of G. O., No. 503, dated 29th April 1874) was commenced under my orders in 1870, and only contains at present some 2,000 trees, which have cost, up to the commencement of the present official year, upwards of Rs. 500, without including a per-centage for supervision. This is, of course, very high; but it is invariably the case with regard to experimental planting on a small scale. The growth has been remarkably good; the older trees ranging from twenty-five to thirty feet in height, with a girth of nine inches to a foot at three feet from the ground. The great mistake which has been made in their treatment has been over-pruning, by which the trees have run up weak and whippy and without covering the ground so as to prevent a rank growth of grass. I pointed this out to Mr. Williams, who stated that this excessive pruning had been approved of by Colonel Beddome; but I think there must have been some mistake. I advised Mr. Williams in future to allow of no pruning, except when he or the forester was present, and to use the knife as little as possible. I also suggested his ascertaining the extent and nature of ground available for planting, and submitting proposals for gradual extension with estimates, *etc.*, as prescribed in Circular No. 34.

4. KODAIKANEL.—I was glad to note that the main sholah was certainly much thicker than when I last saw it; and Mr. Levinge says there is no doubt it has grown up since effectual measures were taken to conserve it and allow of only back-going trees previously marked being removed. The boundary and inspection paths dividing the blocks should be kept clear, and felling strictly restricted to one block at a time.

The Eucalyptus plantation planted on the site of the old native village contains upwards of 4,000 trees, the majority of which are thriving, though the soil in some portions is not favorable. The whole area should, I think, be planted up, casualties being replaced by well-rooted plants of the *Acacia melanoxylon* which will grow well where the Eucalypti will not, and surveyed so as to prevent any encroachment.

The Acacia plantation at upper end of the Lake is reported to contain some 3,500 trees, but has recently suffered greatly from the attacks of the rat (*Mus providens*) which at one time did great damage to the Nilgiri plantations. I gave Mr. Williams instructions regarding the measures found most effectual in dealing with this evil there, which, I trust, he has adopted ere this.

The older portion of this plantation has been several times burnt over, and I do not think the trees will ever do much good. I have recommended the planting up at least the lower portion of the area enclosed, replacing casualties by Wattle seedlings, and coppicing a portion of the plantation. I think it very desirable that the planting and consequent expenditure should be finished as early as possible; in fact, it should never have been allowed to extend over a number of years as has been the case. The expenditure on both these plantations amounts to Rs. 2,000, considerably more than it ought, had the whole area been planted up in a couple of years as was

intended; but the amount includes a share of compensation paid to the inhabitants of the huts in the old village, the planting of which site was undertaken more with a view to the improvement of the appearance of the settlement than mere profit. Still the plantations will eventually well repay expenditure if properly managed.

5. PERIACOLUM.—The demand at this depôt is slack, and it may be found advisable to substitute auction-sales for those at fixed rates. There is, however, no extra expenditure incurred by retaining the timber-yard, as the yard-keeper acts also as the forester's gumastah.

I cannot help thinking that a good deal of timber is clandestinely removed from the Government forests in the neighborhood and those of the Bodanikenur Zemindari at present under the management of the Forest Department for the Court of Wards. A system of restricting felling to well-defined tracts and closing the rest should, I think, be introduced; but we require a law to give it real effect. The whole of the forests are annually burnt over and quite open to cattle and cattle-drivers, and so long as this is the case any real conservancy or improvement of the forests is out of the question, and we must be prepared to see them deteriorating year by year. The forester's books and those of the timber yard-keeper's are well kept, but a thorough overhauling of both by the Deputy-Conservator is absolutely necessary. I impressed this on Mr. Williams.

6. CUMBUM.—There is a considerable stock of timber in the depôt. Periodical auction-sales for the disposal of the older portion, some of which is deteriorating rapidly, appear advisable, and greater care appears necessary in selecting the trees to be felled and their preparation for the market.

The greatest difficulty and annoyance is experienced by parties having obtained forest land on durkhast and setting up a regular timber-trade by issuing licenses. The standing orders of the Board, No. 151/6, dated 17th August 1869, prevent this in the case of land granted subsequent to that date; but I fear that much of the area referred to was granted previously on durkhast or cowle in which case we cannot interfere. Any further extension of cultivation appears generally unadvisable, and should be strictly guarded against, as there is ample assessed waste available, and cultivation, as a rule, extends right up to the foot of the hills.

7. VANATHA-PARAY TEAK PLANTATION.—The growth has been favorable, but expenditure high; 4,300 trees established, having cost Rs. 1,200. I would not recommend any extension of this plantation at present. There has at one time apparently been a considerable growth of indigenous Teak higher up the valley, at 2,000 feet above the sea level, and easily accessible by the ghaut-trace in connection with the Peryaur project, which might be maintained as a forest road. There is a fine field for experimental forestry in this valley, and small portions might even now be taken up and carefully conserved pending the passing of a Forest Act, when a considerable portion of this forest should be constituted a State reserve. There are no inhabitants that I am aware of, and the grazing privileges of villages in the vicinity might be limited and restricted without injustice. At present cattle roam over the whole extent in the dry season, and fire devastates the whole tract.

8. SATHANGUDY PLANTATION, TIRUMUNGALUM TALUQ.—This is an experimental fuel plantation recently commenced by Mr. Williams. A portion of the land has been ploughed and seed of the *Acacia Arabica* sown broadcast, as yet without much success, and operations hitherto must therefore be considered to have failed. I recommend that one more trial be made during the northeast monsoon, as the soil and situation appear generally favorable. Should this not prove favorable, I recommend that the experiment be abandoned. Nothing has been done in this taluq with regard to taking up tank-beds for conservation and improvement of reproduction as sanctioned by Government in 1871. This is much to be regretted, and I trust now that Mr. Williams's attention has been called to the matter, there may be no further delay. Similar operations in Tinnevelly have proved fairly successful as already reported, and no loss results to the ryots who are to be allowed to remove the loppings not required for fencing, *etc.*, free of charge.

9. MADURA.—The formation of the fuel-reserves in the neighborhood of this large town to meet the railway and local demand has not been attended to, and I have called Mr. Williams's particular attention to the subject. The measures proposed are minutely detailed in reports and Government orders on record in the Forest Office, and were all approved of by Government in 1871. Mr. Williams states that want of funds has prevented his making the progress he should have liked; but I do not think he can ever have studied the orders, nor understood fully what a "fuel-reserve" meant. In the quarterly reports hitherto submitted by himself and the Collector mention is made of several which I regret to find exist only in name. One or two watchers have, it is true, been appointed to watch extensive areas, but not only have those not been fenced in, but no real attempt at demarcation, exclusion of fire, cattle, and goats, or improving the reproduction has, so far as I could ascertain, been made. There is one gratifying reflection that here at least there can have been no undue interference with the rights and immemorial customs of the people! And Mr. Williams assures me that there is still a large area of inexhaustible forest or jungle on the Alagherry Covil Hill. I confess, I do not believe in *inexhaustible* jungles in the face of a large and increasing demand, and should very much have preferred to have seen a much smaller extent really constituted a reserve, the extent and annual yield of which we could estimate and rely on; and I trust that steps in this direction may no longer be delayed. It may be found possible to constitute the whole Alagherry Covil Malley a reserve, partly close and partly open, arrangements being made for the necessary grazing ground and free supply of fire-wood to the neighboring villagers entitled to those privileges. In this case, it would, I think, be found advisable to lay down a light tramway to the foot of the hills, 10—14 miles, as the quantity to be supplied to the railway and Madura town will be very considerable; the former taking the large, and the latter the smaller wood. I have mentioned the matter to Mr. Williams, and, if we come to a definite arrangement in November regarding the railway supply for the future, think it should receive his best attention and that of the Collector. The timber-yard here is, I think, too far away from the centre of the town, and the taluq cutcherry into which purchasers have to pay their money. I originally selected a site close to the palace where all the public offices will eventually be located, and if that be still available would much prefer to see the timber removed there, or at least somewhere nearer the Office of the Deputy-Conservator, the Range Overseer, and the taluq treasury.

The demand is good, and the depôt wherever located should, I think, be properly and neatly enclosed, planted, and a yard-keeper's office and pandals erected.

Some of the older beams should, I think, be sold off by public auction, and it appears advisable to bring in a supply of bamboos as an experiment, as there is a great demand for them in Madura.

10. THE SIRRA-MULLAYS AND DINDIGUL.—The remarks as to the formation of fuel-reserves in the neighborhood of Madura apply equally here. Nothing has really been done to constitute real fuel-reserves in accordance with the plan originally sketched out and approved of.

Some attempt should, I think, be made to secure, by lease or purchase, the entire control of the forests on the Sirra-Mullays. They contain little valuable timber, but the production might be greatly improved both as regards quantity and quality, and, with proper care, should yield an everlasting supply of jungle and fire-wood for the supply of Madura and Dindigul, the railway, and surrounding country, besides beneficially affecting the climate. If these hills get into the hands of a clever and unscrupulous lessee or contractor, they will form a never-ending source of dispute and loss to Government. All timber, *etc.*, removed will be said to be from the Zemindari. I consider, therefore, that scarcely any price would be too great to pay for the acquisition of this Zemindari village, which yields but a small and precarious revenue to the Zemindar himself. The Sub-Collector (Mr. Bliss) is confident that he could arrange for its transfer to Government on terms liberal and just to the Zemindar, and I trust, therefore, he may be instructed to take steps to that effect in communication with the Deputy-Conservator.

(11.) GENERAL REMARKS.—Many of these suggestions which have been fully discussed with the Collector, to whom I have also communicated them in writing, will unfortunately have to stand over for the present owing to the financial crisis which has occurred in this district owing to the curtailment of budget allotments and *non*-curtailment of working expenses in proportion; but I trust that the main points to which I have alluded may be steadily kept in view and worked up to as funds are made available.

The forest overseers in charge of ranges supported as I hope they will be after the revision by adequate fixed establishments should be held strictly responsible for the executive management of their ranges, and the Deputy-Conservator become more an inspecting and controlling officer under the Collector and not himself the executive. A forest officer cannot, of course, be too much in his forests, but as he cannot be in every part of the district at one time he should hold the reins only in his hands and not try to drag the coach himself; this can only be done by regular not excessive office-work performed, as a rule, daily and at certain hours, whether at head-

quarters or in camp. I have never found any good result from an officer travelling rapidly about by himself, and would much rather that an officer inspected slowly and thoroughly one taluq or an overseer's range during the year than *rushed* through the district every month. I have impressed this on Mr. Williams with the Collector's approval. To enable him to carry on the duties efficiently he must have a second writer whose entertainment, as a temporary measure, pending the general revision of subordinate establishments, I have already recommended to the Board. Two more office-peons will also be required, as at present men are taken away from their tannahs to the detriment of conservancy and revenue. All these points will have separate attention in communication with the Board.

Perhaps the most pressing point connected with forest management in Madura at present is the making proper provision for the railway fuel supply, then the plantations and checking of unauthorised felling, and then the initiation of regular forestry and a pre-considered working plan for the ensuing year or term of years.

The last applies everywhere, and I am convinced little or no real progress can be made till we introduce it; but any attempt would, I fear, be futile at present for want of an Act, demarcation, settlement, and forest valuation surveys.

Office of Inspector of Forests

Dotacamund 13th October 1874.

No. 364.

From

Captain Campbell Walker

Offg. Inspector of Forests

To

C. G. Master Esquire

Actg Secretary to Government

Revenue Department

Sir

I have the honor to submit my inspection Report on the Madura Forests.

I entered the District from Combatore, and met the Sub Collector and Deputy Conservator (Mr. Williams) at Pulney, thence I proceeded over the Pulney Hills to Periacolum, inspecting the plantations, and Sholahs, and down the Cumbum valley into Tinnevelly, on returning from which

which District Mr. Williams met me at Tirumungalum, and accompanied me to Dindigul Via Madura where I spent several days conferring with the Collector.

Pulney Taluq

2. The depot contains a supply of seasoned sawn Vengay rafters which, at the price Rs. 1-2- per Cubic foot, ought to command a ready sale to the Department of Public Works and private dealers, but there is absolutely no demand the cause of which it is difficult to ascertain. When I left the District in 1871 we could scarcely bring in wood fast enough, but the Zemindary forests of Retiembady and Ayacudy have since been thrown open to felling on license which opens a means of smuggling from the Government

7/153

Government forests on Zemindary papes; large quantities of private Teak are also available at Anamullay from which place the Contractor for the Taluq Cutcherry now building supplied himself. Periodical Auction sales might be tried as an experiment, but we certainly cannot afford to sell sawn Vengay for less than the present rates.

Valancombay Plantation

3. This experimental Teak plantation (referred to in para 11 of G.O No. 503 dated 29th April 1874) was commenced under my orders in 1870 and only contains at present some 2000 trees which have cost, up to the commencement of the present official year, upwards of Rs. 500- without including a percentage for Supervision. This is of course very

very high, but it is invariably the case with regard to experimental planting on a small scale. The growth has been remarkably good, the older trees ranging from 25 to 30 feet in height with a girth of 9 inches to a foot at 3 feet from the ground. The great mistake which has been made in their treatment has been over pruning by which the trees have run up weak and whippy and without covering the ground so as to prevent a rank growth of grass. I pointed this out to Mr. Williams who stated that this excessive pruning had been approved of by Colonel Beddome, but I think there must have been some mistake. I advised Mr. Williams in

future to allow of no pruning except when the Forester was present, and to use the knife as little as possible. I also suggested his ascertaining the extent and nature of ground available for planting, and submitting proposals for gradual extension with estimates &c as prescribed in Circular No. 34.

Kodaikanal. (4) I was glad to note that the main Sholah was certainly much thicker than when I last saw it, and Mr. Levinge says there is no doubt it has grown up since effectual measures were taken to conserve it, and allow of only back going trees, previously marked, being removed. The boundary and inspection paths dividing the blocks should be kept clear, and felling strictly restricted to one block at a time -

tone

The Eucalyptus plantation, planted on the site of the old native village contains upwards of 4,000 trees the majority of which are thriving though the soil in some portions is not favorable. The whole area should, I think, be planted up, casualties being replaced by well rooted plants of the Acacia melanoxylon which will grow well where the Eucalypts will not, and surveyed so as to prevent any encroachment.

The acacia plantation at the upper end of the lake is reported to contain some 3500 trees but has recently suffered greatly from the attacks of the rat (Mus providens) which at one time did great damage to the Nilgiri plantations. I gave Mr Williams instructions regarding the measures found most

effectual in dealing with this evil there, which I trust he has adopted ere this.

The older portion of this plantation has been several times burnt over, and I do not think the trees will ever do much good. I have recommended the planting up at least the lower portion of the area enclosed, replacing casualties by wattle seedlings, and coppicing a portion of the plantation. I think it very desirable that the planting and consequent expenditure should be finished as early as possible, in fact it should never have been allowed to stand over a number of years as has been the case.

The expenditure on both these plantations amounts to Rs 2000 considerably more than it ought had the whole area been planted up in a couple of years as

was

was intended, but the amount includes
a share of Compensation paid to the
inhabitants of the huts in the old
village the planting of which site was
undertaken more with a view to the
improvement of the appearance of the
settlement than mere profit. Still the
plantations will eventually well repay
expenditure if properly managed.

5. The demand at this depôt is slack and it may be found advisable to substitute auction sales for those at fixed rates. There is, however, no extra expenditure incurred by retaining the Timber yard as the yard keeper acts also as the Foresters' Jumadah. Perea column

I cannot help thinking that a good deal of timber is clandestinely removed from the Government forests in

in the neighbourhood, and those of the Bodanaikenur Zemindary at present under the management of the Forest Department for the Court of Wards. A System of restricting felling to well defined tracts, and closing the rest should, I think, be introduced but we require a law to give it real effect. The whole of the forests are annually burnt over and quite open to Cattle and Cattle drivers, and, so long as this is the case, any real Conservancy or improvement of the Forests is out of the question and we must be prepared to see them deteriorating year by year. The Foresters' books and those of the timber yard Keepers are well kept, but a thorough overhauling of both by the Dy Conservator is

12/1515

is absolutely necessary.
I impressed this on Mr. Williams.

Cumbum

6- There is a considerable stock of timber in the depot. Periodical auction sales for the disposal of the older portion, some of which is deteriorating rapidly, appear advisable, and greater care appears necessary in selecting the trees to be felled and their preparation for the market.

The greatest difficulty and annoyance is experienced by parties having obtained forest land on Durkhast, and setting up a regular timber trade by issuing licenses. The standing Orders of the Board No. 151 6 dated 17th August 1869, prevent this in the case of land granted subsequent to that date, but I fear that much of the area referred to was granted

Case we cannot interfere. Any further extension of cultivation appears generally inadvisable, and should be strictly guarded against, as there is ample waste available, and cultivation as a rule extends right up to the foot of the hills.

Vanattia paray Teak Plantation

7- The growth has been favourable but expenditure high - 4300 trees established having cost Rs 1200. I would not recommend any extension of this plantation at present. There has at one time apparently been a considerable growth of indigenous teak higher up the valley at 2000 feet above the sea level and easily accessible by the ghaut trace in connection with the Peryam project, which might be maintained as a

in this valley, and small portions might even now be taken up, and carefully conserved pending the passing of a Forest Act when a considerable portion of this Forest should be constituted a State reserve. There are no inhabitants that I am aware of, and the grazing privileges of villages in the vicinity might be limited and restricted without injustice. At present cattle roam over the whole extent in the dry season and fire devastates the whole tract.

8— This is an experimental fuel plantation recently commenced by Mr. Williams. A portion of the land has been ploughed, and seed of the Acacia arabica sown broad cast as yet without much success, and operations hitherto

{Sathangudy Plantation, Tinnevelly Valley.

must therefore be considered to have failed. I recommend that one more trial be made during the North East monsoon as the soil and situation appear generally favorable. Should this not prove favorable I recommend that the experiment be abandoned. Nothing has been done in this Valley with regard to taking up tank beds for conservation and improvement of reproduction as sanctioned by Government in 1871. This is much to be regretted, and I trust now that Mr. Williams' attention has been called to the matter there may be no further delay. Similar operations in Tinnevelly have proved fairly successful as already reported, and no loss results to the Ryots who are to be allowed to

to remove the loppings not required for fencing to free of charge.

9— The formation of the fuel Madura Reserves in the neighbourhood of this large town to meet the Railway and local demand has not been attended to, and I have called Mr. Williams' particular attention to the subject. The measures proposed are minutely detailed in Reports and Government Orders on record in the Forest Office, and were all approved of by Government in 1871. Mr. Williams states that want of funds has prevented his making the progress he should have liked, but I do not think he can ever have studied the orders nor understood fully what a "fuel Reserve" meant. In the quarterly

Quarterly Reports hitherto submitted by himself and the Collector mention is made of several which I regret to find exist only in name. One or two Watchers have it is true, been appointed to watch a few areas but not only have those not been fenced in, but no real attempt at demarcation & closure of fire, Cattle and goats or improving the reproduction has, so far as I could ascertain been made. There is one gratifying reflection that here at least there can have been no undue interference with the rights and immemorial Customs of the people and Mr. Williams' figures mean that there is still a large area of merchantable forest & jungle on the Alagherry Coil Hill-

Hill. I confess I do not believe in inexhaustible jungles in the face of a large and increasing demand, and should very much have preferred to have seen a much smaller extent really constituted a reserve the extent and annual yield of which we could estimate and rely on, and I trust that steps in this direction may no longer be delayed. It may be found possible to constitute the whole Alagherry Coil Malleya reserve partly close and partly open arrangements being made for the necessary grazing ground and free supply of firewood to the neighbouring villagers entitled to those privileges. In this case it would I think be found advisable to lay down a light tramway to the foot of the Hills 10–14 miles

14/1515

miles - as the quantity to be supplied to the Railway and Madura town will be very considerable the former tetering the large and the latter the smaller wood. I have mentioned the matter to Mr. Williams and if we come to a definite arrangement in November regarding the Railway supply for the factory, I trust I could receive his best attention, and that of the Collector. The timber yard here is, I think, too far away from the Centre of the town, and the Valey Cut-chery into which purchasers have to pay their money. I originally selected a site close to the palace where all the public offices will eventu-ally be located, and if that be still available

available would much prefer to see the timber removed there is at least somewhere nearer the Office of the Deputy Conservator, the range Overseer and the Taluq Treasury.

The demand is good and the depôt wherever located should I think, be properly and neatly enclosed, planted, and a yard Keeper's Office and powder-magazine erected.

Some of the older beams should I think be sold off by public auction and it appears advisable to bring in a supply of bamboos as an experiment as there is a great demand for them in Madura.

10— The remarks as to the formation of fuel reserves in the neighbourhood of Madura apply equally here. Nothing has

{ The Sirumullays and Dindigul.

has really been done to constitute reserves in accordance with the plan originally sketched out and approved of.

Some attempt should I think be made to secure by lease or purchase the entire control of the forests on the Sirumullays. They contain little valuable timber but the production might be greatly improved both as regards quantity and quality and with proper care should yield an everlasting supply of jungle and fuel for the supply of Madura and Dindigul, the railway and surrounding Country besides beneficially affecting the climate. If these hills get into the hands of a clever and unscrupulous

lessee

lessee or contractor they will form a never ending source of dispute and loss to Government. All timber removed will be said to be from the Zemindary. I consider therefore that scarcely any price would be too great to pay for the acquisition of this Zemindary village which yields but a small and precarious revenue to the Zemindar himself. The Sub Collector (Mr. Bliss) is confident that he could arrange for its transfer to Government on terms liberal and just to the Zemindar, and I trust therefore he may be instructed to take steps to that effect in communication with the Deputy Conservator.

General Remarks.

General Remarks (11) Many of these suggestions, which have been fully discussed with the Collector to whom I have also communicated them in writing, will unfortunately have to stand over for the present owing to the financial crisis which has occurred in this District owing to the curtailment of budget allotments and non-curtailment of working establishments in proportion, but I trust that the main points to which I have alluded may be steadily kept in view, and worked upto as funds are made available.

(12) The forest overseers in charge of ranges supported, as I hope they will be after the revision, by adequate forest establishments should be held strictly responsible for the executive management of

of their ranges, and the Deputy Conservator become more an inspecting and controlling officer under the Collector and not himself the executive - A Forest officer, cannot, of course, be too much in his forests, but as he can not be in every part of the District at one time he should hold the reins only in his hands and not try to drag the coach himself this can only be done by regular not occasional office work performed as a rule, daily and at certain hours whether at Head quarters or in camp. I have never found any good result from an officer travelling rapidly about by himself, and would much rather that an officer inspected slowly, and thoroughly one Taluq or an Overseer's range during the year than rushed through the District every month - I have impressed

this on Mr. Williams with the Collector's approval. To enable him to carry on the duties efficiently he must have a second writer whose entertainment as a temporary measure pending the general revision of subordinate establishments I have already recommended to the Board. Two more office peons will also be required as at present none are to be spared from their Taluqs to the detriment of Conservancy and Revenue. All these points will have separate attention in Communication with the Board.

Perhaps the most pressing point connected with forest management in Madura at present is the making proper provision for the Railway fuel supply, then the plantation and

and checking of unauthorized felling,
and then the initiation of regular
forestry and a pre-considered working
plan for the ensuing year or term of
years.

The last applies every where,
and I am convinced little or no
real progress can be made till we
introduce it but any attempt
would I fear be futile at present
for want of an Act demarcation,
settlement and forest valuation
surveys.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt Servt
Camphellwalker Captain
Offg Inspr Genl of Forests

G.O. 24th April/74 No. 199-200.

Revl. No. 3637.
(1874/75) Dept.

Forest Department

From.

Offg. Inspector of Forests

Madras

To.

Acting Secretary to Government

Revenue Depart.

Ootacamund

Dated 13th
Despd. 14th
Recd. 15th } October/74

No. 364.

Enclosures — none.

Subject

Forwarding inspection Report on the Madura forests.

Vide [illegible] No. 1515 - 7 December

No. 1515

Communicated to the

Board of Revenue &c

14 to the Board of Revenue
3. the Inspector of Forests

[illegible]

7 Decr. 1874

86—87.