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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1570	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	16-12-1874	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th December 1874.

No. 196. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th October 1874, No. 3,113, Forest No. 208 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th September 1874, No. 225 :—

I HAVE the honor, as requested by the Board of Revenue, in Proceedings, Forest No. 166 of 15th September 1874, to report on paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Government order referred to therein.

2. I visited the M. Reserve with Captain Walker, and found that it had been placed too near the village of Hallutty, on some of whose lands it had trenched.

3. I agreed with Captain Walker that we should move back the fence or at least open the part of the reserve, next to the village, as a communal reserve, and have instructed my Deputy Conservator to prepare a revised plan of the reserve, which may be advantageously, and greatly extended, without trenching on village communal rights.

4. I need not go into detail, which, with the necessary plan, will be put fully before the Board, so soon as accomplished. Mr. Morgan is now at the work.

5. As regards H. Reserve, where some revision seemed also necessary, I gave, after careful inspection, similar instructions.

6. In reference to K. Reserve on the left bank of the Bhowany, a good deal of enquiry will be necessary before it can be demarcated.

7. There has been a great deal of temporary cultivation, in fact a low country kumari, below the spurs of the Droog, which overhangs it, and when I went to inspect it, and to consider the best line of demarcation, I found much land which had been formerly cultivated, and then relapsed into scrub jungle, for which there may be possibly puttas extant, though not included in the new survey as village lands.

8. Although not actually Irular cultivation, yet knowing well how poor and destitute of ploughing cattle and implements these low country jungle men are, I suspected that they were merely the Agents of village officers or more substantial people, and possibly some clue may be gained as to sales of land for non payment of revenue by nominal jungle-men in localities never inspected by Revenue Inspectors, and within the local ken only of the jungle village authorities.

9. The block or K. Reserve exists, as I have before informed the Board in my letter, printed with Board's Proceedings of 27th July 1874, No. [illegible], only on paper, although sanctioned by Government, in Proceedings No. 1,671 of 25th September 1871.

10. I believe there are grazing customs for the Nellitoray cattle up the Droog slopes, so there will probably be difficulty in making a close reserve there, but on all accounts, demarcation by rides cut through the jungle, will be most advantageous to future conservancy, and with due inspection and local forest rangers, a limit to wasteful denudation will be feasible.

11. This will also form the subject of a future report with plan; at present I can only indicate general principles.

12. I regret to say much money has been spent in fencing several reserves with most inadequate results, a fence like a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and a fence with holes in it might as well be absent, except as a demarcation, but rides cut, and kept clear, are much cheaper, and answer the purpose of demarcation just as well.

13. In the same Proceedings of Government I am called on by Government to report on the *Walliar* Reserve. I have made a careful inspection thereof. I was unfortunately unable to visit it with Captain Walker, but agree most thoroughly with that officer in his estimate of its value, and would deprecate any retrograde action in reference thereto.

14. It is true it has been mismanaged, and having seen it only on a former occasion, some 3½ years ago, in the dry season, I would have been inclined to doubt its value, but on a closer inspection, I find that it shares still the climate of Malabar; and though not so good as the adjoining Malabar Reserve, it shows the wonderful effect of an increased rain-fall over all its extent.

15. The trees were flourishing, and well spread over its area, the grass in rich abundance, and breast high, which if cut and railed into Coimbatore Town, where grass does not grow, would supply a much required fodder, and probably be remunerative.

16. I agree with Captain Walker that it should be a close reserve, the railway and its excellent fence makes a capital southern boundary, and there is abundance of other grazing land, and few villages, in this malarious locality.

17. It is a great pity that so much valuable forest land was given away by my predecessors, who probably did not foresee that if wood be cleared off the country, cow-dung will succeed it for fuel, and the land will become exhausted although cultivation be increased.

18. I should like much to join my reserve with Mr. Macgregor's by taking up the intervening patta lands, but fear that the purchase would be too expensive. I remember well the dense jungle some twenty-nine years ago when I rode through it, on my way to Malabar, the soil of great richness, as evidenced by the bamboos and teak. I would therefore keep it as a promising reserve and will endeavor to get it worked more economically and efficiently in future.

19. There has been a great expense in fencing, but though in some places the trench would have held an elephant, the brush-wood and grass at top almost covered it, so that it was no protection against fire, of which the blackened stems and twigs showed in evidence. I shall have it at once after the monsoon cleared into blocks, with five paths and fences set in order.

20. The last point to which my attention has been called by Government is the inspector of Forests' remarks in paragraph 11, under the head of the "Sholakerray Forest." A quantity of ripe teak in this has been marked for felling.

21. As regards the limits of private forests on "Durkhast" and Cowle," I am not quite clear what is meant by this definition, "Durkhast" being an application for land, and "Cowle" being a lease on a progressive assessment, but whatever land has been given away by my predecessors must be respected.

22. Its boundaries however will be marked out, so soon as Mr. Morgan has done his present work, and demarcated, so as to afford a check on unlicensed felling.

23. In connection with this I am to arrange for the boundary of the two districts (Malabar and Coimbatore) in the "Bolumputty" valley.

24. The subject of reference is the "Walliar" valley, and Captain Walker does not make any allusion to "Bolumputty" valley, which is on the north side of this lofty range of hills.

25. Here the Walliar stream is the boundary of the districts, in this part. No dispute has arisen regarding the boundary as yet. It is about half mile on the east of the Railway Station at Walliar, but the boundary with Malabar in regard to "Bolumputty" and the "Upper Sholakerray" and other hill forests to the north will be duly attended to when the survey takes them up.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to G. O., dated 25th August 1874, No. 1080, Revenue Department.

2. The Board await Mr. Wedderburn's further report on the revision of the boundaries of the Reserves M. H. and K.

3. They agree with him in advocating the retention of the Walliar Reserve.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. CROSE,
Secretary.

No. 197. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1874, No. 1,570.

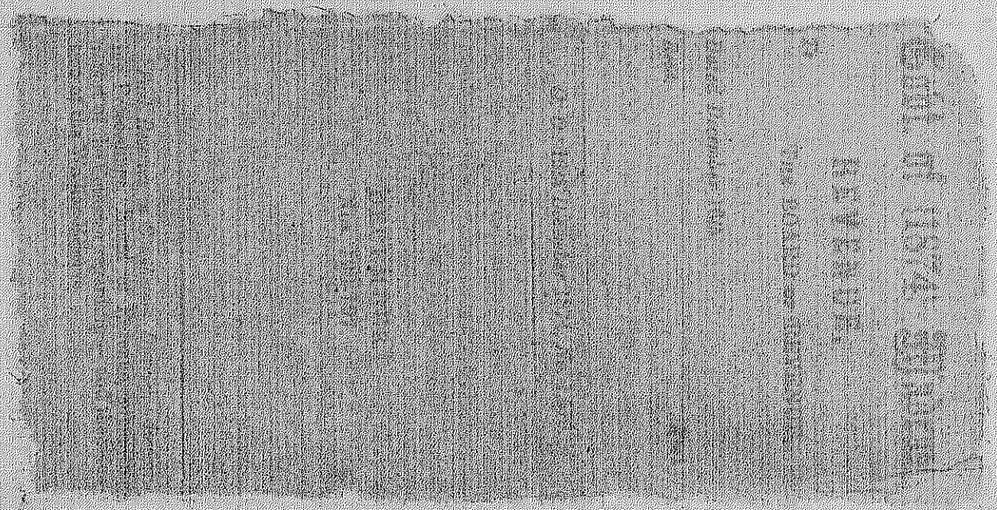
Forests, No. 16. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue
" the Inspector of Forests.

Rad. C. A. Turner.



FOREST No. 203.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th October 1874, No. 3,113.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th September 1874, No. 225:—

1. I have the honor, as requested by the Board of Revenue, in Proceedings, Forest No. 166 of 15th September 1874, to report on paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Government order referred to therein.

2. I visited the M. Reserve with Captain Walker, and found that it had been placed too near the village of Hulliuty, on some of whose lands it had trenched.

3. I agreed with Captain Walker that we should move back the fence or at least open the part of the reserve, next to the village, as a communal reserve, and have instructed my Deputy Conservator to prepare a revised plan of the reserve, which may be advantageously, and greatly extended, without trenching on village communal rights.

4. I need not go into detail, which, with the necessary plan, will be put fully before the Board, so soon as accomplished. Mr. Morgan is now at the work.

5. As regards H. Reserve, where some revision seemed also necessary, I gave, after careful inspection, similar instructions.

6. In reference to K. Reserve on the left bank of the Bhowany, a good deal of enquiry will be necessary before it can be demarcated.

7. There has been a great deal of temporary cultivation, in fact a low country kumari, below the spur of the Droog, which overhangs it, and when I went [illegible] which had been formerly cultivated and been relapsed into scrub jungle, for which there may be possibly puttas extant, though not included in the new survey as village lands.

8. Although nominally under cultivation, yet knowing well how poor and destitute of ploughing cattle and implements these low country jungle-men are, I suspected that they were merely the Agents of village officers or more substantial people, and possibly some also may be getting to sales of land for non-payment of revenue by several jungle-men in localities never inspected by Revenue Inspectors, and with the local cognizance only of the jungle village authorities.

9. The Block or K. Reserve exists, as I have before informed the Board in my letter quoted with Board's Proceedings of 27th July 1874, No. [illegible], only on paper, although sanctioned by Government, in Proceedings No. 1,671 of 25th September 1871.

10. I believe there are grazing customs for the Nelliturai cattle on the Droog slopes, so there will probably be difficulty in making a close reserve there, but on all accounts, demarcation by riders cut through the jungle, will be most advantageous to future conservancy, and with due inspection and local forest rangers, a return to wasteful denudation will be feasible.

11. This will also form the subject of a future report with plan; at present I can only indicate general principles.

12. I regret to say much money has been spent in fencing several reserves with most inadequate results, a fence like a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, and a fence with holes in it might as well be absent, except as a demarcation, but rides cut, and kept clear, are much cheaper, and answer the purpose of demarcation just as well.

13. In the same Proceedings of Government I am called on by Government to report on the *Walliar* Reserve. I have made a careful inspection thereof. I was unfortunately unable to visit it with Captain Walker, but agree most thoroughly with that officer in his estimate of its value, and would deprecate any retrograde action in reference thereto.

14. It is true it has been mismanaged, and having seen it only on a former occasion, some 31 years ago, in the dry season, I would have been inclined to doubt its value, but on a closer inspection, I find that it shared still the climate of Malabar, and though not so good as the adjoining Malabar reserve, it shows the wonderful effect of an increased rainfall over all its extent.

15. The trees were flourishing, and well spread over its area, the grass in rich abundance, and breast high, which if cut and sold into Coimbatore Town, where grass does not grow, would supply a much required fodder, and probably be remunerative.

16. I agree with Captain Walker that it should be a close reserve, the railway and its excellent fence makes a capital southern boundary, and there is abundance of other grazing land, and few villages, in this malarious locality.

17. It is a great pity that so much valuable forest land was given away by my predecessors, who probably did not foresee that if wood be cleared off the land, trees will not spread of themselves to it for fuel, and the land will become exhausted although cultivation is increased.

18. I should like much to join my reserve with Mr. Macgregor's by taking up the intervening patta lands, but fear that the purchase would be too expensive. I remember well the dense jungle some twenty-nine years ago when I rode through it, on my way to Malabar, the soil of great richness as evidenced by the luxurious undergrowth. I would therefore keep it as a promising reserve and will endeavor to get it worked more economically and efficiently in future.

19. There has been a great expense in fencing, but enough in some places the trench would have held an elephant, the brush wood and grass at top almost covered in so that it was no protection against fire, of which the blackened stems and twigs showed in evidence. I shall have it at once after the monsoon cleared into blocks, with fire paths and fences set in order.

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SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to G. O., dated 25th August 1874, No. 1080, Revenue Department.

2. The Board await Mr. Wedderburn's further report on the revision of the boundaries of the Reserves M, H, and K.

3. They agree with him in advocating the retention of the Walliar Reserve.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

C Lowe

Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Collector of Coimbatore.

" G. A. Turton

G.O. No. 1874, dated 25th October 1874.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Proceedings, 26th October 1874, No. 3,113.

Read:

Received

OCTOBER.

Forest No. 508.

Fuel Reserves—in Coimbatore District—Report of Collector regarding—submitted. Government—Further Report with revised the boundaries of certain Reserves, availed. Concurrence expressed with Collector's opin as to the advisability of retaining the Wall Reserve, Pattimalai.