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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,

21st December 1874.

No. 260. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st September 1874, No. 2,470, Forest No. 150:—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 16th March 1874, No. 598, (Forest No. 28).
" " " " 18th May " " 1,154, (" " 67).

Read also the following letters:—

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 20th May 1874, No. [illegible].

In continuation of my letter of the 7th instant, No. 217, I have the honor to submit, herewith, the Jungle Conservancy Budget for the current year as prepared by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, together with two abstracts prepared in this office, showing at a glance, the nature and extent of that officer's proposals and requirements, and a copy of his covering letter.*

2. Mr. Wooldridge asks in the budget for a gross allotment of Rupees 38,236 for plantations and reserves and the cost of the establishments necessary to supervise them. Of this sum Rupees 5,000 is to be paid out of Imperial Forest Funds as payment for half the cost of the maintenance and supervision of the Gingee Fuel Reserves, the other half being contributed by Jungle Conservancy Funds (vide the Board's Proceedings of the 13th January 1874, No. 49,) and in the original Jungle Conservancy Budget submitted by me with my letter of the 2nd March last, No. 135, Rupees 5,000 is entered accordingly as a charge against those funds in addition to which an allotment of Rupees 1,886 is made for the upkeep of plantations, of which a sum of Rupees 352 has been subsequently transferred to the village tope allotment, leaving Rupees 1,534 as the allotment for upkeep of plantations, so that the net allotment now budgeted for is Rs. 26,702 as detailed below:—

		RS.
Cost of working expenses, supervision, and range office establishments necessary for eighteen plantations containing an area of 4713·64 acres		27,522
Cost of working expenses, demarcation, supervision, and range office establishments necessary for twelve reserves containing an area of 48,263 acres ...		10,714
		38,236
Deducting Imperial grant	5,000	
And Local Jungle Conservancy grant	6,534	
		11,534
		26,702

3. The first remark I feel called on to make in submitting this Budget is that, in my opinion, it is altogether a mistake to classify works of the extensive nature and of the imperial [illegible] of the above under the title of Jungle Conservancy Works. They are, I consider, all imperial in their character, are supervised by an Imperial Forest Officer, and should be classified as "Forests" and maintained out of Imperial Forest Funds, and to expect the Village Jungle Conservancy receipts to pay for half the upkeep of some thousands of acres of hill jungles is to expect an impossibility. The current year opened with an actual deficit of the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund. The estimated receipts during the year were calculated to amount to Rupees 8,200, and out of this amount, which has no real existence, the whole of the numerous village topes throughout the district have to be supported, and under the Board's orders Rupees 5,000 to be allotted for half the cost of the upkeep of the Gingee reserves, besides which the Deputy Conservator was clamorous for funds to keep alive the young Mahogany and other valuable plantations. On the other hand the Divisional Officers asked for Rupees 10,481 for the upkeep of village topes alone. Under these circumstances, I was obliged to cut down the divisional budgets to Rs. 1,314 and to allot the remaining Rupees 6,886 for the Gingee reserves and Mahogany plantations. The Board will thus see to what an utter state of bankruptcy the Village Jungle Conservancy Funds are reduced by having the heavy charges above detailed thrown on them.

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* Dated 18th May 1874, No. 211.

4. The Village Jungle Conservancy Funds are derived from the fees collected by Taluq Officers from the cutters of brushwood in village jungles and of trees and [illegible] in jungles not under the conservancy of the Forest Department and from the rents of village topes; and the whole of these receipts should, in my opinion, be expended on the upkeep of topes and on the conservancy of village brushwood jungles, with respect to which, so far as I am aware, nothing whatever in the way of demarcation, reservation, or re-planting is at present carried out. This work, I consider, should not be part of the Forest Deputy Conservator's charge, being capable of being looked after by the Village [illegible] and communities under the orders of the Divisional Officers assisted with advice from the Deputy Conservator.

5. I consider that all the large plantations and fuel reserves now budgeted for should have been included in the Forest Budget as forests. The only items, however, entered in the Forest Budget for the current year, which was submitted to the Board in August last, are the cost of conserving, felling, and [illegible] reserved timbers, *plus* the cost of Forest Establishments, altogether amounting to Rupees 11,300, out of which the establishments and contingencies absorb Rupees 7,200.

6. Captain Walker, in his Inspection Report, dated 8th April last, addressed to Government, advocates, at paragraph 4, that all the reserves in the Trinomaly Taluq shall be constituted "forest reserves." I think so too, and can see no reason whatever for treating the Gingee reserves differently.

7. I think Mr. Wooldridge makes out a very strong case for the increase of establishments budgeted for by him, and recommend that they be sanctioned, as it is manifestly impossible for the present small establishment to cope with the work of supervising 18 plantations and 12 large "reserves" and keep the accounts required of them as well. The sums asked for working expenses appear reasonable though their total is large, and I, therefore, submit the budget for the favorable consideration of the Board with a request that funds be allotted, as soon as possible, as an advance, repayable hereafter either from the surplus Jungle Conservancy Funds of other districts or from such other source as may be available.

Enclosure No. 1.—Jungle Conservancy Budget.

Enclosures Nos. 2 and 3.—Abstracts of Budget.

Enclosure No. 4.

From H. R. WOOLDRIDGE, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 16th May 1874, No. 311.

1. [illegible] estimate for upkeep of the plantations (enclosed herewith) [illegible] operations which I propose [illegible] this district with Jungle Conservancy Local [illegible] forwarding this estimate, but can only state in [illegible] the amount of work required of them [illegible] notwithstanding that I have been at head- [illegible] to push on the necessary annual [illegible] to draw up the administration reports [illegible] estimated for are upkeep charges of the [illegible] young [illegible]

2. [illegible] for which a sum of Rupees 20,000 in round numbers [illegible] charges for the proposed extension in [illegible] Besides these principal items, the half charges for conservancy and [illegible] Rupees 5,000; and the supervising establish- [illegible] together with contingencies, a little [illegible] based on the actuals of past year's work, and though [illegible] estimate is a larger sum than may be at present available [illegible]

the Local Jungle Conservancy Funds balance of this district, yet I venture to hope that, in consideration of the importance of planting to the growing wants of the people generally and of railway and industries in particular, the expenditure may be sanctioned, and that the amount in excess of the available balance in this district will be made up by a temporary transfer of the Jungle Conservancy Funds of other districts to this, thereby utilizing money that might otherwise remain idle for works that certainly will prove most valuable to the district, as they will without a doubt become remunerative as rapidly as, or sooner than, most forest schemes.

3. The only extra charges are a slight increase of Rupee 1 per mensem to subordinate [illegible], of Annas 8 per mensem to chief gardeners who have one year's service and may be considered as more practical and fitted for their position than before; a Manager's Gumastah at Rupees 8 to assist him with his labor statements; and a Peon or attender on Rupees 6 to carry orders and attend the Managers on their inspections (amounting to Rupees 168 per annum for each range) is also a new charge, and I beg to request that you will recommend the establishment for sanction, for I find the quantity of writing to be done by the Managers in sending in their reports, the pay rolls, labor reports, planting statements, nursery, etc., for the large number of plantations under each of them, tends to prevent their proper attendance at, and personal supervision over, field-work, which is really their legitimate duty. In my last year's budget-estimate I entered one Reserve Manager and one Plantation Manager which I then considered would be sufficient. These were both sanctioned, but it has been found in the last half year since the extensions were commenced that two Managers are necessary for the plantations, which are scattered over four taluqs, and in addition a Reserve Manager or Sub-Forester for Gingee and Villapuram, etc., reserves, making three range officers to be entertained instead of two as in last year, at an increase of Rupees 480 for the twelve months. The Plantation Manager stationed at Tirucoilore at present has charge of [illegible] plantations, one reserve, and the Kallacourchy channel and tank plantings, and on all these 224,000 young trees exist. The Reserve Manager stationed at Cuddalore, who was placed in charge of plantations with permission of Collector till reserves were worked, has to attend to nine plantations and two reserves on which are 120,000 old and young trees at date, and I propose he should be continued as a Manager in charge of these plantations on the same pay and the new Manager be entertained for the Gingee, etc., reserves on Rupees 30 + 10 travelling. The operations on Gingee reserves have been up to date under the Forester, South Arcot, who, however, has the charge of the Chengam Division reserves as well as his own special range duties, and, these latter requiring most of his attention, but slight time can, or has been, or could be, given to the Gingee reserves by him, consequently a new Sub-Forester or Reserve Manager has been provided for as above stated, and he is urgently required to supervise the proposed operations in Gingee Division. His pay is entered at Rupees 5 higher per month than for the Plantation Managers, owing to the jungly and feverish nature of the charge and the comparatively long distance at which supplies are obtainable; and, if an increase is made to the permanent conservancy establishment of a Sub-Forester as proposed by the Inspector of Forests, a man of this grade will still be needed for Porto Novo Plantations and Virdachellum Jungle, my proposals for which are, I believe, under consideration.

At Rupees 25 + 10 batta each.

4. For the twelve reserves as a whole, it will be observed, I have submitted an estimate (which I trust will be found sufficiently explicit in detail) for Rupees 10,000. Of this, a large charge is for surveying, demarcating, fencing, roading, temporary buildings, etc., and but little for actual planting; but this is quite necessary, as up to this time no regular survey has been undertaken, nor have boundary-marks been laid down. The exact area is not known, and even the limits are only known to a few people, and liable to be encroached on by cultivators adjoining. Under orders in Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 40, of 13th January 1874, Forest No. 1, Rupees 5,000 will only be wanted from Jungle Conservancy Funds for the reserves; but, as the available funds are this year so much less than was supposed would be the case, perhaps it would have been better that the reserve operations were curtailed for this season to the moiety allotted from

Imperial Funds and conservancy of plantations, from the principal work for which the available Local Funds should be expended.

[illegible] In one year I applied for permission to entertain a clerk for attending to jungle conservancy papers in my office, [illegible] but I find after seven months' trial that the man is quite unable to deal with the [illegible] labor statements and other returns connected with plantations and reserves, and have provided in the estimate for a [illegible] Clerk or Accountant at Rupees 20 to take him, which I hope will be permitted. Batta to the Jungle Conservancy Clerks when travelling with me also forms an item of the jungle conservancy office establishment charges in the estimate; it was omitted last year, and a slight difficulty was experienced in getting the batta allowances passed for payment from [illegible]. A large quantity of rough country paper for daily, weekly, and monthly statements, for muster roll books, and pay bills is consumed on the plantations. I have provided for this charge by entering Rupees 100 for office contingencies. In last year there were no [illegible] Contingency Fund, as these charges were defrayed from plantation allotments [illegible] from the Contingent Fund, for, owing to the late arrival of the sanction, the stationery charges [illegible] the first month in the detailed working bills.

[illegible] I beg to conclude this letter by stating the annual charges for upkeep of casuarina plantations in this District may be reckoned at Annas 2 per tree during the first year, Annas 1½ for the second year, Annas 1 for the third year and Pies 6 for the fourth year; after the fourth [illegible] regular conservancy [illegible] and to suggest that, when estimates are to be submitted for any new block of casuarina plantations, a certain lump sum be issued to me as available for expenditure on these over a given number of years, when a plan of cultivation and annual expenditure with cost will be framed with reference to the allotment, and I [illegible] reference to the condition of jungle [illegible] of operations this year. Consequent [illegible] all the [illegible] in the district be equally treated, that is, brought under conservancy [illegible] and certain other products duly levied, and [illegible] subjected to the control and scrutiny of the Forest Officer [illegible] that the annual receipts would exceed Rupees 12,000 instead of Rupees 6,000 [illegible] this money judiciously expended in re-foresting denuded tracts and in forming plantations on a large scale and not [illegible] as formerly was the case [illegible] the benefit that would [illegible] which ought to be a great preventative to [illegible] now carried on in the few jungle tracts left. The necessity of some [illegible] is apparent [illegible] jungle drawn on for fuel-supply, where not [illegible] but the stumps and roots also are entirely removed from the land. [illegible] I noticed this practice in most of the jungles that I visited.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 22nd June 1874, No. 308.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings of the [illegible] idem, No. 151, Forest No. 67, forwarding, for my remarks, a letter* from the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

2. In this letter Captain Walker makes proposals for—

(1.) The transfer of the Gingee Forests and jungles to Imperial Forest Conservancy.

(2.) The transfer of the Mallatar [illegible] plantations from Local to Imperial Conservancy.

* [illegible]

(3.) The retention of the Alathoor and Oratheor firewood reserves as village jungle conservancy works.

(4.) The merging of the Mudanai and Chinnasamudrum reserves in forests and the formation of a new forest reserve at Trinomallay.

(5.) The abandoning of the Perangulathoor reserve or its retention as an open unfenced reserve only.

(6.) The levying of firewood and charcoal seigniorage, and improving the manufacture of the latter.

3. In other words, these proposals virtually amount to a scheme for the transfer of all the new plantations which are being formed in the district, amounting to 4,713 acres, and of all those blocks of jungle, extending from Gingee to Gangavarum and in the neighbourhood of Chengumkuram as reserves, and comprising an area of 30,788 acres, to the charge of the Imperial Forest Department, at whose cost they will be maintained in future, and to whose credit all receipts from them will be carried, while the care and conservancy of all village jungles will be left to the district officers, aided, I presume, by advice from the Deputy Conservator, and all receipts from these jungles will be credited to the Village Conservancy Fund.

4. When submitting the Village Jungle Conservancy Budget for the current year, a few days before I received the Proceedings now under reply, I myself made very analogous proposals, as the Board will be prepared for my giving my general assent to the proposals of Captain Walker. I did at one time entertain the idea of recommending the classification of all the reserves, plantations, and village jungles in the district under the head of District Jungle Conservancy, quite irrespective of what was intended for local village consumption, or of what might be felled for the railway; or for the supply of distant towns; and, looking to the petty nature of the jungles comprising the reserves, and the scantiness of valuable timbers of any size in them, I thought, and still think, they are hardly worthy to be dignified with the name of forests, and this scheme appeared to possess these advantages, that it would be entirely local, and therefore easier to work, and that all the receipts would be laid out in increasing and conserving the fuel-supply of the district which under Captain Walker's scheme will hardly be the case when once the receipts become really large. On the other hand, the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund, as at present constituted, is reduced to such a state of impecuniosity that unless loans are advanced to it, either from the Surplus Funds of other districts or from Forest Funds, the plantation work now going on will come to a stand-still, and very heavy loss be thereby entailed on the district and the community at large.

5. It was these last considerations that induced me to suggest the transfer of all the plantations and reserves to Imperial Forest Conservancy as the best means of getting funds for preserving the former and conserving the latter. Before, however, giving my assent to such a transfer, I must point out that all the existing plantations have been created entirely out of Village Jungle Conservancy Funds, and that some of them, for instance, those in the Cuddalore Taluq, near Cuddalore itself, and extending along the sea-shore to Devanampatnam, are of some years' growth, and are productive, and that I am by no means prepared to assent to the transfer of these to forest conservancy, as they are likely to prove the most valuable source of income for the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund, and before the young plantations on the Mallatar, near [illegible], and elsewhere are transferred, as recommended by Captain Walker, to Imperial Forest Conservancy, the money expended on them from the date of their first formation up to the time of their transfer should, I consider, be refunded to the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund. I am the more desirous that the Cuddalore plantations should be kept distinctly under local management, and conserved from Village Jungle Conservancy Funds, because a portion of them, known as the jail plantation, and opposite to the jail, was transferred to my care by the Superintendent of the Jail not long ago, on the understanding that the jail should be supplied with firewood free of cost in consideration of the transfer and of the prohibition of the prisoners from cutting firewood in it. This plantation was planted some years ago by the then Superintendent of the Jail, and the prisoners used to go and lop the branches off the trees in a very unsightly and often wasteful

manner whenever they wanted firewood, while there was no attempt at conservancy or re-planting the spaces where trees had been felled or had fallen. The present arrangement promises to work well, and the transferred plantation already exhibits signs of Mr. Wooldridge's conservancy.

6. Subject, then, to the conditions that all the money hitherto expended on all the plantations in the district, except those near Cuddalore, be refunded to the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund, and that the Cuddalore plantations remain local, I am prepared to assent to Captain Walker's propositions—

(1.) That all the Gingee and Chengam reserves as well as all the existing casuarina plantations be transferred to Imperial Forest Conservancy.

(2.) That the Alashoor and Undloor firewood reserves be retained as village jungle conservancy works.

(3.) That a new forest reserve be formed at Trinomalay.

I am not prepared, however, to assent to the abandonment of the Parungalathoor reserve. I think it should be demarcated, in common with all the others, as a forest reserve, and kept as an unfenced reserve open for felling on passes and for cattle grazing.

7. The chief object, I consider, to be kept in view in disposing of the question of the transfer of these plantations and reserves, is the production and conservancy of fuel-supplies; and, as long as this [illegible] advanced, it matters little by what agency the end is attained, and I have, therefore, no hesitation whatever, subject to the conditions above detailed, in giving my hearty assent to the proposals of Captain Walker, because they seem to me to amount to little more than a transfer of account. I shall still be Conservator of Forests, and shall take exactly the same interest in the reserves and plantations as heretofore, while my relations with the Inspector and my Deputy will remain unchanged, and funds will be forthcoming where now there are none.

8. I now come to the most difficult portion of Captain Walker's letter, paragraph 13, in which he discusses the seigniorage question. He first of all asks that Government should distinctly say whether the privilege of taking firewood free is to be limited to the villagers of villages which have jungles adjoining them or not; he then points out the anomalous position of certain taluqs in this district in which no seigniorage is levied, the consequence being that Messrs. Parry and Co. get all their firewood for their sugar factories free of seigniorage, and denounces as wrong in principle the practice of allowing head-loads of fuel to pass free in most districts while cart-loads are taxed, and, finally, advocates departmental felling of wood for sale, while free felling should be allowed to be carried on only in tracts marked off for the purpose. With reference to charcoal he advocates a higher seigniorage than three times the wood-rate and the [illegible] the manufacture in certain places.

9. With regard to limiting the right to cut fuel free of all charge to the villagers of villages within whose limits jungles are situated, I consider that any such limitation is unnecessary, and that, except in village jungles that have been demarcated and notified as being under conservancy, all other village jungles should be free to all alike; but in any village jungle duly placed under conservancy, the same fees should be levied from all alike, whether the firewood be cut for use or for sale, and whether by head or bandy-loads, and it should be one of the main objects of the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund to supply money for conserving and re-planting these village jungles.

Secondly.—With regard to the anomalous position of some of the taluqs in this district in respect of exemption from payment of firewood seigniorage, I beg to enclose a précis of the correspondence that has passed on the subject since the first introduction of the jungle conservancy rules and the levy of seigniorage, from which the Board will see that Mr. Reade, in his letter of the 2nd April 1862, embodied in the Board's Proceedings of the 8th May 1862, No. [illegible], deprecated the universal introduction of the rates of seigniorage into the district, on the ground that jungles only existed in a few localities, and solicited permission to abolish the tax in those parts of the district where he considered its imposal as wholly inapplicable, and

forwarded a notification for the Board's approval restricting the operations of the jungle conservancy rules to the jungles of the Trinomaly taluq and to parts of Yellavanasore, Kullacoorchy, and Villapuram. The Board generally approved of Mr. Reade's proposals, but directed him to define and report the limits within which the conservancy rules were to be in force, and ordered that brushwood was not to be excluded from their operation when grown on tracts sufficiently extensive to render them of real importance as a means of supplying the public with fuel. Mr. Reade was also ordered to report what communication he had held with Messrs. Parry and Co. on the subject of their complaint, and in what way they will be affected by the levy of the seigniorage on fuel when the charge is restricted to the jungles that properly fall within the operation of the rules, and desired an early report on the other points referred to in their Proceedings of the 15th February 1862, when they proposed to pass final orders on the subject and decide whether Mr. Reade's mode of introducing the conservancy rules may require modification. This report does not appear to have been submitted by Mr. Reade, and apparently for this reason, that on the 9th April 1862, shortly before the Proceedings of the Board of the 8th May were received, he published his own draft notification in the District Gazette, and it has been in force ever since. In his letter, however, of the 22nd September 1870, No. 252, eight years afterwards, embodied in the Board's Proceedings of the 14th October 1870, No. 6,122, he states that, so far as sugar factories in this district are concerned, no complaints of excessive seigniorage had reached him, and that he had not thought it advisable to provoke discussion on the subject till the owners of the factories had made representations against the rates. He was thereupon directed by the Board to state the case for the reduction of seigniorage in his district fully, and in his letter of the 19th February 1871, No. 39, he replied and added that in his opinion no necessity existed for recommending that the sugar factories should be exceptionally treated. In this opinion I fully concur, and consider that Mr. Reade's argument for not extending the conservancy rules to all parts of the district is perhaps the best that could be advanced in favor of their universal extension, inasmuch as if there are no jungles in a taluq it can do no harm, having the jungle conservancy rules in force in it, and I now request permission to make the rules of general application by notifying that in all the taluqs fees on firewood cut for sale in Government jungles will be levied at the rate of Annas 6 per bandy-load of 1,000 lbs., Annas 1-4 per bullock or donkey-load, and Pies 3 per head load. With respect to Messrs. Parry and Co.'s complaint of 1862, I cannot see why factories worked by steam should have any more consideration shown to them than the railway in the matter of fuel; the former use stationary engines, the latter locomotives, and neither the one nor the other have any right to be treated on the same terms as the people. If Messrs. Parry and Co. only manufactured the produce of their own lands, then, of course, they would have the rights of Government ryots, and the fact of their using steam-power would be beside the question; but by far the greater part, if not all, of the cane used in their factories is not grown by them, and, though I do not wish to advocate charging them Rupee 1 per 1,000 lbs. of firewood like the railway, I do think that the present rates of seigniorage should be levied in all taluqs, and be thus indirectly imposed on the wood they burn.

Third.—The practice of allowing head-loads in most districts to pass free while cart-loads are taxed. I certainly think that, if the head-loads are for sale, they ought to pay the seigniorage, and that such was the intention of the Board when reducing the head-load rate of seigniorage [illegible] in proportion to the bandy-load and bullock-load (*vide* Board's Proceedings of the 16th April last, No. [illegible]).

Fourth.—Departmental felling.—I am disposed to agree with Captain Walker that departmental felling in reserves is advisable, for I consider by this means only will the best security against thefts and waste be secured, and that in all new plantations it will be indispensable. Indeed, with respect to those plantations which are coming into existence, the exclusive property in them vests so clearly in the Government, and the absence of all communal rights in respect of them is so obvious, that it is as well to consider whether the same rules with respect to free entry and felling ought to apply to them as to natural jungle reserves. Manifestly not, I consider;

but, unless the rights of Government are most carefully guarded while there is yet time, there will be nothing to prevent villagers in the neighbourhood of such plantations by degrees attempting to establish, and succeeding in establishing, a prescriptive right to the dead leaves, and eventually to go and cut as they please among the trees, subject to the payment of seigniorage. Now, therefore, is the time to give due notice of the limits of each of these plantations, of the rights in them which the Government reserve to themselves, and among others, those of forbidding [illegible] entry into, and felling in, them should most rigidly be guarded.

Fifth.—With respect to charcoal seigniorage, I think the rate of Rupees 1-8-0 sanctioned in Board's Proceedings of the 15th June 1870, No. 1,255, for the Trichinopoly District, is sufficiently high. This will be equal to five times the wood rate. The prescription of [illegible] places the manufacture of charcoal in the jungles seems advisable.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Papers of Correspondence.

From Captain G. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kodaikanal, 13th July 1874, No. 266.

REFERRING to Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 86, dated third June, I have the honor to point out that there is a discrepancy between Mr. Garstin's figures as given in paragraph 1 of his letter under date 20th May and those given by Mr. Wooldridge in his 2nd paragraph, besides a clerical or printer's error in the latter, by which the total sum required on account of *plantations* for the year 1874-75 is made to be Rupees 26,000 in round numbers, whereas it should apparently be Rupees 20,000, the actual estimate amounting to Rupees 18,236, viz.:—

	RS.
Upkeep, present allotment	1,380
" still required	7,806
Extension	6,396
Managing and office establishments	1,654
Total	18,236

I shall assume the figures last quoted to represent the actual amount of the estimate for the plantations for the year referred to, which I beg may not be mixed up, as in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of the Board's Proceedings under reference, as it tends to confuse and complicate calculations.

3. I am requested to report my opinion as to whether or not Mr. Wooldridge's estimate for upkeep of the existing plantations is excessive, but I have no accurate information as to their [illegible], and therefore, [illegible] in the cost per acre, on which the estimate is based.

4. I may as well mention here that these plantations have hitherto been opened out and maintained from Jungle Conservancy Funds, and have not apparently been considered to fall within the scope of the Forest Department's duties, and it is only since my recent tour in South Arcot that I have any knowledge of what was going on. My report on which is now under reference [illegible] Proceedings, Forest No. 62, dated 18th May 1874. I find from my notes made on the spot that there were roughly speaking [illegible] lakhs of trees in the plantations at Tirukalur, which, at [illegible] trees to the acre, would represent 443 acres, besides a [illegible]. Mr. Wooldridge then told me that his calculations [illegible] per acre per annum, but [illegible]. The present estimate appears to provide for Rupees 32 per acre [illegible], taking my estimate of the area planted to be correct, and excluding the extra charges for management, supervision, and interest.

5. If we consider [illegible] Mr. Sheffield's estimate, as given in paragraph 3 of his letter [illegible] Forest No. [illegible] May, it does appear excessive, but I cannot help thinking that the latter officer must have made some mistake (as he undoubtedly has in

calculating the cubical contents of the trees in paragraph 5), and shall, with the Board's approval, call for detailed accounts showing how the amount of Rupees 3-13-4 per acre for the first six years and Rupees 2 per acre subsequently, is arrived at. Mr. Sheffield has, it will be observed, only 300 trees to the acre in question whilst Mr. Wooldridge has 700, but this would not account for such a great discrepancy.

6. On receiving further information from Messrs. Sheffield and Wooldridge I shall be able to inform the Board how much I consider is sufficient for the upkeep of the South Arcot plantations, which, it will be seen from the above, I am not now in a position to do.

7. I beg, however, that sufficient funds may, meanwhile, be made available for their upkeep and extension, failing which the expense and labor already incurred will be wasted and the large quantity of seedlings ready in the nurseries for planting out this season sacrificed.

There is Rupees 1,000 available under this head, VI., in the Imperial Forest Budget which may at once be made use of if the Board approve of my proposal to class these extensive plantations for the future as Imperial works.

8. The present position points markedly to the necessity of some such step, and it cannot be too frequently and too strongly impressed on Collectors and Forest Officers that the provisions of the recent Circular, No. 34, which provide for estimates, etc., for any proposed planting operations, however small, being prepared and submitted for sanction before any work is undertaken, must in future be strictly adhered to. Had this been done in this instance, there would not now, in the month of July, be a question of funds available for the current official year, the fact being that the planting operations have been undertaken locally without sufficiently counting the cost.

9. Such a mode of conducting operations is, I venture to point out, not fair to the Forest Officers charged with the work, who should know exactly what funds will be available during the official year some months before its commencement, in order that they may carry them out in a satisfactory and economical manner.

10. I may add that there is at present a provision for Rupees 7,220 for the South Arcot "*Fuel Reserves*," viz., Rupees 5,000 from Local Conservancy Funds and Rupees 2,220 from Imperial under head VI. *a.*, and it will be seen from my reports already referred to that I agree with the Collector that the cost of both the plantations and reserves should, in future, be borne by the Imperial Forest Department, leaving the Jungle Conservancy Funds available for village topes, etc., as the Collector suggests.

THESE papers relate to jungle and forest conservancy in the district of South Arcot, and chiefly to the reserves and plantations.

2. In the Jungle Conservancy Budget of the current year there are said to be twelve reserves extending over 48,308 acres. The sum spent on them up to the close of last year was Rupees 6,653. They are open reserves, unenclosed, and accessible for grazing purposes, and the Inspector of Forests considers the results hitherto obtained satisfactory. He says: "the system of reserving portions of the jungle has been introduced and rendered familiar to the people; nearly a lac of young trees have been established in the bare spots, and wherever a plot has been temporarily closed for planting up the natural reproduction has been very encouraging."

3. In their Order of the 27th October 1873, No. 1,194, Government desire to be supplied with a copy of certain rules in which the South Arcot authorities proposed to define the rights of the people living in villages adjoining the reserves. These draft rules are recorded with Board's Proceedings, dated 16th March 1874, No. 593. They are to the effect that a belt of jungle is left round each reserve for the villagers; that the reserves will be open for grazing and for gathering dead wood, grass, and leaves; but that no wood is to be cut in them except on payment of seigniorage. They seem to be unobjectionable provided that the belt of jungle left round the reserves is sufficient. From the first, the local authorities have been on the alert to see that the rights of the people were duly considered in forming the reserves, and the Board have insisted

Board's Proceedings, 21st August 1869, No. 6,612.

that due attention should be paid to this matter. In the absence of complaint it may be presumed that the villagers are not dissatisfied.

4. The treatment of the reserves with reference to Imperial and Local Conservancy has been anomalous. For the most part they have been formed from Imperial Funds, but they are held to be local reserves. It was at first intended that they should be kept up only for local objects, but it was thought necessary to leave the demarcation, etc., of them to the professional department. At one time the Board decided that however they might be formed and maintained the receipts must go to the Jungle Conservancy Fund. More lately they ruled that, so long as a reserve is made and maintained out of Forest Funds, its proceeds must be credited to Forest Revenue, and directed that the reserves should be divided into two classes, namely, those intended to supply the wants of the villagers, and those intended for the supply of the Railway, of Pondicherry, of the Public Works Department, etc., and the expenditure shared between Jungle Conservancy and Forest Funds accordingly. This ruling resulted in determining that the expenditure should, for the present, be equally divided between Local and Imperial Conservancy, but the arrangement is obviously inconvenient, and the Collector and the Inspector of Forests are now agreed in proposing that all the reserves, except two (and Perangolatur, of which more will be said hereafter,) should be made forest reserves.

Board's Proceedings, 18th October 1869, No. 7,980.

Board's Proceedings, 28th October 1873, No. 2,2[illegible] (Forest No. 70).

Board's Proceedings, 13th January 1874, No. [illegible] (Forest No. 1).

5. Six of these reserves are known as the Gingee reserves. They contain about 16,000 acres. They are intended for the supply of the Railway and Pondicherry, and there is abundance of jungle outside them for the inhabitants of the locality. Under these circumstances, the Board do not think these reserves are proper objects for the Jungle Conservancy Fund.

1. Matukoda.
2. Kortampangalam.
3. Siruvady.
4. Padepolliam.
5. Punanoor. } Tindivanam.
6. Gangaveram ... Trinomaly.

6. The Alathoor and Orathoor reserves are solely meant to supply villagers, and they should remain under Jungle Conservancy.

7. Alathoor ... ... Villupuram.
8. Orathoor ... ... Villupuram.

7. The Mudalai and Chinnasamudram reserves seem to be, to all intents and purposes, forest reserves, and will probably be thrown into the Tenmalai Forest as proposed by the Inspector in the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th June 1874, No. 1,345. The Inspector proposes that the Perangolatur reserve should be abandoned or resumed merely as an open firewood reserve, but the Collector does not think it should be abandoned. It may be retained as a Jungle Conservancy Reserve.

9. Mudalai ...
10. Chinnasamudram ... } Trinomaly.
11. Perangolatur ...

8. The Inspector says nothing about the Amandavady Reserve. It has probably been abandoned under the circumstances detailed in the Deputy Conservator's letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 13th January 1874, No. 39 (Forest, No. 1).

12. Amandavady ... [illegible]

9. The new forest reserve, which the Inspector and Collector agree should be formed at the back of the Tenmalai Hill, seven miles out on the Chengam road, may be established.

10. The Board resolve to recommend Government to direct the transfer to the Forest Department of all the reserves in South Arcot except the Alathoor, Orathoor, and Perangolatur reserves. The [illegible] expenditure on these reserves has been as follows:—

	RS.
Reserves which the Board propose should be transferred to the Forest Department	6,483
Reserves which the Board propose should be retained under Jungle Conservancy	176
Total ...	6,659

7604

all of which has been paid out of Forest Funds. The date from which the transfer should be effected must be determined by financial considerations. No money is available during the current year from the Forest Budget in addition to the Rupees 2,200 provided in the revised Budget. Rupees 5,000 have been provided in the Jungle Conservancy Budget, but this is emergently wanted for plantations, as will be shown hereafter. The expenditure is estimated at Rupees 10,000, so that, if the Rupees 5,000 provided in the Jungle Conservancy Budget is diverted to plantations, Rupees 7,800 will be wanted. The Board do not see how this money [illegible] except by transferring the reserves to the Forest Department at once and asking the Government of India for an extraordinary grant, and they recommend that this should be done.

11. Next, as regards the plantations. The existing plantations cover 4,714 acres containing 219,752 casuarina trees and 36 miles of tank and channel banks planted with 24,094 trees. They have been formed and maintained entirely from the Jungle Conservancy Fund. The sum spent on them up to the end of 1873-74 as distinguished from that spent on other operations cannot be ascertained from the accounts, but it must have been more than Rupees 20,000. Though a useful project, carefully planned and satisfactorily executed, it was evidently undertaken without due consideration of the cost involved, and it has already outrun the capabilities of the Jungle Conservancy Fund. The Deputy Conservator estimates that Rupees 20,000 a year for four years must be spent in completing the plantations.

12. The Inspector urges that operations of such magnitude are not proper objects of the Jungle Conservancy Fund, and the Board agree with him, though when casuarina plantations are of the limited extent that is really needed for local supply, as seems to be the case with the plantations near Cuddalore, which will be referred to in the next paragraph, and the planting on tank and channel banks, Jungle Conservancy money may be usefully spent upon them.

13. The Collector agrees to the transfer provided the plantations near Cuddalore are retained under Jungle Conservancy and the sum hitherto expended on the plantations is returned to the Fund from the Forest Budget.

14. The Board agree with the Collector as to the Cuddalore plantations, and are further of opinion that the minor planting on tank and channel banks should remain under Jungle Conservancy; but they do not agree with him as to the refund. They doubt if the demand should be made, and they are sure it would be refused. The Board accordingly resolve to request Government to transfer the South Arcot plantations, with the exception of those near Cuddalore and those on tank and channel banks, to Forests. The expenditure for this year was estimated at Rupees 27,522. From the figures given by the Deputy Conservator in the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd June 1874, No. 1,558 (Forest, No. 85), though there is some confusion in them as pointed out by the Inspector, the Board gather that this estimate may be reduced to Rupees 18,[illegible]36, or, say, Rupees 18,300, which may be distributed as shown in the margin. Towards this the Board have only been able to provide Rupees 1,830 in the Jungle Conservancy Budget; but, if the Rupees 5,000 provided for reserves is set free as suggested above, there will be sufficient funds for the first and second items as well as the reserves which are to be retained under Jungle Conservancy.

	RS.
1. Cuddalore plantations..........................	3,990
2. Tank and channel bank plantations........	1,560
3. Plantations to be transferred	12,750
Total ...	18,300

15. It seems absolutely necessary, unless the results of a large expenditure of labor and money are to be altogether [illegible] the reserves named in the margin and the plantations, with the exception of those near Cuddalore and on tank and channel banks, should be transferred to Forests as soon as possible, and that the Madras Government should apply to the Govern-

Matukoda.
Kortampangalam.
Siruvady.
Padepolliam.
Punanoor.
Gangaveram.
Mudalai.
Chinnasamudram.

* For reserves		10,590
„ plantations		13,350
		23,940
Already provided in the Forest Budget—		
Reserves	3,410	
Plantations	1,000	
		4,410
		19,530

ment of India for an extra grant of Rs. 19,530* under section 22 of the Resolution of the Government of India, "Forest No. 1-89, dated 15th January 1874." It might be represented that the reserves and plantations are extensive and valuable and will eventually be worked at a great profit; that the plantations have been formed, however inconsiderately, without [illegible] to the State; that neither the reserves nor the plantation can be supported by the Local Fund which brought them into existence any longer, and must perish unless they are transferred to Forests with a grant for their maintenance; and that the revision of the Forest Budget in consequence of the Order of the Government of India, dated 10th March 1874, reducing the forest assignment by Rupees 20,000, has left no margin from which the money can be obtained without putting a fatal stop to operations elsewhere.

16. In the meantime the Board resolve to request Government to authorize a loan of Rupees 5,000 from the Jungle Conservancy Fund of Nellore (estimated balance Rupees 40,850), and of the same amount from Salem (estimated balance Rupees 32,730), to be repaid when the extra Forest grant is sanctioned.

17. Lastly, the Board will notice certain miscellaneous topics brought to notice in the Inspector's letter of the 11th April, No. 10, and the Collector's letter of the 22nd June, No. 303.

18. The extraordinary state of affairs which prevails in South Arcot under which part of the district is, and part is not, under Jungle Conservancy, and villagers in one taluq pay seigniorage on firewood whilst manufacturers in another taluq do not, must cease. The Jungle Conservancy Rules must be enforced throughout the district, and seigniorage must be collected on all wood not cut for domestic use, etc., by ryots, or for ryots manufacturing the produce of their own lands.

19. The Inspector appears to think that villagers entitled to fell free of seigniorage should do so without let or hindrance in tracts marked off for the purpose, but there must be some supervision, as otherwise tracts which would be sufficient for unborn generations of villagers will be denuded or the wood carried away for sale in Pondicherry or elsewhere. Moreover, there are very few localities in which the jungle is so thick that villagers can be allowed to fell as much as they choose without charge. Some restrictions like those in the Madura rules, circulated with Board's Proceedings, dated 21st October 1874, No. 2,161, must generally be enforced. The Collector is of opinion that in village jungles under Conservancy the same fees should be charged whether wood is cut for use or sale; but this is contrary to an established principle adopted by Government. Ryots are entitled in certain cases to cut wood free, though this free felling need not be allowed in reserves when a sufficient amount of jungle is left outside.

20. The question as to the rights of villagers having no jungle within their village limits to jungles outside of those limits is one of those submitted to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 13th April 1874, No. 889 (Forest No. 24).

21. With regard to head-loads the Board think the Inspector must be wrong in thinking that the custom of these districts is to let them go free in cases in which cart-loads would have to pay seigniorage. In all places where Jungle Conservancy prevails a proportional seigniorage has been levied on them from the first. The Conservator did not prescribe a seigniorage on head-loads [illegible] he became aware that a regular trade was springing up in head-loads and bullock-loads in [illegible] of cart-loads and the detriment of the revenue; but he did so then.

G.O., 2?th June 1870, No. [illegible]

22. Jungles should be worked departmentally whenever it is practicable to do so, and they can be worked in this way at a profit.

23. Plantations should be absolutely reserved from the first as the Collector proposes so that no rights to any part of their produce can arise.

1604

24. The seigniorage on charcoal was fixed at Rupees 1-8-0 a cart-load in Trichinopoly when the seigniorage on fuel was Rupee 1, but the Board will not object to its being Rupees 1-8-0 in South Arcot now that the fuel tax is Annas 6, as both the Inspector and the Collector think this necessary. The places at which charcoal may be burnt should be prescribed and the burning should be supervised by Government officials so far as possible, but any sudden stoppage of the present system in favor of improved methods or Government manufacture would cause great hardship.

G.O., 30th May 1870, No. 755.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

No. 261. ORDER THEREON, 21st December 1874, No. 1,604.

Forests, No. 21.

THE transfer of the Fuel Reserves and Plantations in South Arcot to the Forest Department is sanctioned as recommended by the Board, but the Government do not wish it to have effect, if possible, until the commencement of the next official year.

2. In the meantime the expenditure must be reduced to the lowest possible amount. All the proposed surveying, demarcation, fencing and roadwork in the Reserves must be abandoned, and no extension of the Plantations be undertaken except so far as may be necessary to prevent loss of seedlings, etc.

3. The estimated cost of the up-keep also of the Plantation must be rigidly scrutinized, and a fresh estimate be prepared, based on the expenditure of former years and reduced to the lowest possible figure.

4. The Government are at present averse to any extension of these Fuel Reserves or Plantations, and in framing estimates for a grant additional to the Imperial Forest Budget for 1875-76 the principles of economy and restricted expenditure laid down above should be borne in mind and strictly adhered to.

See paragraph 22, Resolution of Government of India, No. 1/89, dated 15th January 1874.

5. A careful estimate of the present and prospective value of the Casuarina Plantation should also be furnished.

6. In the matter of the proposed enhanced seigniorage on charcoal, a separate report should be made, and it should be stated whether any special reasons exist for such a course being adopted exceptionally in this district.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

22/12/15

8/1604

FOREST No. 28.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th March 1874, No. 598.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 18th February 1874, No. 80 :—

In accordance with the wishes of Government, as contained in paragraph 8 of Government Order of the 27th October last, Revenue Department, received with Board's Proceedings of the 28th November 1873, requesting to be furnished with a copy of the rules proposed to be issued in connection with the fuel-reserves in the Tindivanum and Trinomallay Taluqs of this district, in which the rights of the villagers adjoining the reserves are defined, I have the honour to enclose the notice proposed to be issued, in which the said rules and rights are embodied and set forth.

2. With regard to the questions of the desirability of the forest officer's head-quarters being fixed at Tindivanum and of the establishment of fuel-reserves at Gangaverum and Mullatar, as suggested by Mr. Wooldridge, so long as the forest officer's work was confined to the north-western part of the district, it might have been desirable to place his head-quarters at Tindivanum, but as most of his attention now, and for some time to come will be, turned to planting Casuarinas along the coast near the line proposed to be followed by the railway, that place is no longer so good as Cuddalore; and when all those plantations are fairly started, I do not think Tindivanum will be so central a station as Villapuram. Steps will shortly be taken to form Gangaveram and Gingee into a separate group of reserves under another forester or Jungle Conservancy Manager distinct from the Trinomallay reserves. At the Mullatar a large extent of ground has already been planted out with Casuarinas.

Enclosure No. 1.

NOTICE.

Whereas it has been found necessary, owing to the reckless and rapid clearing away of jungle in the Trinomallay and Tindivanum Taluqs, and in other parts, to take measures for checking the said waste and preventing the serious inconvenience to the public arising from a scarcity of fuel, it is hereby notified, for general information, that certain tracts of jungle in the said taluqs have been demarcated and formed into Reserves, which will hereafter be known and designated as follows :—

In the Trinomallay Taluq.

(1.) The Mudanai Reserve, near Chengam.
(2.) The Chinna Samudram Reserve, near Chengam.
(3.) The Forangolatur Reserve.

In the Tindivanum Taluq.

(4.) The Alathoor Reserve, east of the cusbah.

(5 to 9.) The 5 Gingee Reserves
- 1. Matukadu.
- 2. Kottamungalam.
- 3. Siruvadi.
- 4. Padepolliem.
- 5. Pariamoor.

In the Villupuram Taluq.

(10.) The Gangavaraiz Reserve, near Vettavalam.

(11.) The Orathoor Reserve, 4 miles from the cusbah.

Within the said Reserves the following rules will be observed :—

Rule 1.—The boundaries of the Reserves must always be distinctly visible, and will consist of broad tracks cut through the jungle round the Reserves. On the edges and at the corners of these tracks heaps of stones or boundary-pillars will be placed.

Rule 2.—A broad belt of jungle will be left outside the boundaries of each reserve, sufficient to supply firewood and timber for agricultural purposes and house-building for the villagers of the neighbouring villages.

Rule 3.—The Reserves will be always open to the said villagers for the purposes of gathering head-loads of deadwood, leaves, grass for thatching, and thorns for fencing, free of all charge, but no bandies are to be taken within the limits of any Reserve, nor any wood cut in them without the permission of the officer in charge.

Rule 4.—Cattle and sheep may graze in the Reserves the whole year round, except in those portions which are fenced off for planting purposes. These portions are never to exceed altogether more than ⅓rd of the whole area of the Reserve. No goats are to be allowed to enter any part of any reserve, except at Gingee, where, until further orders, they may graze on the outer portions of the Reserves but not in the interiors.

Rule 5.—Cattle and sheep entering Reserves to graze must be driven in and out at the particular spots marked out for the purpose.

Rule 6.—Herdsmen may not carry bill-hooks into the Reserves, but may take grass knives; but they are on no account to cut or break down boughs or branches to feed their herds on.

Rule 7.—Timber and bamboos may only be cut, and charcoal burnt within the limits of a Reserve with the permission of the officer in charge and on payment of the authorised seigniorage.

Rule 8.—Any person committing a breach of any of the above rules will be liable to be punished under the Indian Penal Code for trespass, mischief, or theft, as the case may be, and all cattle or other animals straying within the limits of any portion of a Reserve fenced off for plantations will be liable to be seized and impounded.

Rule 9.—The following rates of seigniorage are to be paid by persons obtaining permission from the officer in charge of a Reserve to cut cart-loads of building-timber, bamboos, or wood for fuel, or to make charcoal, within its limits :—

	RS.	A.	P.
For every bandy-load of timber (squared)	2	0	0
Do. do. do. (rough)	1	0	0
Do. do. bamboos (split or worked up)	1	4	0
Do. do. do. (rough)	0	12	0
For every bandy-load of wood for fuel	0	6	0
Do. do. do. charcoal	1	2	0

Rule 10.—From time to time as the Reserves become again well wooded and densely planted, they will be thrown open in part and be treated as unreserved jungle under the Jungle Conservancy Rules.

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

9/1604

REFERRED for the remarks of the Inspector of Forests.
(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Inspector of Forests.

Copy to the Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1874.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH MARCH 1874, No. 393.

Read.

Received [illegible]

MARCH.

Forest No. 28.

Fuel Reserves.—In Tindivanum and Trinomallay Taluqs of South Arcot District.—Letter from Collector forwarding copy of Rules proposed to be issued in connection with— in which rights of villagers adjoining the Reserves are defined, and stating his opinion regarding establishment of Reserves at Gingavaram and Mullaiar, and fixing of forest officer's head quarters at Tindivanum, referred to Inspector of Forests for remarks.

[illegible] December 1874 No 1604

10/1604

FOREST No. 67.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th May 1874, No. 1,154.

Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 11th April 1874, No. 10:—

I HAVE the honour, with reference to Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 28, dated 16th March, and previous Proceedings with regard to reserves, plantations, etc., in South Arcot, to report that I have just concluded an inspection tour in that district, the usual report of which is before Government, and am desirous of bringing several points to the notice of the Board and Government for orders, pending which the rules, etc., proposed by Mr Garstin, which appear generally good, should, I think, lie over.

2. I would first beg the Board's attention to the subject of the Gingee jungles first fully inspected and reported on by myself in 1868 and 1869 (*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 6,512, dated 31st August 1869). The arrangements then made have not been carried out as intended owing to change of officers and other causes which have resulted in the orders then passed being lost sight of or deviated from. The main points of divergence are:—

(*a*.) The conservancy of the whole mass or area of jungle roughly estimated at 100 square miles has never been handed over to the charge of the Special Department, and whilst all the expenditure on the reserves, amounting to some Rupees 4,000 up to the end of 1873, has been Imperial (an advance made from Local Funds by Mr. Reade having been repaid), the receipts, with the exception of a small amount for dead wood collected in the reserves during the current official year, have all gone to Local Jungle Conservancy.

(*b*.) The limits of the reserves have been extended, but they have not been enclosed nor grazing prevented; I now class them as *open* in distinction to *close* reserves.

(*c*.) The tracts for supply on seigniorage and free passes have never been laid off, and, so far as I could ascertain, parties now fell any where they like, except in the reserves.

3. (*a*.) On the first point I would remark that when reserve operations of this sort are undertaken on a large scale, it is generally advisable to hand over the whole tract to the charge of the Department, and hold it responsible for its proper conservancy and working to the best advantage. In the present instance, were the reserves opened for felling to-morrow, there would be great confusion and evasion of payment, owing to part of the forest or jungle being classed as *Local*, and part as *Imperial*. The people in the neighbourhood are, of course, entitled to their firewood, timber for agricultural purposes, etc., free, but the main demand is for removal to Tindevanum, Pondicherry, etc., and the supply cannot therefore be classed as local, especially as our measures have mainly in view the future supply of the Railway.

(*b*.) Before visiting these jungles, I was inclined to think that no good results could ensue from the formation of *open* reserves; but I am now inclined to change, or at least modify my opinion, and consider that the extension of the limits and the retention of the present area as open reserves should be maintained, the several reserves being demarcated and surveyed, and the boundaries clearly marked by the erection of boundary posts or pillars.

(*c*.) It is most desirable that the tracts outside of the reserves *for supply* (*i.e.*, where parties may fell on seigniorage or free pass) should be marked off, and felling restricted to these portions of the jungle. It is only by such measures that any control can be exercised. In the selection of the supply blocks, every endeavour should be made to suit the convenience of those resorting to the jungles for wood, but they should be compelled to cut only within the limits assigned, which should be marked off from time to time, notified, and the boundaries shown by temporary posts.

In the case of the tracts for free felling, it is hoped that, if carefully selected with regard to the requirements of the neighbouring villages, these may eventually become the real village communal jungles in which the people would fell free and without any pass, each village or group of villages having its own portion.

In supply tracts for felling on seigniorage, it should be the business of the Department to regulate the felling so as to preserve the better descriptions of trees, and whenever a tract becomes exhausted, the Forest Officer should consider whether it should be thrown up entirely and made available for cultivation, or "reserved" for a period of years to admit of reproduction, a corresponding area being, in either case, laid off for supply either from the open jungles so long as they last, or from the reserved area. When we begin to fell in the latter, it will probably be found preferable to do it departmentally, or by means of one or two contractors, and not issue licenses to all applicants.

4. As I have stated in my inspection report, I am not dissatisfied with the results already obtained. The system of reserving portions of the jungle has been introduced and rendered familiar to the people; nearly a lakh of young trees have been established in the bare spots; and, wherever a plot has been temporarily enclosed for planting on, the natural reproduction has been very encouraging. The expense has, it is true, been considerable in comparison with results, but this is mainly due to the fact that operations have been spread over a number of years, and that funds were often not forthcoming when most required. I am not aware what the receipts from the open portions into the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund may have been since 1869, when I pointed out that they did not amount to anything like the sum which ought to be derived as seigniorage on the consumption of Pondicherry alone. As the felling has not been regulated, nor the removal checked, I fear it may not have augmented as it ought.

5. I have read all the recent Proceedings and Government Orders on the subject of these jungles and remain of my original opinion as expressed in paragraph 25 of my report (recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 6,612, of 31st August 1869), that the management of the whole block should be made an Imperial undertaking, and all expenditure and revenue provided for and estimated in our Imperial Budgets.

The consumption of these reserves in the supply of the Railway and of Pondicherry and Tindevanum, suburbs of which towns are so near as to render the term "local supply" applicable to their wants. The fact is the local supply is taken free under the rules, and the present revenue is derived from the trade in firewood for the supply of Pondicherry, etc. The Railway will, of course, greatly increase that demand, and considerable operations must be undertaken for several years to come at considerable cost. I cannot consider that such operations should be local, or the expenditure be met from Local Funds, and beg therefore to recommend that the whole block of Gingee jungle be placed under Imperial Conservancy.

This would include the six reserves, with an estimated area of some 13,000 acres, viz.—

1. Mutakadu ...	In the Tindevanum Taluq.
2. Kottamangalam ...	
3. Ennavadi ...	
4. Patepolliem ...	
5. Peranoor ...	
6. Oangavaram ...	In the Villapuram Taluq.

and would obviate the necessity of any division of allotments, etc., as sanctioned in Board's Proceedings No. 1, Forest, dated 15th January. To provide for the expenditure of the current official year, it might be necessary to take the Rupees 5,000 from the Jungle Conservancy Funds as a loan, to be repaid out of Imperial allotments for 1875-76. It may not be out of place here to point out that the Rupees 11,400, shown in paragraph 2 of the Board's Proceedings just referred to as the estimated expenditure on all the South Arcot reserves for 1873-74, was never sanctioned, and has not therefore been expended; and that the Rupees 10,000 now proposed is *in lieu* of that sum, and not an additional charge. I have mentioned this in my inspection report.

The *Alivanur* and Oratthoor reserves in the Tindevanum and Villapuram Taluqs classed separately for "village supply" by Mr. Wooldridge should, I think, remain under Village Jungle Conservancy. Chinnasamudram, the other "*village jungle*" in the Trinomalay Taluq will be referred to further on.

7. I now proceed to the subject of the Multar Casuarina plantations. These were also proposed by me in 1869, and I was extremely glad to find that they had at last been undertaken on a large scale.

Some 3,000 acres have been handed over for planting in the Multar and at Pooniar Anicut, etc., (of which about 280 have been planted), whilst there are some 1,600 acres more in the Cuddalore and Tindivanum Taluqs. These contain altogether about 3⅓th lakhs of trees, and Mr. Wooldridge proposes to plant 1⅓rd lakhs during the current year. The expenditure on these plantations was about Rupees 5,000 in 1872-73, Rupees 10,000 in 1873-74 up to end of December 1873, and the proposed expenditure for 1874-75 is Rupees 24,600, excluding the estimate for planting channels and tanks, and the charge for executive and office establishment, mainly employed on plantations, amounting to some Rupees 2,[illegible]. All this is being carried out by Mr. Wooldridge as Local Fund works and at jungle conservancy expense. I cannot consider that such extended operations fall legitimately within the sphere of village jungle conservancy, or that the Local Funds should be burdened with such expenditure.

The Board and Government have repeatedly laid down that the legitimate scope of jungle conservancy was to conserve and improve tracts of jungle and scrub for the use of the people, for which there is ample field in South Arcot; and in their Proceedings No. 690, dated 1st May 1873, the Board point out to the Collector of South Canara that the formation and upkeep of a teak plantation, which had cost Rupees 600, was altogether beyond the sphere of the local conservancy. I cannot therefore believe that it is the intention or wish of the Board or Government that such extensive planting operations, undertaken mainly with the object of the future supply of the Railway, should be classed as *Local*, and beg to recommend their transfer to Imperial, the sums already expended being, if necessary, refunded to the Jungle Conservancy Funds, and the whole forming an item of "extraordinary expenditure," under which class we shall have no difficulty in obtaining the sanction of the Supreme Government if full explanation is submitted with an estimate as required by the recent Resolution of the Supreme Government (Board's Proceedings, No. 509, dated 5th March 1874.)

8. Before closing the subject, I may refer the Board to their Proceedings, No. 7,920, dated 25th October 1869, the dictum in which as to revenue is modified in paragraph 3 of Proceedings No. 70, Forest, dated 28th October 1873. There can be no doubt that the rule laid down in the latter is correct.

The laying out of these plantations was originally entrusted to the special department with whom the duty naturally lay, and it has evidently only been carried out at local expense as the funds have not been available from Imperial sources, owing to want of proper explanation and representation. As the Collector has, I am glad to say, placed all forest and jungle matters under charge of the Forest Assistant, there is no clashing of interests, and the work has, so far, been carried out in the same manner as if it were Imperial, except that we have not had the same information with regard to its progress and the expenditure incurred. All that appears now necessary is to decide what is to remain Local and what is to be Imperial, in order to free the Local Funds from a charge which, as the Board remark—paragraph 4 of Proceedings of 28th October 1873—"putting aside other considerations it is not rich enough to bear." Any detached plantations or topes should, of course, remain under Village Jungle Conservancy, and Mr. Wooldridge will, I feel sure, have no difficulty in finding an ample field for the expenditure of the funds thus set free on operations within the legitimate sphere of the Village Jungle Conservancy.

9. I shall next deal with the question of Fuel Reserves formed in the Chengum Division of the Trinomalay Taluq, to which portion of the district the operations of the Department were for a time restricted. I am submitting separate proposals, having for their object the working of the Jevadi hill Forests, so far as the slopes in the South Arcot side are concerned, from South Arcot, and constituting the *Trinomalay Forest Reserve* under the supervision of the South Arcot Forest Officer and establishments.

9. The Madanai and Chinnasamudram reserves lie at the foot of the Tenmalay, and more westerly slopes of the Javadis respectively; and if my proposals are approved of, I would throw them into the open Forest reserves. Their boundaries would, in fact, mark the line at which it is desirable that cultivation should stop, whilst grazing of cattle would be permitted under certain restrictions, but goats and fire excluded. Any further expense for enclosing, beyond demarcation and erection of boundary pillars, would thus be avoided, and the regular Forest establishment, to be shortly revised and reorganized, would suffice for their supervision and conservancy.

Peringolatur, the other reserve in the Chengum Division, should, I think, be [illegible] retained merely as an open firewood reserve in which the better classes of trees should be carefully conserved, and natural reproduction aided by the periodical closing of portions for some years, the expenditure being kept as low as possible. I would further form a new Forest reserve near Trinomalay at the back of the hill, about three miles out on the Chengum road; felling has already been stopped here by Mr. Wooldridge, who informs me that the block contains a good many vengay and other reserved timber trees. I have alluded to this in my proposals with regard to the Hill Forests of the taluq.

10. The Chinnasamudram reserve has been partially demarcated and fenced at an expense of Rupees 661-3-5 paid from Local Funds, whilst the maintenance of the three reserves, since the commencement up to 31st December 1879, amounting to a little over Rupees 1,600, has been an Imperial charge. This latter sum includes pay of watchers and planting out some 20,000 seedlings in bare spots. The distribution of this expenditure has been in accordance with the plan agreed upon by myself and Mr. Reade in January 1880 (vide Enclosures 1 and 2 to Mr. Reade's letter of 29th May—Board's Proceedings, No. 1,512), but is anomalous, for here all Forest Revenue is Imperial, whilst at Gingee, where all expenditure has hitherto been Imperial, all Revenue has been local.

11. The Board will please observe that my wish is to simplify and systematize operations, and that, I feel, it would certainly be better eventually [illegible] going on in two adjacent reserves, the proceeds from one going to Imperial and the other to Local Funds. Local (village jungle conservancy) Funds should, in my opinion, be mainly raised by a seigniorage on junglewood, firewood, charcoal, etc., taken from scrub jungles into the neighbouring towns for sale, and the proceeds be mainly devoted to the conservancy and improvement of jungles, and, when necessary, the formation of small firewood plantations to augment the supply; whilst Imperial Forest Revenue, besides being derived from actual timber operations in the Forests, should be realized by the sale of firewood, etc., from reserved and supply tracts to Railways, Public Works, Mills, etc., either by direct departmental agency or contractors. If I feel I am right in this view, and [illegible] it will be easy to determine from time to time, in consultation with the Collector, what is Local and what Imperial, and arrange so that there should be no clash in the supply by which the interests of both would suffer.

12. This brings me to the consideration of the often mooted question of the legitimate revenue, whether Imperial or Local, to be derived from seigniorage on firewood and charcoal.

This is one of the most important points connected with forest administration and conservancy in South Arcot. Apart from the question as to whether villages are to be allowed firewood free if they have jungle within their own limits, which must be definitely settled one way or the other, there are several points requiring consideration and orders before the matter can be said to be fairly settled.

Government have recently reduced the rate of seigniorage to 6 Annas per bandy-load, and authorize the cutting of firewood free by villagers for the manufacture of the produce of their own lands (G. O., No. 1,254, dated 14th October 1879), but I fear there is still much confusion and diversity of action in the matter. I am quite in accord with the Collector, the Honourable D. Arbuthnot (I think), who says that those entitled to firewood, etc., by immemorial custom and usage should, so far as possible, get it quite free, and with the least possible check as to quantity, passes, etc. "No mere reduction of the seigniorage is sufficient;" but the difficulty is to introduce any rules or system which will properly carry this out without abuse. Here, in South Arcot, we have the anomaly of inhabitants of Trinomalay, a jungle taluq, paying more for their firewood than those of Villapuram and Trikovalur, where there is supposed to be no jungle at all, and extensive sugar factories such as those of Messrs. Parry and Co. obtaining firewood free of seigniorage, whilst the ordinary consumer, European or Native, at Tindevanum or Trinomalay, pays it as before. As regards wood cut for sugar factories no one, I think, would deny the right of the ryot cultivating sugar-cane to take firewood from the neighbouring jungle to manufacture his own crop, but the usual procedure is that he takes it to some merchant or manufacturer who prepares for him, on the condition that they, the producer and manufacturer, divide the proceeds. It thus becomes a trade apart from the growing of the cane altogether, and I do not imagine that the ryot gets more whether he brings firewood free or not.

Mr. Wooldridge tells me that it takes ten bandy-loads of firewood for each cawnie of sugar-cane, and that there are 1,200 cawnies under that crop in the Kallacurchy Taluq alone. If we add to this the area under cane in Trinomaly and Trikovalur Taluqs, it will be seen that 30,000 bandy-loads, representing 3,000 cawnies, is a very moderate estimate. A great portion of this is consumed by Messrs. Parry and Co.'s large factories at Trivanallore and elsewhere; and as Trivanallore is in the Trikovalur Taluq, it is presumed that no seigniorage is paid at all, the result being that they obtain firewood at Rupees 1-6-0 per bandy-load including carriage for some 10 to 15 miles, whilst the inhabitant of Cusbah Trinomaly is, or was, paying Rupees 2 per bandy-load cut at his door.

I do not think that we can afford to sacrifice the considerable revenue to be derived from those manufacturing concerns, whether Native or European, which we require to conserve the jungles in the neighbourhood. I think the Collector and Deputy Conservator should draw up a list of those who should pay, and either levy a seigniorage per cart, or fix a lump annual sum according to consumption, for the privilege of taking firewood from Government jungles, leaving, of course, the producer who manufactures his own crop untouched. The details of this proposal could be worked out in the district if the principle is sanctioned, in which case it should be applied throughout the Presidency.

Again, there is the question of head-loads; it has been the custom in most districts to allow all head-loads to go free, and make all bandy-loads pay (unless covered with a free pass), the argument being that to tax the head-loads would be to deprive a poor class of a means of livelihood. The principle is, I think, wrong; the seigniorage would really fall on the consumer, not on the cutter and carrier; and the result is simply that numbers of people who are not entitled to free firewood, get it on head-loads, and so escape the seigniorage. I am not advocating an oppressive levy of seigniorage on either, and believe we should be most liberal with regard to the ordinary household consumption, which is after all comparatively limited, and chiefly supplied from dried branches, twigs, etc., and make our revenue from the consumption for trade and profit; but the same rules should, I think, apply to both bandy and head-loads. The broad principle regarding all villages having firewood within their village limits taking it free having been laid down, and the question as regards those who have none having been definitely settled by Government, we must adopt some system by which those entitled to fell free should do so without let or hindrance in areas marked off for the purpose, whilst felling for sale must be brought more into the hands of the Department either by employing the cutters directly or through contractors. So long as we trust to realizing payment of seigniorage and merely try to check the quantities removed at Tannah stations, there can be no real conservancy of [illegible]. It is easy to check two or three men, but impossible to check hundreds, and it was this which led to the introduction of the so-called contract system for the supply of firewood for sale, which I still believe, under proper restrictions, and, with proper supervision, might be worked to advantage, with modifications as found necessary from time to time. I think it is by the adoption of some course such as I have now sketched out that we shall arrive at a final solution of the firewood question.

As regards charcoal, I am convinced that it takes much more than three cart-loads of firewood to make a ton of charcoal under the present wasteful mode of preparation, by which great damage is done, and fires often kindled in the jungle, and I would suggest that the seigniorage be raised, and that wherever its preparation takes place in the forest or jungle, certain places be prescribed in which alone it should be burnt, and an improved manner of manufacture [illegible] be drawn up by Mr. Ross from his experience [illegible] made obligatory. [illegible] this respect was made in Salem many years ago, but I do not know if it has been kept up. We should probably at first have to manufacture some ourselves, and teach the people how to do it, but this is not impossible; the main object to be kept in view is not the increased revenue or seigniorage, but economy in manufacture and the production of a better article.

23. I now beg to sum up this long report which contains proposals for—

(1.) The transfer of the Gingee forests and jungles to Imperial Forest Conservancy.

(2.) The transfer of the Mullai, etc., plantations from Local to Imperial Conservancy.

(3.) The retention of the Alathur and [illegible] firewood reserves as Village Jungle Conservancy works.

(4.) The merging of the Mullai and [illegible] reserves in forests, and the formation of a new forest reserve at [illegible].

(5.) The abandoning the [illegible] reserve, or its retention as an open unreserved reserve only.

(6.) Proposals as to the levying of firewood and charcoal seigniorage, and improving the manufacture of the latter.

REFERRED to the Collector of South Arcot for his remarks.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Collector of South Arcot.
Copy to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

1874.
Board of Revenue.
MADRAS.
PROCEEDINGS, 18th May 1874, No. 1,154.

FOREST No. 150.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st September 1874, No. 2,470.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 16th March 1874, No. 598, (Forest No. 28).
" " " " 18th May " " 1,154, (" " 67).

Read also the following letters :—

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 25th May 1874, No. 254.

In continuation of my letter of the 7th instant, No. 217, I have the honor to submit, herewith, the Jungle Conservancy Budget for the current year as prepared by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, together with an abstract prepared in this office, showing, at a glance, the nature and extent of that officer's proposals and requirements, and a copy of his covering letter.*

* Dated 16th May 1874, No. 311.

2. Mr. Wooldridge asks in the budget for a gross allotment of Rupees 38,236 for plantations and reserves and the cost of the establishments necessary to supervise them. Of this sum Rupees 5,000 is to be paid out of Imperial Forest Funds as payment for half the cost of the maintenance and supervision of the Gingee Fuel Reserves, the other half being contributed by Jungle Conservancy Funds (vide the Board's Proceedings of the 13th January 1874, No. 40,) and in the original Jungle Conservancy Budget submitted by me with my letter of the 2nd March last, No. 106, Rupees 5,000 is entered accordingly as a charge against those funds in addition to which an allotment of Rupees 1,880 is made for the upkeep of plantations, of which a sum of Rupees 852 has been subsequently transferred to the village tope allotment, leaving Rupees 1,534 as the allotment for upkeep of plantations, so that the net allotment now budgeted for is Rs. 20,702 as detailed below :—

		RS.
Cost of working expenses, supervision, and range office establishments necessary for eighteen plantations containing an area of 1710·54 acres		27,522
Cost of working expenses, demarcation, supervision, and range office establishments necessary for twelve reserves containing an area of 18,268 acres		10,714
		38,236
Deduct—Imperial grant	5,000	
And Local Jungle Conservancy grant	6,534	
		11,534
		20,702

3. The first remark I feel called on to make in submitting this budget is that, in my opinion, it is altogether a mistake to classify works of the extensive nature and of the imperial interest of the above under the title of Jungle Conservancy Works. They are, I consider, all Imperial in their character, are supervised by an Imperial Forest Officer, and should be classified as "Forests" and maintained out of Imperial Forest Funds, and to expect the Village Jungle Conservancy [illegible] to pay for half the upkeep of some thousands of acres of hill jungle is to expect an impossibility. The current year opened with an actual deficit of the Village Jungle Conservancy Funds. The estimated receipts during the year were considered to amount to Rupees [illegible], and out of this amount, which [illegible] existence, the whole of the numerous village topes throughout the district have to be supported, and under the Board's orders Rupees 5,000 to be allotted for half the cost of the upkeep of the Gingee reserves, besides which the Deputy Conservator [illegible] to keep alive the [illegible] Mullai and other valuable plantations. On the other hand, the Divisional Officers asked for Rupees 10,421 for the upkeep of village topes alone. [illegible] obliged to cut down the divisional budgets to Rs. 1,534 and [illegible] Rupees 6,534 for the Gingee reserves and Mullai plantations. The [illegible] in a state of bankruptcy the Village Jungle Conservancy Funds are reduced [illegible] the heavy charges above detailed thrown on them.

4. The Village Jungle Conservancy Funds are derived from the fees collected by Taluk Officers from the cutters of brushwood in village jungles and of trees and fuel in jungles not under the conservancy of the Forest Department and from [illegible] rents of village topes; and the whole of these receipts should, in my opinion, be expended on the upkeep of topes and on the conservancy of village brushwood jungles, with respect to which, so far as I am aware, nothing whatever in the way of demarcation, reservation, or regulation is at present carried out. These works, I consider, should not be part of the Forest Deputy Conservator's charge, being capable of being looked after by the Village Officers and communities under the orders of the Revenue Officers assisted with advice from the Deputy Conservator.

5. I consider that all the large plantations and fuel [illegible] should have been included in the Forest Budget as forests. The only items [illegible] in the Forest budget for the current year, which was submitted in the [illegible] last, are the cost of [illegible] altogether amounting to Rupees 11,[illegible] out of which [illegible] about Rupees 6,000.

6. Captain Walker, in his Inspection Report, dated 6th April last, addressed to Government, advocates, in paragraph 2, that all the reserves in the [illegible] Taluk shall be constituted [illegible] Gingee [illegible].

7. I think Mr. [illegible] makes out a very strong case for the increase of establishment [illegible] 13 plantations and 12 large [illegible]. The sums asked for working [illegible] request that funds be allotted as soon as possible [illegible] from the surplus Jungle Conservancy Funds of other districts [illegible] as may be available.

Enclosure No. 1.—Jungle Conservancy Budget.

Enclosures Nos. 2 and 3.—Abstracts of Budget.

Enclosure No. 4.

From J. H. [illegible], Esq., [illegible] Deputy Conservator of Forests, [illegible], To the Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 16th May [illegible], No. 341.

[illegible]

the Local Jungle Conservancy Funds balance of this district, yet I venture to hope that, in consideration of the importance of planting to the growing wants of the people generally and of railway and factories in particular, the expenditure may be sanctioned, and that the amount in excess of the available balance in this district will be made up by a temporary transfer of the Jungle Conservancy Funds of other districts to this, thereby utilizing money that might otherwise remain idle for works that certainly will prove most valuable to the district, as they will without a doubt become remunerative as rapidly as, or sooner than, most forest schemes.

8. The only extra charges are a slight increase of Rupee 1 per mensem to subordinate maistries, etc.; Annas [illegible] per mensem to chief gardeners who have one year's service and may be considered as more practical and fitted for their position than before; a Manager's Gumastah at Rupees 8 to assist him with the labor statements; and a Peon or attender on Rupees 6 to carry orders and attend the Managers on their inspections (amounting to Rupees 168 per annum for each range) is also a new charge, and I beg to request that you will recommend the establishment for sanction, for I find the quantity of writing to be done by the Managers in sending in their reports, the pay rolls, labor reports, planting statements, nursery, etc., for the large number of plantations under each of them, tends to prevent their proper attendance at, and personal supervision over, field-work, which is really their legitimate duty. In my last year's budget-estimate I entered one Reserve Manager and one Plantation Manager which I then considered would be sufficient. These were both sanctioned, but it has been found in the last half year since the extensions were commenced that two Managers are necessary for the plantations, which are scattered over four ranges, and in addition a Reserve Manager or Sub-Forester for Gingee and Villapuram, etc., reserves, making three range officers to be entertained instead of two as in last year, at an increase of Rupees 480 for the twelve months. The Plantation Manager stationed at Trivandlore at present has charge of nine plantations, one reserve, and the Kallacoorchy channel and tank plantings, and on all these 224,000 young trees exist. The Reserve Manager stationed at Cuddalore, who was placed in charge of plantations with permission of Collector till reserves were worked, has to attend to nine plantations and two reserves on which are 120,000 old and young trees at date, and I propose he should be continued as a Manager in charge of these plantations on the same pay and the new Manager be entertained for the Gingee, etc., reserves on Rupees 30 + 10 travelling. The operations on Gingee reserves have been up to date under the Forester, South Arcot, who, however, has the charge of the Chengum Division reserves as well as his own special range duties, and these latter requiring most of his attention, but slight attention, or has been, or could be, given to the Gingee reserves by him, consequently a new Sub-Forester or Reserve Manager has been provided for as above noted, and he is urgently required to supervise the proposed operations in Gingee Division. His pay is entered at Rupees 5 higher per mensem than for the Plantation Managers, owing to the jungly and feverish nature of the charge and the comparatively long distance at which supplies are obtainable; and if an increase is made to the permanent conservancy establishment of a Sub-Forester as proposed by the Inspector of Forests, a man of this grade will not be needed for Porto Novo plantations and Virdachellum jungle, as proposed, which are, I believe, under consideration.

A. Rupees 25 + [illegible] batta each.

9. For the twelve reserves as a whole, it will be observed, I have submitted an estimate (which I trust will be found sufficiently explicit in detail) for Rupees 10,[illegible]. Of this, a large charge is for surveying, demarcating, fencing, roading, temporary buildings, etc., and but little for actual planting, but this is quite necessary, as up to this time no regular survey has been made, nor have boundary marks been laid down. The exact area is not known, and even the limits are only known to a few people, and liable to be encroached on by cultivators adjoining. Under [illegible] Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. [illegible], of 13th January 1874, Forest No. 1, Rupees 3,000 will [illegible] Jungle Conservancy Funds for the reserves; but as the available funds for this year [illegible] so much less than was supposed would be the case, perhaps it would have been better that the reserve operations were curtailed [illegible] to the money allotted from

Imperial Funds and conservancy of plantations from the principal work for which [illegible] Local Funds should be expended.

5. In last year I applied for permission to entertain a Clerk for attending to jungle conservancy papers in my office, and this was sanctioned, but I find after seven months' trial that one man is quite unable to deal with the numerous labor statements and other returns connected with plantations and reserves, and have provided in the estimate for a 2nd Clerk or Accountant at Rupees 20 to help him, which I hope will be permitted. [illegible]

6. [illegible]

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., [illegible] Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, [illegible]

[illegible]

(3.) The retention of the Alathoor and Orathoor firewood reserves as village jungle conservancy works.

(4.) The merging of the Madanai and Chinnasamudrum reserves in forests and the formation of a new forest reserve at Trinomallay.

(5.) The abandoning of the Perangulathoor reserve or its retention as an open *unfenced reserve only*.

(6.) The levying of firewood and charcoal seigniorage, and improving the manufacture of the latter.

3. In other words, these proposals virtually amount to a scheme for the transfer of all the new plantations which are being formed in the district, amounting to 4,718 acres, and of all those blocks of jungle, extending from Gingee to Gangavaram and in the neighbourhood of Chengum, known as reserves, and comprising an area of 39,783 acres, to the charge of the Imperial Forest Department, at whose cost they will be maintained in future, and to whose credit all receipts from them will be carried, while the care and conservancy of all village jungles will be left to the district officers, aided, I presume, by advice from the Deputy Conservator, and all receipts from these jungles will be credited to the Village Conservancy Fund.

4. When submitting the Village Jungle Conservancy Budget for the current year, a few days before I received the Proceedings now under reply, I myself made very analogous proposals, so the Board will be prepared for my giving my general assent to the proposals of Captain Walker. I did at one time entertain the idea of *recommending* the classification of all the reserves, plantations, and village jungles in the district under the head of District Jungle Conservancy, quite irrespective of what was intended for local village consumption, or of what might be felled for the railway, or for the supply of distant towns; and, looking to the petty nature of the jungles comprising the reserves and the scantiness of valuable timbers of any size in them, I thought, and still think, they are hardly worthy to be dignified with the name of forests, and this scheme appeared to possess these advantages, that it would be entirely local, and therefore easier to work, and that all the receipts would be laid out in increasing and conserving the fuel-supply of the district which under Captain Walker's *scheme will hardly be the case when once the receipts become fairly large*. On the other hand, the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund, as at present *constituted*, is reduced to such a state of impecuniosity that unless loans are advanced to it, either from the surplus funds of other districts or from Forest Funds, the plantation work now going on will come to a standstill, and a very heavy loss be thereby *entailed on the district and the community at large*.

5. It was these last considerations that induced me to suggest the transfer of all the plantations and reserves to Imperial Forest Conservancy as the best means of getting funds *for preserving the first and still conserving the latter*. Before, however, giving my assent to such a transfer, I must point out that all the existing plantations have been created entirely *out of* Village Jungle Conservancy Funds, and that some of them, for instance, those in the Cuddalore Taluq, near Cuddalore itself, and extending along the sea-shore to Devanampatnam, are of some years' growth, and are productive, and that I am by no means prepared to assent to the transfer of these to forest conservancy, as they are likely to prove the most valuable *source of income* for the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund; and before the young plantations on the Mallatar, near [illegible], and elsewhere are transferred, as recommended by Captain Walker, to Imperial Forest Conservancy, the money expended on them from the date of their first formation up to the time of the transfer should, I consider, *be refunded to the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund*. I am also desirous that the Cuddalore plantations should be kept distinctly under local management, and supported from Village Jungle Conservancy Funds, because a portion of them, known as the [illegible] opposite to the jail, was transferred to my care by the Superintendent of the [illegible] condition that the jail should be supplied with firewood free of cost in consideration of the transfer and of the prohibition of the prisoners from cutting firewood in [illegible]

This plantation was planted some years ago by the then Superintendent of the Jail, and the prisoners used to go and lop the branches off the trees in a very unsightly and often wasteful manner whenever they wanted firewood, while there was no attempt at conservancy or [illegible] the spaces where trees had been felled or had fallen. The present arrangement promises to work well, and the transferred plantation already exhibits [illegible] of Mr. Woolbridge's conservancy.

6. Subject, then, to the conditions that all the money hitherto expended on all the plantations in the district, except those near Cuddalore, be refunded to the Nellore Jungle Conservancy Fund, and that the Cuddalore plantations remain local, I am prepared to assent to Captain Walker's propositions:—

(a.) That all the Rangas and Cheruvu reserves as well as all the existing avenues plantations be transferred to Imperial Forest Conservancy.

(b.) That the Alathoor and Gudalore firewood reserves be retained as [illegible] jungle conservancy works.

(c.) That a new forest reserve be formed at Tripassoor.

I am not prepared, however, to assent to the abandonment of the [illegible] reserve. I think it should be demarcated, in addition with all the others, as a forest reserve, and kept as an enclosed reserve open for felling all [illegible] for cattle grazing.

7. The chief object, I consider, to be kept in view in disposing of the question of the transfer of these plantations and reserves, is the protection and conservancy of fuel supplies [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] notification for the Board's approval restricting the operations of the jungle conservancy rules to the jungles of the Trinomaly Taluk and to parts of Yellavanasore, Kullacoorchy, and Villupuram. The Board generally [illegible] of Mr. Reade's proposals, but directed him to define and report the limits within which the conservancy rules were to be in force, and ordered that firewood was not to be excluded from their operation when grown on tracts sufficiently remote to render it of real importance as a means of supplying the public with fuel. Mr. Reade was also directed to report what communication he had held with Messrs. Parry and Co. on the subject of their complaint, and in what way they will be affected by the levy of the seigniorage on fuel when the charge is restricted to the jungles that properly fall within the operation of the rules, and desired an early report on the other points referred to in their Proceedings of the 12th February [illegible], when they proposed to pass final orders on the subject and to decide whether Mr. Reade's mode of introducing the conservancy rules may require modification. This report does not appear to have been submitted by Mr. Reade, and apparently for this reason that on the [illegible] April [illegible], shortly before the Proceedings of the Board of the 8th May were received, he published his own draft notification in the District Gazette, and it has been in force ever since. In his letter, however, of the 22nd September 1870, No. [illegible], embodied in the Board's Proceedings of the [illegible] October 1870, No. [illegible], [illegible] years afterwards, he makes this, so far as sugar factories in this district are concerned, no complaints of excessive seigniorage had reached him, and that he had not thought it advisable to provoke discussion on the subject till the owners of the factories had made representations against the rates. He was thereupon directed by the Board to state his view regarding the reduction of seigniorage in his district fully, and in his letter of the [illegible] February 1871, No. [illegible], he replied and added that in his opinion no necessity existed for recommending that the sugar factories should be exceptionally treated. In this opinion I fully concur, and consider that Mr. Reade's argument for not extending the conservancy rules to all parts of the district is perhaps the best that could be advanced in favor of their universal extension, [illegible]

[illegible]

but, unless the rights of Government are [illegible] carefully guarded while there is yet time, there will be nothing to prevent villagers in the neighbourhood of such plantations by degrees attempting to establish, and succeeding in establishing, a prescriptive right to the dead leaves, and eventually to go and cut as they please among the trees, subject to the payment of seigniorage. Now, therefore, is the time to give due notice of the limits of each of these plantations, [illegible] the rights to them [illegible] the Government reserve to themselves, and among others those of forbidding all entry into, and felling in, them should most rigidly be guarded.

Fifth.—With respect to charcoal seigniorage, I think the rate of Rupees 1-8-0 sanctioned in Board's Proceedings of the [illegible] June 1870, No. 4,155, for the Trichinopoly District, is sufficiently high. This will be equal to four times the wood rate. The prescription of certain places for the manufacture of charcoal in the jungles seems advisable.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Points of Correspondence.

From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kodaikanal, 12th July 1876, No. 203.

Reverting to Board's Proceedings, Forest, No. 45, dated 23rd June, I have the honor to point out that there is a discrepancy between Mr. Garstin's figures as given in paragraph 1 of his letter under date 7th May and those given by Mr. Wooldridge in his first paragraph, [illegible] in the latter, by which the total sum required on account of plantations for the year 1876-77 is made up to Rupees 20,000 in round numbers, whereas it should apparently be Rupees 20,000, the actual estimate amounting to Rupees 18,[illegible], viz.:—

Upkeep, present allotment	88
Additional required	1,[illegible]
Extension	7,[illegible]
Housing and office establishment	6,[illegible]
	1,[illegible]
Total	16,[illegible]

2. I shall assume the figures [illegible] to represent the actual amount of the plantations, irrespective of *fuel reserves*, which I [illegible] paragraphs of the Board's Proceedings under reference [illegible]

3. I am requested to report my opinion as to whether [illegible]

[illegible]

calculating the cubical contents of his trees in paragraph [illegible], and shall, with the Board's approval, call for detailed accounts showing how the amount of Rupees 3-10-4 per acre for the first six years, and Rupees 2 per acre subsequently, is arrived at. Mr. Sheffield has, it will be observed, only 300 trees to the acre in question whilst Mr. Wooldridge has 700, but this would not account for such a great discrepancy.

On receiving further information from Messrs. Sheffield and Wooldridge I shall be able to inform the Board how much I consider is sufficient for the upkeep of the South Arcot plantations, which, it will be seen from the above, I am not now in a position to do.

7. I beg, however, that sufficient funds may, meanwhile, be made available for their upkeep and extension, failing which the expense and labor already incurred will be wasted and the large quantity of seedlings ready in the nurseries for planting out this season sacrificed.

There is [illegible] available under this head, VI., in the Imperial Forest Budget which may at once be made use of if the Board approve of my proposal to class these extensive plantations for the future as Imperial works.

8. The present position points markedly to the necessity of some such step, and it cannot be too frequently and too strongly impressed on Collectors and Forest Officers that the provisions of the recent Circular, No. 34, which *provide for estimates*, etc., for any proposed planting operations, however small, being prepared and submitted for sanction before any work is undertaken, must in future be strictly adhered to. Had this been done in this instance, there would not now, in the *month of July*, be a question of funds available for the current official year, the fact being that the planting operations have been undertaken locally without sufficiently counting the cost.

9. Such a mode of conducting operations is, I venture to point out, not fair to the Forest Officers charged with the work, who should know exactly what funds will be available during the official year some months before its *commencement*, in order that they may carry them out in a satisfactory and economical manner.

10. I may add that there is at present a provision for Rupees 7,230 for the South Arcot "*Fuel Reserves*," viz., Rupees 5,000 from Local Conservancy Funds and Rupees 2,230 from Imperial under head VI. *a.*, and it will be seen from my reports already referred to that I agree with the Collector that the cost of both the plantations and reserves should, *in future*, be borne by the Imperial Forest Department, leaving the Jungle Conservancy Funds available for village [illegible] as the Collector suggests.

These papers relate to jungle and forest conservancy in the district of South Arcot, and chiefly to the reserves and plantations.

2. In the Jungle Conservancy Budget of the current year there are said to be twelve reserves extending over [illegible] acres. The sum spent on them up to the close of last year was Rupees 6,[illegible]. They are open reserves, unenclosed, and accessible for grazing purposes, and the Inspector of Forests considers the results hitherto obtained satisfactory. He says: "the system of reserving portions of the jungle has been [illegible] and rendered familiar to the people; nearly a lac of young trees have been established in the bare spots, and [illegible] the natural reproduction has been very encouraging."

3. In their Order of [illegible] October 1875, No. 3,1[illegible], Government desire to be supplied with a copy of certain rules which the South Arcot authorities proposed to define the rights of the people living in villages adjoining the reserves. These draft rules are printed with Board's Proceedings, dated 11th March 1876, No. [illegible]. They are to the effect that a broad belt of jungle be left round each reserve for the villagers, that the reserves will be open for grazing and for [illegible] of grass and leaves, [illegible] that no [illegible] The [illegible] provided that the belt of jungle left round the [illegible] reserves is sufficient. From the first [illegible] authorities have been on the alert to see that the rights of the people were duly considered in forming the reserves, and the Board have insisted

that due attention should be paid to this matter. In the absence of complaint it may be presumed that the villagers are not dissatisfied.

4. The treatment of the reserves with reference to Imperial and Local Conservancy has been anomalous. For the most part they have been formed from Imperial Funds, but they are held to be local reserves. It was at first intended that they should be kept up only for local objects, but it was thought necessary to leave the demarcation, etc., of them to the professional department. At one time the Board decided that however they might be formed and maintained the receipts must go to the Jungle Conservancy Fund. More lately it was ruled that, so far as a Reserve is made and maintained out of Forest Funds, its proceeds should be credited to Forest Revenue, and directed that the reserves should be divided into two classes, viz., those intended to supply the wants of the villagers, and those intended for the supply of the Railway, of Pondicherry, of the Public Works Department, etc., and the expenditure shared between Jungle Conservancy and Forest Funds accordingly. This ruling resulted in determining that the expenditure should, for the present, be equally divided between Local and Imperial Conservancy, but the arrangement is obviously inconvenient, and the Collector and the Inspector of Forests are now agreed in proposing that all the reserves, except two and Perungalatur, of which more will be said hereafter, should be made forest reserves.

Board's Proceedings, 26th October 1869, No. 7,920.

Board's Proceedings, 28th October 1873, No. 6,902 (Forest No. 70).

Board's Proceedings, 19th January 1874, No. 46 (Forest No. 1).

5. Six of these reserves are known as the Gingee reserves. They contain about 13,000 acres. They are intended for the supply of the Railway and Pondicherry, and there is abundance of jungle outside them for the inhabitants of the locality. Under these circumstances, the Board do not think these reserves are proper objects for the Jungle Conservancy Fund.

1. [illegible]
2. [illegible]
3. [illegible] } [illegible]
4. [illegible]
5. [illegible]
6. [illegible] } [illegible]

6. The Alathur and Orathur reserves are solely meant to supply villagers, and they should remain under Jungle Conservancy.

7. Alathur ... [illegible]
8. Orathur ... [illegible]

7. The [illegible] and [illegible] reserves seem to be, in all respects, real forest reserves, and will probably be formed into the [illegible] Forest proposed by the Inspector in the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 6th June 1874, No. 3,215. The Inspector [illegible] that the Perungalatur reserve should be abandoned or retained merely as [illegible], but the Collector does not think it should be abandoned. It may be retained as a Jungle Conservancy Reserve.

9. [illegible]
10. [illegible] } [illegible]
11. [illegible]

8. The Inspector also notices [illegible] the [illegible] Reserve. It has probably been abandoned under the circumstances detailed in the Deputy Conservator's letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 15th January 1874, No. 16 (Forest No. 1).

12. [illegible] ... [illegible]

9. The new forest reserve which the Inspector and Collector agree should be formed at the foot of the [illegible] hills, [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] may be established.

10. The Board resolve to recommend Government to direct the transfer to the Forest Department of all the reserves in South Arcot except the Alathur, Orathur, and Perungalatur reserves. The expenditure hitherto on these reserves has been as follows:—

Reserves which the Board propose should be transferred to the Forests	[illegible]
Reserves which the Board propose should be retained under Jungle Conservancy	176
Total ...	6,669

all of which has been paid out of Forest Funds. The date from which the transfer should be effected must be determined by financial considerations. No money is available during the current year from the Forest Budget in addition to the Rupees 2,200 provided in the revised Budget. Rupees 5,000 have been provided in the Jungle Conservancy Budget, but this is urgently wanted for plantations, as will be shown hereafter. The expenditure is estimated at Rupees 10,000, so that if the Rupees 5,000 provided in the Jungle Conservancy Budget is diverted to plantations, Rupees 7,800 will be wanted. The Board do not see how this money can be got except by transferring the reserves to the Forest Department at once and asking the Government of India for an extraordinary grant, and they recommend that this should be done.

11. Next, as regards the plantations. The existing plantations cover 4,711 acres containing 810,[illegible] casuarina trees and 20 miles of tank and channel banks planted with 24,071 trees. They have been formed and maintained entirely from the Jungle Conservancy Fund. The sum spent on them up to the end of 1873-74 as distinguished from that spent on other operations cannot be ascertained from the accounts, but it must have been more than Rupees 20,000. Though a useful project, carefully planned and satisfactorily executed, it was evidently undertaken without due consideration of the cost involved, and it has already outrun the capabilities of the Jungle Conservancy Fund. The Deputy Conservator estimates that Rupees 20,000 a year for four years must be spent in completing the plantations.

12. The Inspector urges that operations of such magnitude are not proper objects of the Jungle Conservancy Fund, and the Board agree with him, though when casuarina plantations are of the limited extent that is really needed for local supply, as seems to be the case with the plantations near Cuddalore, which will be referred to in the next paragraph, and the planting on tank and channel banks, Jungle Conservancy money may be usefully spent upon them.

13. The Collector agrees to the transfer provided the plantations near Cuddalore are retained under Jungle Conservancy and the sum hitherto expended on the plantations is returned to the Fund from the Forest Budget.

14. The Board agree with the Collector as to the Cuddalore plantations, and are further of opinion that the minor planting on tank and channel banks should remain under Jungle Conservancy, but they do not agree with him as to the refund. They doubt if the demand should be made, and they are sure it would be refused. *The Board accordingly resolve to request Government to* transfer the South Arcot plantations, with the exception of those near Cuddalore and those on tank and channel banks, to Forests. The expenditure for this year was estimated at Rupees 17,522. From the figures given by the Deputy Conservator in the letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd [illegible] 1874, No. [illegible] (Forest No. [illegible]), though there is some confusion in them as pointed out by the Inspector, the Board gather that this amount may be reduced to Rupees 15,[illegible], or, say, Rupees 15,300, which may be distributed as shown in the margin. Towards this the Board have only been able to provide Rupees 1,350 in the Jungle Conservancy Budget, but, if the Rupees 5,000 provided for reserves is set free as suggested above, there will be sufficient funds for the first and second items as well as the reserves which are to be retained under Jungle Conservancy.

1. Cuddalore plantations	[illegible]
2. Tank and channel bank plantations	[illegible]
3. Plantations to be transferred	[illegible]
Total ...	[illegible]

15. It is absolutely necessary, unless the results of a large expenditure of labor and money are to be altogether lost, that the eight reserves named in the margin, and the plantations, with the exception of those near Cuddalore and on tank and channel banks, should be transferred to Forests as soon as possible, and that the Board's Government should apply to the Govern-

[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

* For reserves	12,000	
,, plantations	[illegible]	
		12,7[illegible]
Already provided in the Forest Budget—		
Reserves	3,3[illegible]	
Plantations	1,000	
		[illegible]
		[illegible]

ment of India for an extra grant of Rs. 19,5[illegible] under Section 22 of the Resolution of the Government of India, "Forest No. 89, dated 3rd January 1874." It might be represented that the reserves and plantations are extensive and valuable and will eventually be worked at a great profit; that the plantations have been formed, however [illegible], without cost to the State; that neither the reserves nor the plantations can be supported by the Local Fund which brought them into existence any longer, and must perish unless they are transferred to Forests with a grant for their maintenance; and that the revision of the Forest Budget in consequence of the Order of the Government of India, dated 27th March 1874, reducing the fixed assignment by Rupees 20,000, has left no margin from which the money can be obtained without putting a fatal stop to operations elsewhere.

16. In the meantime the Board resolve to request Government to authorize a loan of Rupees 5,000 from the Jungle Conservancy Fund of Nellore (estimated balance Rupees 10,850), and of the same amount from Salem (estimated balance Rupees 32,750), to be repaid when the extra Forest grant is sanctioned.

17. Lastly, the Board will notice certain miscellaneous topics brought to notice in the Inspector's letter of the 11th April, No. 10, and the Collector's letter of the 22nd June, No. 30[illegible].

18. The extraordinary state of affairs which prevails in South Arcot under which part of the district is, and part is not, under Jungle Conservancy, and villagers in one taluq pay seigniorage for firewood whilst manufacturers in another taluq do not, must cease. The Jungle Conservancy Rules must be enforced throughout the district, and seigniorage must be collected on all wood not put for domestic use, etc., by ryots, or for ryots manufacturing the produce of their own lands.

19. The Inspector appears to think that villagers entitled to fell free of seigniorage should be [illegible] [illegible] it is [illegible] marked off for the purpose, but there must be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which would be sufficient for present generations of villagers will be [illegible] or the wood carried away for sale in Pondicherry or elsewhere. Moreover, there are very few localities in which the jungle is so thick that villagers can be allowed to fell as much as they choose without charge. Some restrictions like those in the Madras rules circulated with Board's Proceedings, dated 21st October 18[illegible], No. 2,[illegible], must generally be enforced. The Collector [illegible] that in village jungles under Conservancy the same fees should be charged whether wood is cut for use or sale; but this is contrary to an established principle adopted by Government. Ryots are entitled to [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] be allowed in [illegible] a sufficient quantity of [illegible] outside.

20. The question as to [illegible] villagers having no jungle within their village limits to [illegible] [illegible] these submitted to Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 14th April 1874, No. [illegible].

21. With regard to head-loads, the Board think the Inspector must be wrong in thinking that the system of [illegible] be [illegible] no case in which [illegible] cart-loads would have [illegible] seigniorage. [illegible] where Jungle Conservancy [illegible] a proportional seigniorage [illegible] been levied on them from the first. The Conservator did not prescribe a seigniorage on head-loads until [illegible] when he became aware that a regular trade was being carried on in head-loads and bullock-loads [illegible] of cart-loads and the detriment of the revenue; and he did so then.

Conservator's No. [illegible]

22. Jungles should be [illegible] wherever it is practicable to do so, and they [illegible] be worked in this way [illegible].

23. [illegible] should be [illegible] reserved from the lots the Collector proposes to [illegible] in which [illegible] can arise.

24. The seigniorage on charcoal was fixed at Rupees 1-8-0 a cart-load in Trichinopoly when the seigniorage on fuel was Rupee 1, but the Board will not object to its being Rupees 1-8-0 in South Arcot now that the fuel tax is Annas 6, as both the Inspector and the Collector think this necessary. The places at which charcoal may be burnt should be prescribed and the burning should be supervised by Government officials so far as possible, but any sudden stoppage of the present system in favor of improved methods or Government manufacture would cause great hardship.

G.O., 10th May 1874, No. 735.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J. Grose

Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with four original enclosures, Board's Proceedings,
16th March 1874, No. 598, and 13th May 1874, No. 1,151.
,, the Collector of South Arcot,
,, the Inspector of Forests.

[illegible] A. Graham

Revenue Department

The transfer asked to be placed
referred by the Board
Do. not involve the expenditure
at all. It appears that the plan
has been to the extent of the
Reserves of which Rs 5000 has
been paid from Local Funds.
What has been the cost of the
plantations is not stated. If
appears to have been formed from
Local Funds
[illegible] Reserves

No. 3432

Revenue 1874. Dept

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Proceedings, 1st September 1874, No. 2,470

Dept. 10 Sept/74 Encl.

& Order

[illegible] 1874

Received 7/9

SEPTEMBER

Forest No. 100.

Jungle and Forest Conservancy—in South Arcot District.—Papers relating to — and to reserves and plantations submitted to Government with remarks. Government recommended to direct transfer to Forest Department of all the reserves and plantations in district with certain exceptions

260

[illegible]

Revenue Department

based on the expenditure of
previous years, & reduced to the
lowest possible figure, (which
will indeed be far lower than
what is now proposed): we
must reject from it all unnecessary
& uneconomical expenditure;
and then insert the Estimate
in the Dep.t Revenue Budget
for next year.
What is the value of present
plantation of the Cinnamon
Trees? how long will they take
to produce any revenue?

8/12

Revenue Department 21/[illegible]

[illegible]

Reg. Bd. of Rev.
Submitting papers relating to the
Ser & Forest Conservancy in South
Arcot & Reserves & plantation

H. E. 1st Sept/74 No 2470

Boards Pro. 28th October 69
N. 7420

In the year 1869 the formation of certain I Fuel reserves and II Plantations in the South Arcot district was determined on and it was settled by the Board in communication with the (then) Conservator of Forests that the Forest department should undertake the work. They however intended to keep both reserves and plantations local, and decided that the receipts should be credited to Local Funds.

These plantations should [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] been credited as Local Fund [illegible] the end of the Fuel reserves [illegible]

[illegible]

an Imperial charge the expense of forming the plantations had been borne by Local funds.

2 In October last year (1873) the Board modified their former orders and directed that the revenues from Fuel reserves made and maintained out of Forest funds should be credited to Forests. They [illegible] further that the reserves and plantations should be divided into (1) those intended to supply the villages (2) those intended for the Railway S.I.R. &c. As the Collector had wished to charge the cost of the reserves to Imperial funds the Board asked for 12,000 Rs to be added to the Forest charges but the Government [illegible] that this sum may be the [illegible] of the Forest budget by the Government of India.

The

see para 8 of Collector's letter in Board's Pro. 18 May 1874 No. 1454.

See G.O. 1st July 1874 No. 847.

Note. The Collector also desires to get a refund of the Local Fund money spent on them. The Board however "doubt if the demand should be made and they are sure it would be refused". This seems probable as the transfer is really proposed because the Local funds cannot keep up what they have made. Moreover the money spent on the Fuel reserves by the Forest department would have in its turn to be refunded from the Local fund together with the receipts which have been retained for that fund.

3. The fuel reserves are 12 in number. The Board, Collector and Inspector for all agree in recommending that all except three should be transferred to the Forest department. These reserves will, it is estimated, require 10,000 Rupees during the current year. Of this amount only Rs 2200 have been provided in the Forest budget but Rs 3,500 are set apart for them in the Local Fund budget. The [illegible] Collector who [illegible] thought they should be supported by Local funds. The Board [illegible] this [illegible]

plantations and to pe-
mend an immediate
-sfer of the Forest reserves
an application to the
ernment of India for
ds.

The Plantations cover
acres containing 24732
ain trees and 38 miles
nk and channel bank
nted with 2992 trees.
Board Pilots and Deputy
sents all mid them to
formally transferred to
Forest department, but
former accept the tank
taking plantations and
plantations which
planted only by the
Superintendent who
ly planted them.

The

+ Para 22 of Forest Res of Govt of India, No 1-898 / 15th January 1874. Applications for additional budget grants will not be complied with unless under circumstances of a really extraordinary nature, which must be fully explained. Whenever it is possible, any such want should be met by re-appropriation from other heads, the amount being taken from provision made for works which must, under the circumstances, stand over for a future opportunity —

5. The amount required for the plantations to be transferred is Rs 12,750, and only 1000 Rs of this amount is provided in the Forest Budget. The Board therefore suggest an application to the Govt of India for money on this account as well as for the Forest Reserves under the orders given in the margin. The total sum to be applied for is Rs 13,530.

6. The points requiring orders are:—

(1) are the Forest Reserves and plantations to be transferred to the Forest Depts

(2) how are the funds said to be necessary for their up-keep to be provided —

The (2nd) point depends

on the (2d) for there is no use making the transfer of funds as not to be provided, and this must depend on the [illegible]

Now, that Govt. are exceedingly likely to take exception to a transfer involving a sudden and additional burden on Imperial Revenue and they will at all events rigidly scrutinize the necessity of the proposed expenditure.

When such a scrutiny is made it becomes apparent that of the amount asked for [illegible] Revenue.

2. The charge is for managing, demarcating, planting, watering, temporary establishments and but little for actual planting.

And as the Deputy Conservator's own words, and, under the circumstances of the case, these operations might, it is submitted, be contracted without any serious damage resulting.

Next, as to plantations.

The money is asked for on the following account

1. Upkeep	Rs	9686
2. Extension	"	6956
3. Establishment	"	1554
		18236

The 2d item should, it is submitted, be at once disallowed, and as to the 1st there are grounds for believing the estimated cost of upkeep too high. Capt. Walker promised to report on this particularly but no such report has been sent to Government.

[illegible] the approx [illegible] supposed

---

* See letter to Bd. of 12 July 1874 No. 205 para 6 in Board's Pro: 14th Aug. 1874 No. 2470

I . that the transfer may be sanctioned from the commencement of next official year, due provision being made in the meantime in the Forest Budget.

II that operations on the [illegible] Reserve be contracted within the narrowest limits.

III that all extension of the plantations this year be prohibited

IV that the Asst. Inspector be directed to report, with [illegible] the upkeep charges of the [illegible] already done

V that the Board be authorized to advance from the Surplus in Nilgiri Conservancy Funds, any amount that may be absolutely necessary for the restricted operations now sanctioned.

The Board have themselves proposed this last course, but they expected to be repaid out of the amount to be obtained from the Govt. of India.

9. The Inspector in the letters which brought up the subject of the proposed transfer, also touched on various miscellaneous topics.

These have been all noticed by the Board, and, with one exception, no orders are required.

The exception is a proposal to raise the seigniorage on charcoal to Rs 1-8-0. The [illegible] rate is not stated, but it is presumably 8 annas formerly in Trichinopoly where an enhanced rate equal to that now proposed for South Arcot was sanctioned in 1870 (G.O. 30th May 1870 No. 785).

No official reasons ^x are given for the recommendation of the enhanced rate in this district only and it is submitted that such might be called for.

Concurs

x See para 13 of Supt's letter in Bd's Pro: 18th May 1874 No. 1154 and Collector's comments thereon in Ch: 5 para 8 of his letter 22nd June 1874 No. 308 in Bd's Pro: 1st Sep. 1874 No. 2470 and para 24 of the last named Proceedings.

I think that the
enhance - except the
three mentioned in
para 10 of the Bd's
Pro: should be
the [illegible]
And so also the
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] the
[illegible]
the Collr.
And I would
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
the [illegible] of the [illegible]

an [illegible] be necessary
to prevent loss to
[illegible] that
he [illegible] the
idea of probable
[illegible] and also
explain that the
Forest Dept will
require 350 000 [illegible]
[illegible]

The Jungle Con-
servancy fund sh^d
be [illegible]
[illegible] to the [illegible]
[illegible] of village
jungles [illegible] the planting
of Tank bund -
banks of Channels
[illegible] the tank.
Some [illegible] to
take away from the
[illegible] I think we
[illegible]
I [illegible] require [illegible]

Mem
Forest Re[illegible]
and Plantations
in South Arcot
District

The transfer sh^d
take place - Don't if
possible avoid raising in-
convenient inquiry - Sub-
reduce all expenditure to the
minimum - Submit a care-
ful valuation of the
Plantation & enter a
moderate Sum in the
Budget for up-
keep - If some
such arrangement
is not feasible I
w^d do as Dr [illegible] pro-
poses although I think
that the application will
be bootless & raise
inconvenient dis-
cussion
7/12

[illegible]

4

21/1604

Revenue Department

No. 1604

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 21 December 1874.

Read the following Pro: of the
B^d of Rev:

Sub: papers relating to Forest,
Jungle Conservancy in
S. Arcot Dist: and to reserves
and plantations - and re-
commending to direct transfer
to Forest Dept of all the reserves
and plantations in Dist: with
certain exceptions

H. E. 1st Sept 1874 No 2470

16/12

The transfer
of the Teak Reserve
and Plantations in
South Arcot to the
Forest Department
is sanctioned as re-
commended by the
Board, but the [illegible]

do not wish it to have effect if possible until the commencement of the next official year.

2. In the meantime the expenditure must be reduced to the lowest possible amount. All the proposed surveying, demarcation, fencing and roadwork in the Reserves must be abandoned and no extension of the Plantations be undertaken except so far as may be necessary to prevent loss of seedlings &c.

3. The estimated cost of the upkeep also of the Plantation must be specially scrutinized, and a fresh estimate be prepared, based on the expenditure of former years and reduced to the lowest possible figure.

See para 22 Resolution of Govt of India 1-89 dated 1st January 1874.

4. The Govt. are at present averse to any extension of the Fuel Reserves or Plantations, and in framing estimates for a grant additional to the Imperial Forest Budget for 1875-76, the principles of economy and restricted expenditure laid down above should be borne in mind and strictly adhered to.

5. A careful estimate of the present and prospective [illegible]

of

of the Casurina Plantation should also be furnished.

6. In the matter of the proposed enhanced seigniorage on charcoal a separate report should be made and it should be stated whether any special reasons exist for such a course being adopted exceptionally in this District.

[illegible]
[illegible]