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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	689	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	4-6-	1874 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1889

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th June 1874.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 43. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th April 1874,
No. 810, Forest No. 42.

Read the following letters:—

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 9th February 1874, No. 25.

WITH reference to Proceedings Madras Government, and Order, dated 12th
January 1874, No. 42, in which the question of the Hill slopes of the Nilgiris
is reconsidered and another arrangement deemed necessary, and requesting a
report on the boundary line to be fixed, I have the honour to state that, from a

report from Mr. Ross,* it appears that the
embarrassment in working the former
Government Order is not admitted by that officer, and the prospective effects of
the so-called embarrassment, would, therefore, not ensue.

2. Mr. Ross explains that the seigniorage rates for head loads, were rated
according as they were men's loads, and children's loads, and as regards bullock
loads, the rates were 3 Annas, and that it was unlikely that the Contractor
would have under-collected to his own loss.

3. However that may be, Mr. Ross states that he got no information from
the former Range Officer or Acting Superintendent, when he applied for the same.

4. The simplest mode would be to allow the slopes to remain under one
officer, as originally intended and fixed, the collections of seigniorage at Coonoor
being credited to the plateau; but if a division must take place, Mr. Ross suggests
the toll gate as the boundary on the Coonoor ghaut, as the people of Coonoor cut
down to this limit. This being above the bamboo range and heavy timber line,
would admit of the collection of the Imperial forest being credited to its proper
head.

5. I beg to state, however, that I am not of opinion that there should be a
conterminous boundary line, the evil effects of which are apparent by frequent
disputes, arising mostly from imperfect representation of subordinate Overseers.

6. I would recommend that the imperial officer should still have charge of
these most extensive slopes (280 square miles); a grant in lieu of the Coonoor
collections being made by the Imperial Forest Department for the benefit of the
Nilgiri Plantations. This would obviate a perpetual source of dispute about
boundaries and felling, not to mention a case that occurred, very inconvenient to
the people concerned, of certain (18) license holders of the imperial officer having
nearly been flogged by the Acting Plateau Officer, on one occasion, for alleged
smuggling.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From G. J. S. ROSS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mettapolliem, etc., Ranges, to
A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 28th January 1874, No. 351.

WITH reference to your Memorandum No. 29, dated 23rd January 1874, I have the honour
to inform you, that the Commissioner must have been incorrectly informed by his subordinates of
the price at which firewood coming from the Imperial Forests is sold at Coonoor.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th June 1874.*

He states in his letter to the Secretary to Government that the head load is sold for 6 Pies, whereas the seigniorage is 9 Pies; and the bullock load for 1 Anna, whereas the seigniorage is 3 Annas, the same amount as charged by the Jungle Conservancy.

For reasons set forth in my letter No. 128, dated 4th August 1873, I requested your permission to let the slopes out on contract for a short time, for the collection of seigniorage on firewood. I attach a true copy of the Contract, by which you will see what the rates are. The rates are the same as those charged at Mettapolliem. It is most improbable that the Contractor would collect a smaller seigniorage fee than that to which he is entitled, to his own prejudice.

This table of rates which is rather a high one, was adopted by me, as it was the one already in existence in the old Mettapolliem Forest, and not with any view of underselling the Jungle Conservancy; indeed I should have been most happy to have co-operated with the Conservancy Officer. With that view, shortly after taking over charge, I wrote to the Acting Superintendent, the annexed letter, and received for answer that he could take no steps in the matter, as he had received no instructions.

2. The inhabitants of Coonoor cut as far as the Toll gate. The Burliar and Toll gate villagers between these two places. The Mettapolliem and Kullar people up to Burliar and perhaps beyond. Bamboos are taken from below Burliar to Coonoor.

The Toll gate should therefore be considered the boundary point on the ghaut, and seigniorage should be collected there by the Imperial Forest Establishment on bamboos going up the ghaut, as they come from the old Mettapolliem Forest.

3. I have withdrawn the Coonoor peon.

ENCLOSURE 1 in No. 1.—Copy of Contract Deed.

ENCLOSURE 2 in No. 1.

From G. J. S. ROSS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Metapolliem Range, to Captain MURRAY, Acting Superintendent of Jungles, Ootacamund, dated Coimbatore, 2nd August 1873, No. 117.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that agreeably to G. O., No. 678, dated 2nd July 1873, I have taken over charge of the south eastern slopes of the Nilgiris extending up to the plateau.

As the Contract entered into by you with Ebrahm Khan Sahib expired on the 1st of this month, I have directed the Overseer in charge of the Mettapolliem Forests to issue licenses and tickets for timber, bamboos, etc., on and after the 1st of August 1873. If there are any records referring to these slopes, I should be obliged if you would be good enough to send them to me, or I should be happy to meet you at Coonoor at any time convenient to you, provided that it is at an early date, to formally take over charge.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. J. S. ROSS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mettapolliem and Bollumputty Ranges, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Mettapolliem, 29th January 1874, No. 352.

I HAVE this day received Madras Government Order, Revenue Department, No. 1,225, dated 31st October 1873, and I have, therefore, the honour to draw your attention, in continuance of my letter No. 351, dated 28th January 1874, to Appendix, I, Section 10 of the above Government Order.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th June 1874.*

My range being a new one, the Office records do not contain old copies of Government Orders and Board's Proceedings, but from Section 10 aforementioned, you will see that 9 Pies, per head load (the seigniorage charged by me for fuel at Coonoor) is the authorized and correct amount.

2. I omitted to mention in the same letter that I had been petitioned about the amount charged by the Contractor on head loads carried by children; for which he charged 9 Pies as if it had been a man's head load. I considered the load as a definite weight (and it appears that I was right in doing so by Section 10 abovementioned) and, therefore, in order to put a stop to this act of oppression, I ordered the Contractor to charge proportionately for the head loads, viz., full price for a man's and full grown woman's head load, 6 Pies for an undeveloped girl's, and 3 Pies for a child's load.

It is therefore possible that the Jungle Conservancy officials saw the Contractor collect 6 Pies for the smaller head load, and without making further enquiry, reported the same to the Commissioner.

From J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of Nilgiris, to J. GROSE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 25th February
1874, No. 16.

WITH reference to G. O., Revenue Department, dated 12th January 1874, No. 42, proposing that a boundary shall be run on the face of the eastern slopes of the Hills in such a manner that it shall cut off and throw into the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, for forest purposes, the section of the slopes from which wood is taken for use on the Hill plateau, and calling for a report on the subject, I have the honour to state that, in my opinion, the proposed line cannot conveniently be drawn. The timber felled on the slopes is, with slight exception, taken to the plains, and the firewood supply of the plateau is obtained almost entirely from the plateau sholahs. It is obviously less troublesome for a dealer to collect firewood in sholahs growing on level ground than to descend the slopes. Since the slopes have been handed over to Coimbatore, firewood from them has found its way to the plateau, but this is because the charge has been made less than the charge exacted by the Jungle Conservancy. Previously hardly any firewood was cut on the slopes. A line on the slopes, drawn to separate wood worked upwards from wood worked downwards, would be practically the summit of the slopes, where the line between the Nilgiris and Coimbatore is now.

2. Instead of the proposed line I would suggest that Mr. Ross keep the eastern slopes as at present, that he arrange not to under-sell the Jungle Conservancy on the plateau, and that he should pay the proceeds of wood worked upwards quarterly or half yearly into my Treasury, rendering his Accounts, however, as hitherto, to the Collector of Coimbatore, to save his own office trouble.

3. The withdrawal of the slopes from the Nilgiri Forest Department has diminished the receipts of the department by about 2,000 Rupees a year. This is a serious loss to a fund, the demands on which are rapidly increasing, owing to the extension of plantation on the plateau. I foresee a time, and that a near one, when I shall be obliged to apply for a grant to the Fund, at all events to make this loss good. But probably even a larger supplement may be required.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th June 1874.*

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In their Order of the 2nd July 1873, No. 678, Government directed that the Coimbatore Forest Officer should be in charge of the entire south-eastern slopes of the Nilgiris. The Commissioner of the Nilgiris thereupon represented that this order was not in accordance with his views, and that the Coimbatore Officer was underselling the Nilgiri Jungle Conservancy Department at Coonoor with wood taken from the Coonoor ravine. It appears from the present letter that Rupees 2,000 a year were lost to the Nilgiri Jungle Conservancy Fund by the

G. O., dated 12th January 1874, No. 42. withdrawal of the slopes. Government on reconsideration modified their ruling and decided that a boundary line should be so fixed that all wood worked upwards should be in charge of the Nilgiri officers, and all wood worked downwards in charge of the Coimbatore officers. The Commissioner and the Collector were directed to report where the line should be fixed.

3. The Commissioner now reports that no such line as is described by Government can be drawn "conveniently." So long as prices are equal, he says wood from the slopes cannot compete with wood from the plateau sholahs. He suggests that Coimbatore should have the whole of the slopes on the condition that the Jungle Conservancy Department is not undersold on the plateau, and that the proceeds of wood worked upwards are paid to the Nilgiri treasury.

4. The Collector throws some doubt on the assertion that the Jungle Conservancy Department has been undersold, but he expresses an opinion adverse to the boundary line on the slopes and recommends the same arrangement as is proposed by the Commissioner.

5. The Board think this is the best arrangement that can be made.

No. 44. From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 21st April 1874, No. 23.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings of 10th instant, Forest No. 42, I have the honour to represent that the arrangement agreed upon by the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, the Collector of Coimbatore, and myself, in consultation at Madras was, that the Imperial Forest Officer, in charge of Mettapoliem, etc., Ranges should retain charge of all the south eastern slopes of the Nilgiris, excepting such portions of the upper slopes, in the vicinity of Coonoor or Kotagherry, as it might be found, could better be supervised by the Plateau Officer and Establishments; no boundary line being necessary; that all timber, firewood, etc., worked upwards should take licence, and pay seigniorage into Nilgiri Treasury to the credit of local conservancy on the plateau (excepting of course bamboos, etc., which had first been taken down and already paid seigniorage below) the Superintendent of Nilgiri Forests arranging for its being checked, and settling where the felling should take place from time to time in communication with the Mettapoliem Officer, and that all timber, etc., worked downwards, should pay seigniorage to the Imperial Department (Mettapoliem, etc., Range), but, in lieu of this revenue, and considering the extent and importance of the planting operations on the hills, an

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th June 1874.*

annual allotment should be made in the Imperial Forest Budget for their up-keep and extension; the amount to be fixed each year after consultation by the Superintendent, the Commissioner, and Inspector of forests. This arrangement would, I think, satisfy all parties, and ensure efficient supervision.

2. As pointed out by the Commissioner both in his letter recorded in the above Proceedings, and in another of the same date (recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 838, dated 13th April, communicated to the Financial Department,) the demands for planting operations are becoming too extensive to be met from local funds, and must sooner or later form a charge on Imperial Forests.

3. As I have already pointed out in the case of planting in South Arcot I cannot conceive that such extended operations fall within the legitimate scope of Local or Jungle Conservancy, and I do not, therefore, hesitate to recommend that the Nilgiri plantations be classed and paid for as Imperial, remaining, as now, under the charge of the Superintendent, Nilgiri Forests, and the Local Forest Establishments.

4. It is, I think, only by the adoption of some such measures that the valuable plantations on these hills, the greater portion of which were originally formed from Imperial Funds, can be maintained and extended as they ought.

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1874, No. 689.

Forests, No. 1.

His Excellency the Governor in Council accepts the simple and reasonable arrangements proposed in paragraph

3 of the Board's Proceedings recorded above. The Officers concerned will settle the method most convenient for collecting the dues payable to the Nilgiri Forest Conservancy in communication with the Board and Inspector of Forests.

2. The Hill Establishment must co-operate with the Imperial Department to prevent illicit traffic in wood, etc., from the slopes.

3. Captain C. Walker's observations on the Hill plantations will be considered and reported upon by the Board of Revenue.

4. The Collector and Magistrate of Coimbatore will report in full on the occurrence alluded to at the end of his letter, dated 9th February 1874, No. 25.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Inspector of Forests.
„ the Commissioner of Nilgiris.
„ the Collector of Coimbatore.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

6001. of 11874 Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

G. O., 4th June 1874, No. 689.

JUNE.

Nos. 43-45.

Recd. Encl. Recd.

Dated June 4th.

Recd.

70

Forwards of Coimbatore and Nilgiris.

Accepts Board's proposed arrangements regarding the boundary between the two ranges; calls for reports on certain observations made by Captain Walker on the Hill Plantations, and on certain occurrences alluded to by the Collector of Coimbatore.

★

*Copies struck and sent
in the almirah -
Handy*

FOREST No. 42.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th April 1874, No. 810.

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* Letters and Contract enclosed.

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3. However that may be, Mr. Ross states that he got no information from the former Range Officer or Acting Superintendent, when he applied for the same.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
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SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

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with wood taken from the Coonoor ravine. It appears from the present letter that Rupees 2,000 a year were lost to the Nilgiri Jungle Conservancy Fund by the withdrawal of the slopes. Government on reconsideration modified their ruling and decided that a boundary line should be so fixed that all wood worked upwards should be in charge of the Nilgiri officers, and all wood worked downwards in charge of the Coimbatore officers. The Commissioner and the Collector were directed to report where the line should be fixed.

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4. The Collector throws some doubt on the assertion that the Jungle Conservancy Department has been undersold, but he expresses an opinion adverse to the boundary line on the slopes and recommends the same arrangement as is proposed by the Commissioner.

5. The Board think this is the best arrangement that can be made.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J. G. M.
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with one original enclosure, to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
" to the Commissioner of Nilgiris.
" to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 10TH APRIL 1874, No. 810.

24/4/74

Encl. 1

Received 11 April 74

APRIL.

Forest No. 42.

Forests of Coimbatore and Nilgiris.—Reports from Collector of Coimbatore and Nilgiri Commissioner regarding definition of boundary line between—submitted to Government, and proposals of those officers that Coimbatore should have whole of south-eastern slopes of Nilgiris on certain conditions, recommended.

50 Madras-4 June-

Office of Inspector of Forests.
Coimbatore 21st April 1874.

No. 23.

From

Captain Campbell Walker
Offg Inspector of Forests.

To,

C. G. Master Esq.

As Secretary to Government
R. D.

Sir,

With reference to Board's
Proceedings of 10th instant Forest No. 42,
I have the honor to represent that the
arrangement agreed upon by the Com-
missioner of the Nilgiris, the Collector
of Coimbatore and myself in consultation
at Madras was, that the Imperial
Forest officer in charge of Mettapoliem
Ranges should retain charge of all
the

20-2/4/74 173/20-13-15
31/3/74 173-345-49
12/4/74 173-78-49

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C124/100/74 R307

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Nilgiris, excepting such portions
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necessary; that all timber firewood &c.
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the felling should take place from
time to time, in communication with
the Mettapolim Officer, and that
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of the planting operations on the
hills, an annual allotment should
be made in the Imperial Forest Bud-
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This arrangement would, I think,
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another of the same date recorded in
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3.- As I have already pointed out in
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Slender
in Cir since 30th
of 6

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that the Nilgiri plantations be classed
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I cannot conceive that such extended
operations fall within the legitimate
scope of local or jungle Conservancy, and
I do not therefore hesitate to recommend
that the Nilgiri plantations be classed
and paid for as Imperial, remaining, as
now, under the charge of the Super-
-intendent Nilgiri Forests, and the
Local Forest Establishments.

4.- It is, I think, only by the adoption
of some such measures that the valuable
plantations on these hills, the greater
portion of which were originally
formed from Imperial funds, can be
maintained and extended as they
ought. -

I have

Slender
on the side 30"

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servt.

Campbell Walker Captain
Off^r Inspector of Forests.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting at the top of the right page.]

I would accept
the Board's recommendation
in support of the
(Mentor (Combalere) and
Municipal (Hills). The
Hill slope forests are
superior to the summit,
and I do not see any
claim whatever to its
compensation on the
part of the local people
conservation of the Hills

At the same time
public convenience
requires that a provision
for licenses being issued
on the Hills and arrangements
made for collecting dues

No. 1276-
1874-75. Dept.
Genl. Department

The Office Secretary of
Genl. The Dept. to Govt.
J.R. 18.

Noted 21st
Received 23rd June 1874

No. 23.
Enclosure from
Subj. 18

I presume that the arrangements
made upon which was that the
General Secretary of the
Genl. Dept. should retain charge of the
the S. Eastern Dept. of the Hills
the S. Eastern Office the remaining portion
of the S. Eastern -

C 12th June 1874. R 30th

S.O. 1869. 4 June 1874

on timber and also
Bamboos - (why this should
go down ^{Metaphors} to be changed
as suggested by the
Inspector I do not
understand) - cut by
persons going down
from the hills and
working their cuttings
up. - Should be
made. I would attend
applications on this
behalf to be made
to the Hill Forest Establish-
ment, who should
issue licenses, trans-
mitting a duplicate
to the Office at Metaphors.

The Hill Establishment
must cooperate with
the Imperial Establishment
to prevent illicit traffic
in wood from the slopes.
There

They were nearly
K. 1000.

I would adopt the
simple & reasonable
arrangement proposed
by the Collector, the
Commissioner, and the
Board of Revenue,
namely as it stands.
No ~~other~~ addition
or alteration of it
appears to me to be
required.

30/5

The case of flogging
noticed in the Collector's
(Complaints), letter must
be inquired into on the
judicial side.

15/5 1862

Memo. for Order.

Pro. Board of Revenue, submit^d reports from collector of Coimbatore and Nilgiri Commr. regarding definition of boundary line between forests of Coimbatore & Nilgiris.

(N.E. 10th April/74 N^o 810.)

Letter from the Off^r Inspector of Forests representing that the arrangement agreed upon was that the Imperial Forest Officer of Metta. Palliam should retain charge of all the S.E. slopes of the Nilgiris and the Plateau of the Nilgiris portions of the Nilgiris.

(N.E. 21st April/74 N^o 23.)

For my note, with Mr. Robinson's

[Signature]

This must be over the we have called what the done in Coimbatore of C. B. P. is deposited

With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit the special reports from the Commis. of the Nilgiris and the collector of Coimbatore called for in G.O. 12th January 1874 N^o 42.

1. The point for decision was how to fix the boundary, so that all the wood on the one side should work down towards Coimbatore and on the other up to Coonoor.
2. Neither of the officers consulted

[Signature]

consulted think it feasible to have such a line. Both are of opinion that it will be better to leave the slopes under the Imperial (Coimbatore) officer.

4. Mr. Wedderburn finally suggests that a grant in lieu of the Coonoor Collections should be made by the Imperial Forest department for the benefit of the Nilgiri Plantations. He had in a previous paragraph expressed an opinion that the Collections of seigniorage at Coonoor might be credited to the Plateau. Mr. Lockereell proposes that the Forest officer at Mettupallem should keep the Eastern slopes, arranging not to under-sell the Jungle Conservancy on the Plateau, and that he should pay the proceeds of wood worked upwards into the Coimbatore Treasury.

5. The course recommended by the Commissioner is supported by the Board. In

6. In the meantime the Inspector of Forests writes today that the arrangement which had been agreed upon by the Commissioner, the Collector and himself was different from that indicated above.

7. This was, he says, that the Imperial Forest officer in charge of Mettupallem 8. "range" should retain charge of all the South Eastern slopes of the Nilgiris, excepting such portions of the upper slopes in the vicinity of Coonoor or Kotan "gherry" as it might be found could better be supervised by the Plateau officer and Estab. "lishments; no boundary line being necessary; that all timber, "forewood 8. worked upwards should take licence, and pay "seigniorage into the Nilgiri "Treasury to the credit of local "conservancy on the Plateau (ex- "cepting of course bamboos 8. "which had first been taken "down and paid seigniorage below)

"below) the Superintendent of
"Nilgiri Forests arranging for
"its being checked and settling
"where the felling should take
"place from time to time in com-
"munication with the Mettapol.
"Sirm officer, and that all
"timber &c. worked downwards
"should pay seigniorage to
"the Imperial Department
"(Mettapollim &c. range) but
"in lieu of this revenue, and
"considering the extent and im-
"portance of the planting op-
"erations on the hills, an
"annual allotment should be
"made in the Imperial Forest
"Budget for their up-keep
"and extension; the amount
"to be fixed each year after
"consultation by the Superintend-
"ent, the Commissioner and
"Inspector of Forests."

8. Certainly none of the
three officers concerned make
exactly similar propositions.
The

9. The Inspector goes
on to express it as his opinion
that the Nilgiri plantations
be classed and paid for as
Imperial, though they should
still remain under the charge
of the Superintendent Nilgiri
Establishment.

GU

Perme. for bidars
Boundary line between
Coimbatore & Nilgiris Forests

689

Cvt

Revenue Department
No 689.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 2nd June 1874

Read the following Pro-
ceedings of the Board of
Revenue and letter from
the Off^r Insp^r of Forests.

Submitting reports
regarding definition of
boundary line between Forests
of Coimbatore and Nilgiris
and recommending certain
proposals

H.C. 10th April 1874 No. 810

Representing that the
arrangement argued upon,
was that the Insp^r Forest
Officer of Mettapoliem
Range should retain charge
of all the South Eastern slopes
of the Nilgiris and the
Plateau Officer the remain-
ing portion

H.C. 21st April 1874 No. 23.

W.S. 26
M.S. 26

His Excellency
the Governor in Council
accepts the simple and
reasonable

reasonable arrangements
proposed in paragraph
3 of the Board's Proceed-
ings recorded above.

The Officers concerned
will ^{settle} ~~arrange~~ the method
most convenient for
collecting the dues pay-
able to the Nilgiri
Forest Conservancy
in communication with
the Board and Inspe-
ctor of Forests.

2. The Hill Es-
tablishment must
co-operate with the
Imperial Department
to prevent illicit traffic
in wood &c from the
slopes.

3. Captain ^{L.} Walker's
observations on the
Hill plantations
will

will be considered
and reported upon
by the Board of
Revenue.

4. The Collector
and Magistrate of
Coimbatore will
report in full on
the occurrence alluded
to at the end of his
letter dated 9th February
1874 No. 25.

W

To B^d of Rev. with Encl. Dated 15th June 74
Insp^r of Forests Dated 15th June 74
Commis^r of Nilgiris Dated 15th June 74
Coll^r of Coimbatore Dated 15th June 74