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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue..... DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	269	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	27. 2	1964 . 1874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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269

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th February 1874.*

No. 251. Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Secretary to Government, Rev. Dept., dated Ootacamund, 23rd December 1873, No. 1,972:—

I AM sorry to learn from the G. O., No. 1,417, of the 13th instant, that Government is unable to accept my explanation with reference to the scantiness of reports and information regarding our fuel-reserves. I must, however, assure Government it has not arisen from carelessness or neglect on my part, as I have been most anxious on the subject, but rather from the want of any information or data that I could consider worth reporting on specially. Government appear to be under the impression that details as to the descriptions of wood which had been cut each year since the formation of these reserves, the quantity of fuel obtained per acre, and the appearance of each tract as regarded re-production, are or were available; but this is not the case. No felling whatever has as yet taken place (or at least had not at the date of my last visits) in any of these tracts since we formed them into reserves, though much of the area is jungle that had been cut down in previous years, and is now renewing itself; and it was not my intention to commence felling in any of these tracts until the whole system of the reserves was completed, and we could commence systematically, block by block, with reference to the area available and the period of re-production, etc. All felling for railway fuel of late has been carried on the open straggling tracts of jungle outside the reserves by contractors who cut without supervision from our department, as the Railway Company credit us with the fixed seigniorage on all the timber brought in which is a sufficient check against smuggling.

everything growing in the jungles
England after a training of two years in the forests of Europe are crammed with a knowledge of Oak, Beech, Larch, and all the deciduous trees and coniferæ of Europe and their treatment, etc., but it is not of the slightest use to them; and they do not know one tree from another in any of our forests, and it is very difficult for them to pick up a thorough knowledge on this subject without first undergoing some sort of training in this country.

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, dated 27th February 1874, No. 269.

Forests, No. 11.

ORDERED to be recorded.

2. The Government await the report referred to in paragraph 2, which has been submitted to the Board of Revenue by the Inspector of Forests.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

indifferent and the bad, and it would probably be too expensive and too difficult a task to try to eradicate the latter and re-place them with only the superior sorts, though the information might be of value with reference to the planting up of any bare spots, etc. I am, however, addressing the Board on the question. I have given much study to all these subjects for many years, and most of these fuel-trees and shrubs are figured and all of them described and dilated on in the *Flora Sylvatica* now just completed; and during my tours through these tracts and through our forests and jungles with our Assistants and Overseers, I devote much time to pointing out all the different trees and explaining their value and uses. But it is a difficult task with men who have had no proper training; and without some rudimentary knowledge of Botany a man is not likely to pursue the study, and the information is soon forgotten or jumbled up. A museum of economic Botany would be of great use to the department, even if without the adjunct of a school of forestry: in it our young officers and Overseers might learn the rudiments of Botany, and be trained to a knowledge of all our different trees, shrubs, and plants, and their varied uses and value,—a most important subject, and one that cannot be altogether picked up in the jungles, as in every different district it happens that certain valuable timbers and plants of great economic value for various purposes are apparently quite unknown to, or unappreciated by, the natives, just because they have not been in use with their ancestors, though the same products may be much in use in other districts and their value well known there. It is difficult to believe to what an extent this is the case, and I am sorry to say that most of our young officers and our Overseers generally are lamentably ignorant of almost

2. I have just submitted to the Board a very full report upon the general question of the railway fuel-supply and upon the nature of our reserves, plantations, etc.. Data such as Government are desirous to obtain, and refer to in paragraph 6 of the order, would require some years of careful observation over a considerable area and under different climatic conditions and in different soils, etc., to be of really any practical use. We know that these fuel tracts renew themselves in from eight to twelve years; but the rate of growth of different sorts of trees varies so under different circumstances that any data of a superficial nature, or hastily prepared, would be more apt to mislead than to be of real practical use; and I find that I have often to change my opinion with reference to the growth or value of some particular tree: an individual specimen perhaps shows most wonderful growth under some particular condition or circumstance, whereas the general growth or value of the same species is comparatively small with reference to others over a large area. I believe that much valuable information might be arrived at as to the rate of growth of the various trees and shrubs which abound in our fuel-tracts, and particularly as to the caloric powers of the wood. I was anxious that Mr. Broughton should undertake some experiments of this nature some time ago, but he was too busy, and thought that it would take up too much time and be too expensive; but to arrive at this, we require better trained men than the class of Assistants and Overseers that we have in our fuel districts. They should have a rudimentary knowledge of Botany, and be able to identify the different trees and shrubs, etc. Again, the practical value is perhaps not so great as one would imagine it should be, as, in most of these coppice tracts, we must take the good with the

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No. 1972
 Office of Inspector of Forests
 Cotacamund 23rd Decr 1873
 From
 Major R. St. Beddome
 Inspector of Forests.
 To
 D. J. Carmichael Esq.
 Secretary to Government
 R. D.
 Sir,

I am sorry to learn from
 the G.O. No. 1417 of the 13th instant,
 that Government is unable to accept
 my explanation with reference to
 the scantiness of reports and in-
 formation regarding our Fuel Re-
 serves. I must however assure Govern-
 ment it has not arisen from careless-
 ness or neglect on my part as I have
 been most anxious on the subject,
 but rather from the want of any
 information

That P. ...

19-2-38 ✓

Govt. of 1874

REVENUE.

To

THE INSPECTOR OF FORESTS,

Co., Co., Co.

Dated February 27th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 27th February 1874, No. 269.

FEBRUARY.
 Nos. 251-252.

1874/1026/14

Reports on Railway Fuel-reserves and
 Plantations. - Records letter from Inspector of
 Forests submitting a further explanation regarding
 his —, and I await the full report submitted by the
 Inspector to the Board of Revenue.

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consider worth reporting on specially.
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but this is not the case, no felling
whatever has as yet taken place (or
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completed and we could commence
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by Contractors who cut without super-
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Railway Company credits us with
the fixed seigniorage on all the
timber brought in which is a ^{very} sufficient.

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2. I have just submitted to the Board a very full report upon the general question of the Railway Fuel supply and upon the nature of our Reserves, plantations &c. Data such as Government are desirous to obtain and refer to in para 6 of the order, would require some years of careful observation over a considerable area and under different climatic conditions, and in different soils &c. to be of really any practical use we know that these fuel tracts renew themselves in from 8 to 12 years, but the rate of growth of different ^{sorts}

sorts of trees varies so under different circumstances that any data of a superficial nature or hastily prepared would be more apt to mislead than to be of real practical use and I find that I have often to change my opinion with reference to the growth or value of some particular tree, an individual specimen perhaps shows most wonderful growth under some particular condition or circumstance whereas the general growth or value of the same species is comparatively small with reference to others over a large area. I believe that much valuable information might be arrived at

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in this country.

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

R. Widdowes Major
Inspector of Forests.

Q 138 Summary 138 119-81

Dec 1973-74. Sept

Speech Department
from 2/24/18.

The Inspector of
of the Secretary to Court.

R. D.

Noted 23.

Received 29 } December 1973

No. 1972.

Enclosure from

subject

Submit explanation

regarding Railway fuel
Revenue and plantations.

Refund to the State.

8.2.269-27. Feb 1974

SP 269

Address the Member

The Government Minister the

Spent 2988 to in June 2, with the
submitted to the Member. to be the

Inspector of Forests.

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27. Feb 1974

251-252.

C 17 Jan 1974. R 21. 2. 207