M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 28

(2) Date of repair 12. 6-66

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	365.	Press / Mis.

Dated 19. - 3 - 1874 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 182. Read the following letter from Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 17th February 1874, No. 2,049 :—

In accordance with G. O., No. 322, dated 15th March 1873, I have the honour to report that I have recently paid a casual visit to the Collectorates of Coimbatore and Salem with the following results.

2. *Anamallay Range.*—I met Mr. Douglas at Coimbatore, and we had a long consultation with the Collector on forest matters connected with his range.

3. Rules for the re-cultivation of old kumarie lands after being marked out were drafted by the Collector, and submitted through the Board of Revenue. If sanctioned, arrangements should, I think, as a rule, be entrusted to the local forest officer. Mr. Wedderburn referred to me and Mr. Douglas the appointment of the Head Overseer for the Anamallays, and I am now in correspondence with other ranges on the subject, and shall report further.

With regard to the proposed alteration of boundary line between the districts of Coimbatore and Madura brought to my notice by the Collector, I beg to record my opinion in favour of the existing boundary, so far as forest interests are concerned. We also conferred with Colonel Farewell on the subject of the proposed grant from Forest Funds towards a new road and ghaut to the Anamallays, which will doubtless form subject of a separate reference. I afterwards talked with Mr. Douglas as to the working of his range, and we agreed upon a general plan for extending departmental operations and establishing depôts at or near the foot of the hills, etc., etc. These measures will be worked out more fully when I visit the range ; meanwhile, Mr. Douglas should prepare a scheme including the granting of Permits for marked trees at certain seasons as is done in North Canara.

4. *Mettapolliem, etc. Range.*—I met Mr. Ross at Mettapolliem, and he came to Coimbatore at my request the next day. The question of the Nilgiri slopes was considered in all its bearings. Mr. Wedderburn at first proposed that Mr. Ross should be placed under the Commissioner so far as they were concerned, but I could not concur in this as it is inexpedient that he should be under two Revenue-officers; and the proposal would have doubled his office-work, already heavy, considering his small office establishment. Both the Collector and Commissioner have since agreed to a new proposal which I suggested, and the Collector has reported on the subject. I hope the matter will now be speedily settled to the satisfaction and benefit of all parties, as the recent state of uncertainty and change has caused much inconvenience to the public and loss to Government. Early orders are, therefore, requested. Meanwhile, Mr. Ross will supervise the lower portion of the slopes, and Captain Jago the upper, without any boundary line being drawn; the former issuing licenses for all timber, etc., coming down, and the latter for that to be taken up. Mr. Ross will also, without delay, expose to auction the contract for firewood coming down for sale, and grant the same to the highest bidder if approved of by the Collector. He will also expose the whole or a portion of the 110 tons of firewood lying at Mettapolliem to public auction after sufficient notice. The case of the Mettapolliem Overseer under suspension was inquired into, and

I believe the Collector has since recorded sentence of dismissal. The appointments to be made were left to the department, and I recommended Mr. Ross to promote and transfer his Bolamputty Overseer to Mettapolliem, and appoint a new man in the lower appointment. This has doubtless since been done. Mr. Ross was directed to submit a sketch map of his range, no detailed survey being at present possible. The feverish season at foot of the hills having now set in, I directed him to remain as much as possible at his head-quarters (Coimbatore), attending to office-work and checking reports, accounts, etc., with occasional visits to his forests and fuel-reserves. This has the Collector's approval. No operations beyond the issue and checking of Permits can be carried on with success at present. Mr. Ross will prepare and submit a plan for the introduction of departmental working and establishment of depôts, stating quantity and description of timber it is proposed to fell, rates, situation of depôts, etc. It is customary to commence by giving at least three months' notice of the cessation of the issue of licenses for the reserved timbers, and this might, I think, be done at once.

5. On the 7th I. proceeded to Salem, and met Mr. Brougham, Acting Deputy-Conservator. The Acting Collector was unfortunately in another part of the district engaged in Jamabundy; but I have since had an opportunity of talking over matters with him at the Agricultural Exhibition, and he fully concurs my suggestions, etc. I inspected the books and registers in the Salem Office which are neatly kept and posted up to date; a few of the later entries in the Service and Conduct Register require filling up, but it would probably be found advisable to simplify and condense the form in the case of Peons, Watchers, etc., retaining it merely for the upper grades. I approved generally of Mr. Brougham's arrangements and management. He is experiencing great trouble through the constant disputes as to boundaries and under-selling by wood and bamboos brought, or said to be brought, from private jungles, which has recently obliged him to shut up his bamboo depôt at Salem, whence a large revenue was being realized. There would appear to have been a combination formed to under-sell him even at unremunerative rates, so he very properly closed the depôt. In the same manner contractors have re-commenced supplying the railway with wood-fuel at lower rates than we can possibly do it, and until boundaries are defined and further arrangements made with the Railway Company the only thing to do is to watch and conserve the Government forests and jungles very strictly. For this the establishment is somewhat inadequate, having been revised and reduced under an entirely different system by which the checking of firewood, bamboos, etc., brought on license or ticket did not devolve on the department, and tannahs were, for the most part, done away with. I visited the A Railway Fuel-reserve with Mr. Brougham. This reserve is the oldest in the district, if not in the Presidency, and I regret to say that I was disappointed at the re-production and results of the attempts which have been made to plant up the bare spaces; but Mr. Brougham informs me that last year is the first since it was enclosed (seven years ago) that fire has been entirely excluded, and that the late monsoon quite failed. This may partly account for the poor growth. I do not now estimate that we should get more than eight cart-loads, say, lbs. 6,000, per acre from the whole portion of the original reserve north of the line, and this is very much below what we

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1874.

require. In order to test our estimates, I directed Mr. Brougham to have cleared an average piece of from 50 to 100 acres in extent, and the wood carefully weighed; also to coppice a portion of the reserve to the south of the line where the Turunji (*Acacia amara*) trees would soon be too old to grow from the stool, if, indeed, they are not so already. The area and yield of this coppice should be carefully noted and reports submitted through the Collector. I gave Mr. Brougham the necessary instructions on the spot.

Mr. Brougham has collected much valuable information on the subject of forest-products, the collection of which in this district through the agency of the hill-tribes, as recommended by the Board, will, I trust, be sanctioned. The measure appears very desirable if merely as an experiment for a limited period of years; and I am sure that the Collector, Mr. Brougham, and the Forest Overseers in Salem may be trusted not to oppress the hill-men.

Mr. Brougham is also engaged in making a collection of district woods, etc., which we should have in every Forest Office. It appears desirable to enlarge the forest building which is very small to afford room for the Writers and collections; both the Deputy-Conservator and Range Overseer hold office in the building. Mr. Brougham brought forward the question of working the Acha forests on the banks of the Cauvery and north of Penagra, with regard to which he should submit detailed proposals and estimates after consulting the Range Overseer who is so intimately acquainted with the locality. The annual yield from a given area and demand are important points, especially if it is proposed to make use of saw machinery. The present system of felling and preparation is, to my knowledge, very wasteful.

6. I forward extracts of this report to the Collectors of Coimbatore and Salem for information and communication to the forest Assistants.

No. 183. ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1874, No. 365.

Forests, No. 6.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1874 Madras

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c.,

Dated March 19th.

Rcd.

G. O., 19th March 1874, No. 36

MARCH.

Nos. 182-183.

Forest Inspector's letter regarding
to the Coimbatore and Salem Distri
municates to Revenue Board —.

No. 2049.

Madras 17th February 18

From

Captain Campbell Walker

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Here a letter
by Mr. Mayhew
Conservancy

My dear Campbell

Yours of 2nd

which thanks. The boundary
referred to is between Coimbatore
& Madura Dist as entered - it
is down about Pulney Taluq - I
dont know the whole
name - when the survey has been
performed & shall see a boundary
I dont know if the mention is
actually before Govt or only
locally discussed - Letter very
hot. I have be at Ooty about 15th -
look in at Trichy en route

Yrs Sincy
Cumbhe Walker

Nos. 152-153.

Forest Inspector's letter regarding his visit to the Coimbatore and Salem Districts.—Communicates to Revenue Board.—.

569/74

Office of Inspector of forests.

No. 2049. Madras 17th February 1874.

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Revenue 1873-74. Deptt

Forest Department

No 569.

From The Offg Inspector of forests.

To, The Secretary to Govt.
R.D.

Dated 17th } February 1874.
Received 19th }

No. 2049.

Enclosure None

Subject.

G.O. No 365 — 19 Nov/74
Reports upon his visits to the Collectorates of Coimbatore and Salem with certain results—
with Order

Forest

No 365

Communicated to the Board of Revenue

[illegible]

[illegible] Dec. No. 3. 74
[illegible] 19 March 1874

14 March/74 - R16