M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-05.

(1) Number of Pages 18.

(2) Date of repair 18-8-66.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	550	Press / Mis.
Dated	5-5-	1874 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 65. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th August 1873, No. 1,519, Forest No. 39 :—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1873, No. 83.

Copy of Mr. Douglas's letter, No. 100, of 30th April 1873.

In forwarding copy of Mr. Douglas's scheme for the employment of the jungle tribes in his jurisdiction for the information and orders of Government, I have the honour to make the following remarks.

2. I do not think that we can interfere, as was once proposed by the Conservator of Forests, by buying up the claims of the merchants who have these tribes in their debt. The real amount would be impossible of ascertainment, and, even if cleared off, there is no power to prevent their again coming under obligations.

3. We cannot establish a monopoly of dealing with the hill tribes, and, from the description of their characteristics, the entertainment of them on fixed pay instead of piece-work would seem liable to objections.

4. But a comparison of the prices said to be given for jungle products and their more probable value seems to open out a possible chance of a beneficial competition with the merchants. The forest officer might purchase such articles as the price may show to be susceptible of a profit on re-sale, and thus it would soon be found out whether such a course would be advantageous.

5. But perhaps the best way to develop the trade and resources would be to first publish the prices at which these jungle products are procurable on the spot. Government trading is seldom successful, and the most it can do to help trade is by facilitating the intercourse of the buyer and seller.

6. It is, I think, a pity that the monopoly of dealing with the jungle tribes for their produce, which, when sold by auction, brought in a certain revenue, was given up about nineteen years ago. The tribes worked on compulsion for the receipt of articles from the plains just as the shoe-maker works on compulsion to buy the necessaries of life for himself and family instead of having a succession of St. Martin's days.

7. The Kaders, finding that they get good prices owing to an increased demand for their products, work less and drink more, like the Colliers at home; the forests, like the collieries, are consequently not developed.

8. It was alleged that the former state of the Kaders was worse than that of West Indian slaves, as they were driven out to collect products in the south-west monsoon; but August is the time when cardamoms are collected, and then not a Kader, as I have experienced, is to be had for love or money. I consequently think (and was always of that opinion) that the oppression of these people was exaggerated. They were just as much masters of the situation as the merchants; if the merchants did not supply grain, etc., they got no cardamoms or wax, etc. The latter had, indeed, the best of the bargain, as they have now. The Kaders, a timid race, would, if intimidated, run away. A writ would scarcely run on the Anamallay Hills, and large profits meant bad security.



9. However that may be, the only way now is to try competition, and, if advertisement of the prevailing price does not attract new purchasers, an attempt might be made to collect these products at a fair price (which the producers must fix, and not the buyers) and try a sale by the department at the neighbouring large weekly market of Pollachy.

Extract No. 1.

From C. G. DOUGLAS, Esq., Deputy-Conservator of Forests, Anamallay, etc., Ranges, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 30th April 1873, No. 160.

With reference to the order of Government, No. 240, dated 1st March 1873, upon the system of collecting forest products advocated by the Conservator some years ago, I have the honour to submit, for your consideration, a few remarks regarding each of the points upon which Government desire to obtain "accurate information so far as the subject admits of it," viz.:—

(1.) Description and amount of valuable forest products in the District.

(2.) Nature, extent, and direction of trade in them.

(3.) Position of the forest tribes in relation to those with whom they deal.

(4.) The necessity and advisability of interference for—

(a.) The protection of the people, the forest or of State rights; or

(b.) The development of any valuable material resources.

2. The products of the Anamallay forest consist of cardamoms, honey, dammer, wax, cauliflower, saffron, gallnuts, soapnuts, turmeric, ginger, ginjelly, etc.; but of the amount procurable I have no means of forming an estimate. It is probably great, the whole of the forests being rich in these articles between the elevations of 1,000 and 4,000 feet.

3. The nature of the trade, judging by the information elicited on a previous occasion when this subject was discussed, does not appear to be very important. Produce is exchanged for supplies such as rice, tobacco, arrack, clothes, bangles, occasionally perhaps powder, and for sheep, goats, or fowls. These goods are commonly given in advance, and, when this is the case, are generally exhausted before the agreed equivalent in produce has been collected; further advances are then obtained at high terms as the season progresses, and thus a man once in debt has the greatest difficulty in extricating himself. Notwithstanding the vast tracts in which the commodity is abundant, but quantities disposed of in the course of the year in the neighbourhood do not indicate so extensive a trade as I should have expected. The question is, however, whether the Tahsildar's figures are reliable, and also whether, presuming that they are correct as regards the neighbouring markets, they represent the real amount of these forests. It is possible that large quantities pass through Manjolur and Pandghaut, etc.

4. Be all this as it may, I believe the trade is a profitable one to the merchants who embark on it, because they persist in prosecuting it in spite of all risks and difficulties.

5. There are, it is said, only about 100 Kaders, including fourteen headmen or Mooppans, in the hilly portion of the Anamallays. The annexed table shows the description and quantity of produce they collect, the rates they obtain, and the prices charged by the dealers. The three last items are arranged from my calculations altogether:—

Name of Produce.	Quantity obtainable.	Rate obtained by Kaders, per Measure.	Price charged by Merchants per Measure.	Remarks.
	Measure.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Cardamoms	75	7 1 0	10 11 0	There are 14 small measures of 800 tolahs in a measure. Each measure is sold for 8 Annas or its supposed equivalent by the Kaders for 12 Annas by merchants.
Ginger	580	0 4 0	0 6 0	
Saffron	580	0 12 0	1 5 0	
Dammer	350	1 8 0	2 4 0	
Soapkay or Soapnut	570	0 8 0	0 12 0	
Wax	300	10 2 0	15 0 0	
Sting (horns) pair	150	0 5 0	0 8 0½	A pair, big.
Ditto ditto	150	0 4 0	0 6 0½	Ditto, small.
Honey in Bamboos	460	0 4 0	0 6 0	These small measures to be had loose.
Municipal in Bamboos	240	0 4 0	0 6 0	A bamboo.

6. I, however, am inclined to think that the merchants obtain far more remunerative rates than those exhibited by the Tahsildar's figures; for instance, I know that cardamoms have been sold at Anamallay in 1871 for Rs. 75 and in 1872 for Rs. 65; at present they are to be purchased for about Rs. 40, and, even allowing that a further fall in price may occur before August, when the new crop is picked and competition from a distance keen, I should suppose that the article is *never* sold for less than 20 Rs., and that an average of, say, Rs. 50 per maund is not an extravagant one.

7. I object again to the quantity set down as sold at Pollachy being regarded as a true index of the trade. The principal traffic in produce is conducted at Anamallay, and I have been told by an old resident, well acquainted with the forests, that from 300 to 400 maunds could be easily gathered yearly.

8. Now 300 maunds, if sold for Rs. 50 a-maund, raises the value of the forest produce to Rs. 15,000 under this one item alone, and would enable us to pay 115 Kaders a monthly wage of Rs. 7 and to each of the fifteen head men Rs. 10, and leave a net surplus of 3,540 Rs. irrespective of the value of the other collections which at the Tahsildar's rates amount to Rs. 7,625 per annum.

9. The wide difference between the figures of the statement sent to you and those contained in the foregoing paragraphs is remarkable, and, to my mind, is significant of the value attached to the trade. If cardamoms are to be had at Pollachy for 10 Rs. a-maund would a man give 75 Rs. at Anamallay, especially when Pollachy is on the way to Madras, where they were to be sold, and were sold, for 80 Rs?

10. Pulians to the number of seventy-eight reside in the hamlets of Manupatti, Ersinampatti, and Dhully; they collect honey, wax, and gallnuts. Of the first it is estimated that the amount annually collected is 312 vallums, the value of which, at 1 Rupee, is Rs. 312; of the second they are said to collect 312 sanals (a weight equal to that of 32 Rs.), the value of which, at 5 Annas, amounts to Rs. 97-8-0; of gallnuts they are said to collect and sell 3,120 vallums, which, at 6 Pice per vallum, amount to Rs. 97-8-0; the total, therefore, realized by this tribe is Rs. 307 per annum, or an average of, say, Rs. 3-8-0 per man. I place little reliance on these figures. I am certain they under-estimate the trade greatly.

11. The position of the tribes in relation to dealers is, in the case of the Kaders of the reserved forests, doubtful, that is to say, the dealers assert that the Kaders owe them between 3,000 and 4,000 Rs. There is no documentary evidence of this debt, however, and Vyapoory, the chief of the tribe, has more than once denied the liability before me. I do not regard this denial as worth much, for I have known this man mislead me completely in matters connected with his affairs and those of the Chettics. He is suspicious and jealous of interference. I imagine that he fears his liberty of trade would be greatly restricted by any departmental action for the collection of jungle produce.

12. If, however, the Kaders admit their indebtedness to the traders themselves, it is conceivable that the latter, on the strength of their claims, exert more than a legitimate influence over the former. It must be remembered that the Kaders, as a body, rarely venture beyond the precincts of the forest, and, with a few exceptions, are extremely timid of leaving their haunts, while, in common with most natives, they are under great subjection to the power of established custom. These characteristics combined with their capricious, indolent, and improvident temperament weaken them for a contest with the astute Chettics, who, by combining to stop supplies, and possibly by exaggerating their forbearance in not resorting to legal measures, generally contrive to remain masters of the situation; indeed, these traders exercise a control over the Kaders which would, I fear, be beyond this department.

13. It is not to be denied that the Kader, as a rule, is an idle, intemperate, improvident individual, but, at the same time, he is immensely superior to the jungle-wallah of other districts, for, after a three-year residence amongst them, I can positively assert that the description given of the abject poverty and ignorance which elsewhere prevails by no means applies to the Anamallays. At the same time, from what I have seen of the Coorg Kaders, who are servants of

the Sirear, I think that the total independence conferred on our men has by no means enabled them to surpass their comrades as regards either intelligence or prosperity.

14. I now come to the fourth point specified in paragraph 7 of the Government Order under reference, viz., "The necessity of interference." As regards the protection of the people, I do not think that their condition is such as to warrant any special interposition on the part of Government. Whether I am right in supposing that the Chetty from the low country gets the best of the bargain or not, there is no disguising the fact that the tribe is, on the whole, satisfied with the existing state of things. I presume the pleading traits must possess its advantages for the Kader as well as for the Chetty. Under the old system of farming contracts complaints were loud; but, since the people were emancipated from what was so repugnant to them, little seems to have been heard of the hardship and ill-treatment which is said to have been so rife formerly. This is the only ground within my reach on which to base a comparison of their existing condition with that from which they have emerged, and the legitimate conclusion is that the general welfare of the people has not retrograded.

15. I do not for a moment deem that the state of these people is not capable of great improvement; but it is desirable to prevent, so far as may be possible, a false impression of their inferiority in the scale of humanity. I anticipate considerable difficulty in effecting any change amongst them. What we have to do is to combat the reluctance they evince for regular employment. If we can overcome this obstacle,—a result of which I am not over-sanguine, however,—we shall effect an immense improvement in their welfare, and ought to achieve great success in forest conservancy. It is in view to those becoming effective labourers in this line that I recommend an endeavour to secure as many of them as possible in the permanent employment of the department. In these men we shall possess invaluable aid. It will be useless to attempt to put them at hard work, for that we expect to receive a full day's work in the ordinary acceptation of the term at first, can probably for some time; but as guides, hutters, and for the clearing and pruning of young trees, cutting creepers, precaution against fire, and many other things, these men will, if we are to all successful, prove themselves well worth the expenditure of considerable trouble and the temporary sacrifice of money involved by their ineptitude and indifference at the outset.

16. It is, therefore, for the promotion of forests that I propose to endeavour to withdraw the Kaders from their present desultory mode of life. To interest them in the protection of the forests, that is to get them to regard forest work as a livelihood, will serve to raise them of itself, and will enable us to undertake the collection of forest products to such extent as may be deemed expedient.

17. The Puliars are in quite a different position from the Kaders. They carry their own goods to market, and are perfectly willing to sell to the Forest Department or any one, provided fair rates are offered; these people must, therefore, be left to themselves; they are constantly employed by ryots for cultivation.

18. The Mulcers may be said to have ceased to exist as a purely jungle tribe. They are eagerly sought for by ryots for raising land in the feverish localities at the foot of the Anamallays, and it is at times most difficult to obtain sufficient men for Government forest work; for this reason I would also recommend an effort to secure the services of a gang permanently.

19. The Muduvars are a tribe inhabiting the higher ranges, are said to cultivate to some extent, and are, I have heard, fine powerful men and great shikarries. I have never met with any, and circumstances may be said to have placed them beyond our reach for all practical purposes.

20. My opinion has been for some time past, and, indeed, I intended to submit it for your consideration, independently of the G. O. of the 1st ultimo, that we should commence by establishing a gang of Kaders and of Mulcers, under liberal pay, part in cash and part in supplies, to all in such as they may prefer. A record will be kept as to how each man is employed daily, and at the end of the year a report based on this statement, and explaining to what extent the men have proved of service, should be submitted.

21. These two races are eminently the people by which to work forests like the Anamallays. It is true we must expect to encounter an aggravating amount of idleness, shirking, and indifference at first; in fact, it is quite possible that the antipathy to work may resist all the attractions held out, but a firm conviction of the immense benefit derivable, should success crown our efforts, induces me strongly to urge the entertainment of this scheme. It is especially adapted to a *reserved* tract like the Anamallays, where no right of entry exists except to Forest employés.

22. As the Bolumputty forests, will very shortly be withdrawn from my care I have excluded it from this report.

THE Board submit the above letter of the Deputy-Conservator of Forests, enclosed in one from the Collector of Coimbatore, for the information of Government with reference to the subject of G. O., dated 1st March.

2. Mr. Douglas's letter describes the existing state of things in the Anamallay and neighbouring forests, and it may be gathered from his description that there is a trade of unknown extent, but scattered over a very wide area, between the Kaders and certain Chetties.

3. This trade is one of barter principally, the Kaders exchanging forest products for manufactures and produce from the plains. It runs in narrow grooves, the communications being few and difficult. The Chetties embarked in this business have a large stake therein, as heavy advances are a primary condition of the trade, and their security is inappreciable. The profits must, therefore, be considerable; but the Kaders cannot be asserted to have the worst of the bargain considering the risks of the business, and are well content with things as they are. Mr. Douglas imagines (paragraph 11) that the headman of the Kaders, Vyapoory, "fears his liberty of trade would be greatly restricted by any departmental action for the collection of jungle produce." The Board of Revenue share his opinion, and paragraph 14 of his letter gives additional evidence as to the well-being of the Kader and his fortunate position, in that he can, by a congenial employment in the forest which is his home, supply his wants, and preserve his independence.

4. At the end of his letter, the Deputy-Conservator advocates the employment of a gang of Kaders and Mulcers, to be paid partly on the truck system and employed mainly in collecting jungle produce, and also occasionally in general work in the forest, such as the department requires to be done. From the profits to be gained by the re-sale of the produce collected Mr. Douglas believes that the cost of the gang would be paid twice over (paragraph 8).

5. The profits to be derived are mainly those anticipated from the cardamom trade, and the Board are satisfied that the information with which Mr. Douglas has been supplied is incorrect in many particulars; it is not necessary, however, here to discuss the estimate given in his letter of prices and quantities, as the Board think that the bulk of the cardamoms sold at Pollachy, Anamallay, and other markets at the foot of the range may be grown in Cochin and Travancore and smuggled across the frontier, and they cannot but condemn a proposal which would tend to implicate Government employés in a fraud on the fiscal system of a friendly State.

6. The other articles of produce are collected under the pressure of necessity by the Kaders, and the work of their collection is toilsome, its reward somewhat precarious; to grant them regular pay would disincline them for the labour needful to collect and bring into markets these products.

7. The Board are decidedly of opinion that competition between Government and private traders would result in mischief to all concerned. That the prosperity of the traders and of the hillmen can be increased by the improvement of the roads to the place where the markets are held there can be no doubt, and in this work it is probable that the labour of some of the Mulcers might be utilized, while such work as the Forest Department requires to be done in the higher parts of the range the Kaders may be found willing to perform. This Mr. Douglas has already the means of arranging. The Board are of opinion that the trade itself and its development may be left with confidence to the ordinary motives of the traders and the labourers of the country.

No. 66. Ootacamund, 6th May 1874, No. 550.

Forests, No. 1

THE Government resolve to refer the above Proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Inspector of Forests for any observations he may wish to offer.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Rad. P. R. Bastiampillai.

FOREST No. 39.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th August 1873, No. 1,519.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1873, No. 83 :—

Copy of Mr. Douglas' letter, No. 100, of 30th April 1873.

IN forwarding copy of Mr. Douglas' scheme for the employment of the jungle tribes in his jurisdiction for the information and orders of Government I have the honour to make the following remarks.

2. I do not think that we can interfere, as was once proposed by the Conservator of Forests, by buying up the claims of the merchants who have these tribes in their debt. The real amount would be impossible of ascertainment, and, even if cleared off, there is no power to prevent their again coming under obligations.

3. We cannot establish a monopoly of dealing with the hill tribes, and from the description of their characteristics, the entertainment of them on fixed pay instead of piece-work, would seem liable to objections.

4. But a comparison of the prices said to be given for jungle products and their more probable value seems to open out a possible chance of a beneficial competition with the merchants. The Forest Officer might purchase such articles as the price may show to be susceptible of a profit on resale, and thus it would soon be found out whether such a course would be advantageous.

5. But perhaps the best way to develop the trade and resources would be to first publish the prices at which these jungle products are procurable on the spot. Government trading is seldom successful, and the most it can do to help trade is by facilitating the intercourse of the buyer and seller.

6. It is, I think, a pity that the monopoly of dealing with the jungle tribes for their produce, which when sold by auction brought in a certain revenue, was given up about nineteen years ago. The tribes worked on compulsion for the receipt of articles from the plains just as the shoemaker works on compulsion to buy the necessaries of life for himself and family instead of having a succession of St. Martin's days.

7. The Kaders, finding that they get good prices owing to an increased demand for their products, work less and drink more, like the Colliers at home; the forests, like the collieries, are consequently not developed.

8. It was alleged that the former state of the Kaders was worse than that of West Indian slaves, as they were driven out to collect products in the south-west monsoon; but August is the time when cardamoms are collected, and then not a Kader, as I have experienced, is to be had for love or money. I consequently think (and was always of that opinion) that the oppression of these people was exaggerated. They were just as much masters of the situation as the merchants; if the merchants did not supply grain, etc., they got no cardamoms or wax, etc. The latter had, indeed, the best of the bargain, as they have now. The Kaders, a timid race, would, if intimidated, run away. A writ would scarcely run on the Anamallay Hills, and large profits meant bad security.

9. However that may be, the only way now is to try competition, and, if advertisement of the prevailing price does not attract new purchasers, an attempt

might be made to collect these products at a fair price (which the producers must fix, and not the buyers) and try a sale by the department at the neighbouring large weekly market of Pollachy.

Enclosure No. 1.

From C. G. DOUGLAS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Anamallay, etc., Ranges, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 30th April 1875, No. 100.

With reference to the Order of Government, No. 240, dated 1st March 1873, upon the system of collecting forest products advocated by the Conservator some years ago, I have the honour to submit for your consideration a few remarks regarding each of the points upon which Government desire to obtain "accurate information so far as the subject admits of it," viz.:—

(1.) Description and amount of valuable forest products in the district.

(2.) Nature, extent, and direction of trade in them.

(3.) Position of the forest tribes in relation to those with whom they deal.

(4.) The necessity and advisability of interference for—

(a.) The protection of the people, the forest or of State rights; or

(b.) The development of any valuable material resource.

2. The products of the Anamallay Forest consist of cardamoms, honey, dammer, wax, nuttmeg,* saffron, gallnuts, soapnuts, turmeric, [illegible] from the Travancore Reserves. ginger; but of the amount procurable I have no means of forming an estimate. It is probably great, the whole of the forests being rich in these products between the elevations of 1,500 and 4,000 feet.

3. The nature of the trade, judging by the information elicited on a previous occasion when this subject was discussed, does not appear to be very important. Produce is exchanged for supplies such as rice, tobacco, arrack, clothes, bangles, occasionally perhaps powder, and for steel, goats, or fowls. These goods are constantly given in advance, and, when this is the case, are generally returned before the agreed equivalent in produce has been collected; further advances are then obtained, on high terms as to season generally, and thus a tribe gets in debt into the greatest difficulty in extricating himself. Notwithstanding the vast tracts in which the commodity is abundant, the quantities disposed of in the course of the year in the neighbourhood do not indicate so extensive a trade as I should have expected. The question is, however, whether the Tahsildar's figures are reliable, and also whether, presuming that they are correct as regards the neighbouring markets, they represent the real outturn of these forests. It is possible that large quantities pass through Malabar and Palghaut, etc.

4. Be all this as it may, I believe the trade is a profitable one to the merchants who embark in it, because they persist in maintaining it in spite of all risks and difficulties.

5. There are, it is said, only about 180 Kaders including fourteen head men at Moopens in the further portion of the Anamallays. The annexed table shows the description and quantity of produce they collect, the rates they obtain, and the price charged by the dealers. The three last items are excluded from my calculations altogether:—

Name of Produce.	Quantity collectable per Annum.	Price charged by Kaders.			Price charged by Merchant.			Remarks.
		R.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.	
Cardamoms	600				10	0	0	Cannot get it sold in Anamallay at present.
Honey	850	3	12	0	5	0	0	Sold for 4 Annas.
Dammer or Sambrani	350	1	8	0	2	8	0	Annas 8 or the supposed commencement of the Kaders for 12 seers.
Wax	870	9	8	0	10	12	0	Annas 12 by merchants.
Gallnuts	850	10	0	0	15	0	0	Annas 24 per seer.
Soapnuts	120	0	5	0	0	6	0	Annas 6 per seer.
Honey, wild	120	0	4	0	0	6	0	Do. small.
Honey in Bamboos	160	0	4	0	0	6	0	Large small measures of bamboos.
Wax ditto in Bamboos	240	0	4	0	0	6	0	A bamboo.

6. I, however, am inclined to think that the merchants obtain far more remunerative rates than those exhibited by the Tahsildar's figures; for instance, I know that cardamoms have been sold at Anamallay in 1871 for Rupees 75 and in 1872 for Rupees 65; at present they are to be purchased for about Rupees 40, and, even allowing that a further fall in price may occur before August, when the new crop is picked and competition from a distance keen, I should suppose that the article is *never* sold for less than 20 Rupees, and that an average of, say, Rupees 50 per maund is not an extravagant one.

7. I object again to the quantity set down as sold at Pollachy being regarded as a true index of the trade. The principal traffic in produce is conducted at Anamallay, and I have been told by an old resident, well acquainted with the forests, that from 300 to 400 maunds could be easily gathered yearly.

8. Now 300 maunds if sold for Rupees 50 a maund raises the value of the forest produce to Rupees 15,000 under this one item alone, and would enable us to pay 115 Kaders a monthly wage of Rupees 7 and to each of the fifteen headmen Rupees 10, and leave a net surplus of 3,540 Rupees irrespective of the value of the other collections which at the Tahsildar's rates amount to Rupees 7,625 per annum.

9. The wide difference between the figures of the statement sent to you and those contained in the foregoing paragraphs is remarkable, and, to my mind, is significant of the value attached to the trade. If cardamoms are to be had at Pollachy for 10 Rupees a maund would a man give 75 Rupees at Anamallay, especially when Pollachy is on the way to Madras, where they were to be sold, and were sold, for 80 Rupees?

10. Puliars to the number of seventy-eight reside in the hamlets of Manupatti, Ersinamputti, and Dhully: they collect honey, wax, and gallnuts. Of the first it is estimated that the amount annually collected is 312 vallums, the value of which at 1 Rupee is Rupees 312; of the second they are said to collect 312 sanais (a weight equal to that of 32 Rupees), the value of which at 5 Annas amounts to Rupees 97-8-0; of gallnuts they are said to collect and sell 3,120 vallums, which at 6 Pice per vallum amount to Rupees 97-8-0; the total, therefore, realized by this tribe is Rupees 507 per annum, or an average of, say, Rupees 6-8-0 per man. I place little reliance on these figures. I am certain they under-estimate the trade greatly.

11. The position of the tribes in relation to dealers is, in the case of the Kaders of the reserved forests, doubtful, that is to say, the dealers assert that the Kaders owe them between 3,000 and 4,000 Rupees. There is no documentary evidence of this debt, however, and Vyapoory, the chief of the tribe, has more than once denied the liability before me. I do not regard this denial as worth much, for I have known this man mislead me completely in matters connected with his affairs and those of the Chetties. He is suspicious and jealous of interference. I imagine that he fears his liberty of trade would be greatly restricted by any departmental action for the collection of jungle produce.

12. If, however, the Kaders admit their indebtedness to the traders themselves, it is conceivable that the latter on the strength of their claims exert more than a legitimate influence over the former. It must be remembered that the Kaders, as a body, rarely venture beyond the precincts of the forest, and, with a few exceptions, are extremely timid of leaving their haunts, while in common with most natives they are under great subjection to the power of established custom. These characteristics combined with their suppleness, indolent, and improvident temperament weaken them for a contest with the astute Chetties, who by combining to stop supplies, and possibly by exaggerating their forbearance in not resorting to legal measures, generally contrive to remain masters of the situation; indeed, these traders exercise a control over the Kaders which would, I fear, be beyond this department.

13. It is not to be denied that the Kader, as a rule, is an idle, intemperate, improvident individual, but at the same time he is immensely superior to the jungle-wallah of other districts, for after a three-years' residence amongst them I can positively assert that the description given of the abject poverty and ignorance which elsewhere prevails by no means applies to the Ana-

mallays. At the same time, from what I have seen of the Cochin Kaders, who are servants of the Sircar, I think that the total independence conferred on our men has by no means enabled them to surpass their comrades as regards either intelligence or prosperity.

14. I now come to the fourth point specified in paragraph 7 of the Government Order under reference, viz., "The necessity of interference." As regards the protection of the people, I do not think that their condition is such as to warrant any special interposition on the part of Government. Whether I am right in supposing that the Chetty from the low country gets the best of the bargain or not, there is no disguising the fact that the tribe is, on the whole, satisfied with the existing state of things. I presume the peculiar trade must possess its advantages for the Kader as well as for the Chetty. Under the old system of farming contracts complaints were loud; but, since the people were emancipated from what was so repugnant to them, little seems to have been heard of the hardship and ill-treatment which is said to have been so rife formerly. This is the only ground within my reach on which to base a comparison of their existing condition with that from which they have emerged, and the legitimate conclusion is that the general welfare of the people has not retrograded.

15. I do not for a moment assert that the state of these people is not capable of great improvement; but it is desirable to prevent, as far as may be possible, a false impression of their inferiority in the scale of humanity. I anticipate considerable difficulty in effecting any change amongst them. What we have to do is to combat the reluctance they evince for regular employment. If we can overcome this obstacle—a result of which I am not oversanguine, however—we shall effect an immense improvement in their welfare, and ought to achieve great success in forest conservancy. It is in view to their becoming effective labourers in this line that I recommend an endeavour to secure as many of them as possible in the permanent employment of the department. In these men we shall possess invaluable aid. It will be useless to attempt to put them at hard work, neither need we expect to receive a full day's work in the ordinary acceptation of the term at first, nor probably for some time; but as guides, hunters, and for the clearing and pruning of young trees, cutting creepers, precaution against fire, and many other things, these men will, if we are at all successful, prove themselves well worth the expenditure of considerable trouble and the temporary sacrifice of money involved by their inaptitude and indifference at the outset.

16. It is, therefore, for the protection of forests that I propose to endeavour to withdraw the Kaders from their present desultory mode of life. To interest them in the protection of the forests, that is, to get them to regard forest work as a livelihood, will serve to raise them of result and will enable us to undertake the collection of forest products to such extent as may be deemed expedient.

17. The Pulliars are in quite a different position from the Kaders. They carry their own goods to market, and are perfectly willing to sell to the Forest Department on any one provided fair terms are offered; these people must, therefore, be left to themselves. They are constantly engaged by ryots for cultivation.

18. The Mulcers may be said to have ceased to exist as a purely jungle tribe. They are eagerly sought for by ryots farming land in the feverish localities at the foot of the Anamallays, and it is at times most difficult to obtain sufficient men for Government forest work; for this reason I would also recommend an effort to secure the services of a gang permanently.

19. The Muduvars are a tribe inhabiting the higher ranges, are said to cultivate to some extent, and are, I have heard, fine powerful men and great shikarees. I have never met with any, and circumstances may be said to have placed them beyond our reach for all practical purposes.

20. My opinion has been for some time past, and, indeed, I intended to submit it for your consideration on the receipt only of the G. O. of the 1st ultimo, that we should commence by establishing a gang of Kaders and of Mulcers, the liberal pay, part in cash and part in supplies, or all in cash, as they prefer. A record will be kept as to how each man is employed each day, and at the end of the year a report based on this statement, and explaining to what extent the men have proved of service, should be submitted.

21. These two races are eminently the people by which to work forests like the Anamallays. It is true we must expect to encounter an aggravating amount of idleness, shirking, and indifference at first: in fact, it is quite possible that the antipathy to work may resist all the attractions held out, but a firm conviction of the immense benefit derivable, should success crown our efforts, induces me strongly to urge the entertainment of this scheme. It is especially adapted to a *reserved* tract like the Anamallays, where no right of entry exists except to Forest employés.

22. As the Bolamputty Forests will very shortly be withdrawn from my care I have excluded it from this report.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

The Board submit the above letter of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, enclosed in one from the Collector of Coimbatore, for the information of Government with reference to the subject of G. O. dated 1st March.

2. Mr. Douglas' letter describes the existing state of things in the Anamallay and neighbouring forests, and it may be gathered from his description that there is a trade of unknown extent, but scattered over a very wide area, between the Kaders and certain Chetties.

3. This trade is one of barter principally, the Kaders exchanging forest products for manufactures and produce from the plains. It runs in narrow grooves, the communications being few and difficult. The Chetties embarked in this business have a large stake therein as heavy advances are a primary condition of the trade, and their security is inappreciable. The profits must, therefore, be considerable; but the Kaders cannot be asserted to have the worst of the bargain considering the risks of the business, and are well content with things as they are. Mr. Douglas imagines (paragraph 11) that the head man of the Kaders, Vyapoory, "fears his liberty of trade would be greatly restricted by any departmental action for the collection of jungle produce." The Board of Revenue share his opinion, and paragraph 14 of his letter gives additional evidence as to the well-being of the Kader and his fortunate position, in that he can, by a congenial employment in the forest which is his home, supply his wants and preserve his independence.

4. At the end of his letter the Deputy Conservator advocates the employment of a gang of Kaders and Mulcers, to be paid partly on the truck system and employed mainly in collecting jungle produce, and also occasionally in general work in the forest, such as the department requires to be done. From the profits to be gained by the resale of the produce collected Mr. Douglas believes that the cost of the gang would be paid twice over (paragraph 8).

5. The profits to be derived are mainly those anticipated from the cardamom trade, and the Board are satisfied that the information with which Mr. Douglas has been supplied is incorrect in many particulars; it is not necessary, however, here to discuss the estimate given in his letter of prices and quantities as the Board think that the bulk of the cardamoms sold at Pollachy, Anamallay, and other markets at the foot of the range may be grown in Cochin and Travancore and smuggled across the frontier, and they cannot but condemn a proposal which would tend to implicate Government employés in a fraud on the fiscal system of a friendly State.

6. The other articles of produce are collected under the pressure of necessity by the Kaders, and the work of their collection is toilsome, its reward somewhat precarious; to grant them regular pay would disincline them for the labour needful to collect and bring into market these products.

7. The Board are decidedly of opinion that competition between Government and private traders would result in mischief to all concerned. That the prosperity of the traders and of the hill men can be increased by the improvement of the roads to the places where the markets are held there can be no doubt, and in this work it is probable that the labour of some of the Mulcers might be utilized, while such work as the Forest Department requires to be done in the higher parts of the range the Kaders may be found willing to perform. This Mr. Douglas has already the means of arranging. The Board are of opinion that the trade itself and its development may be left with confidence to the ordinary motives of the traders and the labourers of the country.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

" to the Inspector of Forests.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

Revenue Department.

No. 1521

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 3rd May 1874.

READ the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting Collector's letter forwarding copy of scheme drawn up by Mr. Douglas, Inspr. of Forests, for trade relations of Kaders or Juangs, Tribes in Tirunelveli and other forests in Coimbatore &c.

H. E. 7 August 1873, No. 1579

The Govt. resolve to refer the above proceedings of the Board of Revenue to the Inspector of Forests for any observations he may wish to offer.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Inspector of Forests.

Copy to the Board of Revenue.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.

Recommended, The Annexed Extract from Mr. Douglas's Report on the Kaders of Anamalai Hills, Coimbatore District.

Extract Para. 38.

Kaders or Juangs Tribes—in Anamalai Hills, Coimbatore District—Collection of Minor Forest Produce by—Suggestions for ameliorating condition of—

Forests Nos. 39.

Revenue Department.

No. 1521

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 3rd May 1874, No. 1521.

Ordered, That the Annexed Extract from Mr. Douglas's Report on the Kaders of Anamalai Hills, Coimbatore District, be forwarded to the Inspector of Forests for information and with reference to Government Proceedings dated 7th August 1873, No. 1579.

(True Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Inspector of Forests.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

" to the Inspector of Forests.

Ed. A. S. Rodgers.