

577/13

M.R.O. 1-20,002-12-9-55.

- (1) Number of Pages.....26
- (2) Date of repair.....24-8-66
- (3) Initials of the Referencer.....[Signature]

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

.....DEPARTMENT

|          |            |       |
|----------|------------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 577        | Press |
| B.P. No. |            | Mis.  |
| Dated    | 8. 5. 1874 | 196.  |

*[Signature]* Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
8th May 1874.*

Read the following :—

No. 120. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th April 1874, No. 918,  
Forest No. 54.

Read the following letters :—

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th December 1873, No. 705.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,176, dated 24th October last, I have the honour to inform you that I have visited the Kattalai Mallai Hill, and have ascertained that the Zemindar is unwilling to accept the Board's terms, as he apprehends that the lease may be terminated at the option of Government.

2. He is willing to accept, however, an assignment of revenue from lands at the foot of the hill, and as there are several large landholders of the same caste as the Zemindar who are willing to pay to him instead of to Government, I request that I may be authorized to make an assignment of 4,000 Rupees from their assessment, when the Village of Vikramasingapuram comes to be settled.

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, Major Beddome merely valued the timber that might fairly be cut on the hill at 500 Rupees per annum, but I value the right of keeping smugglers out of our forest at very much more, and as explained in several of my former letters, I think it worth while to pay highly to protect the wooded slopes at the head of our river.

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Inam Commissioner, Madras, dated 9th February 1874, No. 75.

As requested in your Official Memorandum, No. 39, dated 24th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, herewith, an Extract from Mr. Cotton's register relative to the Kattalai Mallai.

2. The definition in this register could hardly be vaguer; the Kattalai Mallai being in reality an isolated ridge, some two miles in length from its western extremity, facing the Pandiyan Kottei to its eastern extremity, on the bank of the Tambrapurney, it stands far back in among the ghaut mountains, some ten miles from Vikramasingapuram, and though Vikramasingapuram is the nearest Village on the Tinnevely side, the Kattalai Mallai and the adjacent mountains form no part of that village, but lie between Vikramasingapuram and the Travancore territory.

3. There are no recorded boundaries of Vikramasingapuram in Mr. Cotton's register; by Revenue Settlement, they extend up to the neighbourhood of the Surveyar, a stream half way between the Village and the Kattalai Mallai.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,  
Inam Commissioner.



*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
8th May 1874.*

8. It will be contended that the description in Mr. Cotton's Register and the Inam Title-deed are wrong because the Curnam who supplied them was ignorant, and that the tract which was intended in both is the tract now called the Kattalai Mallai. Further inquiry will throw light on this question. In 1840 it appears that the Kattalai Mallai was attached as part of the Chockamputty Zemindari and leased to a contractor. It is not obvious why the Kattalai Mallai which is said to have been given away to a pagoda forty years before should have been attached, and the fact is awkward as it seems to admit some right to the hill on the part of the Chockamputty Zemindar, but inquiries should be made as to why the attachment took place, and what tract was actually occupied by the contractor.

9. If the result of the investigation is to show that it is doubtful whether the tract now called the Kattalai Mallai is the tract referred to in Mr. Cotton's Register and the Inam Title-deed, and whether it was occupied sixty years ago, the Board think a suit to recover the property should be filed on behalf of Government. The right of the Chockamputty Zemindar to an isolated hill twenty miles from his Estate, and therefore his right to give such a hill away to a pagoda can no doubt be disputed with success.

10. Should it be found feasible to file this suit and should it be successful it may be possible to revive the claims of Government to immense tracts of forest land which have been endangered by the encroachments of hill Zemindars in Madura or Tinnevely.

No. 120A. From Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 29th April 1874, No. 48.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings of 18th April, Forest No. 54, regarding the Kuttalai Mullay forest in the Tinnevely District, I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government that the fact of the area now claimed being identical with that described in the Inam title-deed has not "hitherto been unquestioned," as the Board suppose (paragraph 7).

2. In my report, dated 12th November 1870 (recorded with G. O. of 3rd June 1871, No. 981) on all these hill forests, I say, with reference to the Kuttalai Mullay: "I see nothing to connect either of these entries with a block of valuable forest land, only a comparatively small portion of which has ever been cultivated as punjah," etc., etc. But even if it be established that the tracts are identical, I consider the annual sum, which is proposed to pay (Rs. 4,000), very high and far beyond its value to the Inamdar.

3. I must express regret that more vigorous action was not taken with regard to all these hill forests in 1871 after the issue of the G. O. already quoted; and I cannot concur with Mr. Puckle in his view recorded in subsequent Proceedings that it is only with the southern forests that we need concern ourselves.

4. I consider all these ghaut forests of great value both with regard to climatic considerations, water, and timber supply; and I beg respectfully to suggest the appointment of a Commission to carry out the Board's proposals as to

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
8th May 1874.*

further inquiry, and vested with full powers to investigate, define the extent and boundaries, etc., and lay before Government definite proposals for the final settlement of the matter.

5. I made a similar proposal in 1869 or 1870, when Deputy-Conservator of the range, and feel sure it is the only way to arrive at definite conclusions just and satisfactory to all the parties concerned.

No. 121. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1874, No. 577.

Forests, No. 3.

If the Zemindar will acquiesce in the conditions prescribed by the Board in paragraph 5 of their Proceedings

recorded above, the arrangement suggested in paragraph 4 should be carried out at once.

2. In any case, the further inquiries indicated should be made quickly.

3. Such a Commission as that proposed by Captain Walker is out of the question; nor would the Zemindars, who are in possession, agree to anything of the kind.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.  
.. the Officiating Inspector of Forests.  
.. the Accountant-General.

Erd. F. R. Bantleman.

FOREST No. 54.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 18th April 1874, No. 918.

Read the following letters :—

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th December 1873, No. 705.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,176, dated 24th October last, I have the honour to inform you that I have visited the Kattalai Mallai Hill, and have ascertained that the Zemindar is unwilling to accept the Board's terms, as he apprehends that the lease may be terminated at the option of Government.

2. He is willing to accept, however, an assignment of revenue from lands at the foot of the hill, and as there are several large landholders of the same caste as the Zemindar who are willing to pay to him instead of to Government, I request that I may be authorized to make an assignment of 4,000 Rupees from their assessment, when the Village of Vikramasingapuram comes to be settled.

3. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, Major Beddome merely valued the timber that might fairly be cut on the hill at 500 Rupees per annum, but I value the right of keeping smugglers out of our forest at very much more, and explained in several of my reports, I think, while to pay highly to protect the wooded slopes at the head of our river.

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Inam Commissioner, Madras, dated 9th February 1874, No. 75.

As requested in your Official Memorandum, No. 39, dated 24th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, herewith, an Extract from Mr. Cotton's register relative to the Kattalai Mallai.

2. The definition in this register could hardly be vaguer; the Kattalai Mallai being in reality an isolated ridge, some two miles in length from its western extremity, facing the Pandiyan Kottei to its eastern extremity, on the bank of the Tambrapurney, it stands far back in among the ghaut mountains, some ten miles from Vikramasingapuram, and though Vikramasingapuram is the nearest Village on the Tinnevely side, the Kattalai Mallai and the adjacent mountains form no part of that village, but lie between Vikramasingapuram and the Travancore territory.

3. There are no recorded boundaries of Vikramasingapuram in Mr. Cotton's register; by Revenue Settlement, they extend up to the neighbourhood of the Surveyar, a stream half way between the Village and the Kattalai Mallai.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,  
Inam Commissioner,

vide 12/1/74 11 May 75  
No 1232

Obdt. of 11874  
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May 8th

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 8th May 1874, No. 577

MAY

Nos. 120-121.

Kattalai Mallai Forest, Tinnevely District.  
Approves arrangement suggested by Board  
regarding the — under proposed conditions;  
directs further inquiries to be made with all speed;  
and approves Captain Walker's suggestion as to  
Commission.



Enclosure No. 1.  
Extract from the Register of Maniams.

| Num-ber. | Name of the original grantee.                                                                    | Names of the present grantees.                                                                                          | Name of the vil-lage in which the Maniam-dar is living. | Age. | Feet. | In-ches. | The villages in which the Maniams are situated.                   | MANIAM IN DEBIT. |       |        | For what purpose grant-ed. | By what authority granted.                                   | Date of the grant.                                                  |         |           |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------|-------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
|          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                         |                                                         |      |       |          |                                                                   | Rocamaniam.      | Carr. | Total. |                            |                                                              |                                                                     |         |           |
| 1,244    | Velapooja Cat-talay to Pau-payasa Swa-my's Pagoda, instituted by Valangapooly Periyasawmy Teven. | Vayendamooteo Pillay, present Manager and Gunastah of Valangapooly Periyasawmy Teven, grand-son of original In-situtor. | Paupa-payasam.                                          | 36   | 5     | 2        | South side mountain of Vilva-masingapuram in the Im-madesam Taluk | 35 0 0           | 0     | 0      | Per annum.                 | This amount of Maniam being collected from the Hill produce. | For perform-ing ceremony to the Swamy at 7 o'clock in the morn-ing. | Mamool. | Andu 941. |

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,  
Collector.

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,  
Inam Commissioner.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with reference to G. O., dated 13th November 1873, No. 1,262.

2. The Kattalai Mallai Forest is said to be property of the Papanassem Pagoda in the possession of the dispossessed Zemindar of Chockamputti, and the importance of obtaining a lease of it has been urged by the Collector and admitted by the Board and Government. In their Proceedings of the 17th May 1873, No. 826, (Forest No. 23) the Board recommended that Government should lease the Singamputti Forests and if they consented to do so, should also rent the Kattalai Mallai Forest at Rupees 4,000 per annum. In G. O., 4th July 1873, No. 685, Government approved of these proposals.

3. It has since been decided that the Singamputti forests shall be managed by the Forest Department until the Minor comes of age, and that he shall then be offered a rent which he will probably accept, viz., Rupees 11,000 per annum.

4. The case of the Kattalai Mallai Forest is still undecided. The Collector now reports that the occupant will not accept a money rent of Rupees 4,000 a year but will accept an assignment of land revenue of the same amount on land in Vikramasingapuram. There are several large landholders in that village who are willing to pay their dues to the occupant of the Kattalai Mallai instead of to Government, and the Collector proposes to make the assignment when he settles the village.

5. As it is of great importance to gain immediate possession of the forest the Board think the assignment should be sanctioned, but only on the condition that Government Rights to the Kattalai Mallai Forest shall not be affected thereby, and that if the Courts decide that the forest belongs to Government the assignment made in this direction for it shall cease to have any effect.

6. With regard to the title of Government to the Kattalai Mallai Forest the Board after consulting with the Inam Commissioner are decidedly of opinion that further inquiry should be made.

7. It has hitherto been unquestioned that the Inam title-deed granted to the Papanassem pagoda for a hill maniam called the "Kattalai Mallai maniam," applies to the tract which forms the subject of these Proceedings, but the Title-deed describes it thus:—"This is a hill maniam. Its position is described in the Register of Mr. Cotton as 'south side mountain of Vikramasingapuram.' The extent of the Mallai is according to the

\* Acres 3463.46.

Survey Account Sangili 951-8-0\* the

assessment of which at the dry rate of the village is Rupees 1,059-10-0;" and in another part of the deed the tract is said to be "Mallai Punjab or Hill Dry Maniam." The map shows that the locality thus described is on the right bank or south of the Tambrapurney at the bend which it takes near Vikramasingapuram and the Board believe there is a tract in that position which might be called Hill Punjab. The tract now claimed as the Kattalai Mallai is ten miles away to the south-west on the left bank of the Tambrapurney, and could not by any stretch of imagination be called Hill Punjab. It seems probable therefore, that the original Kattalai Mallai having been denuded the occupants seized the present Kattalai Mallai, without having even a colourable title to it.

8. It will be contended that the description in Mr. Cotton's Register and the Inam Title-deed are wrong because the Curnam who supplied them was ignorant, and that the tract which was intended in both is the tract now called the Kattalai Mallai. Further inquiry will throw light on this question. In 1840 it appears that the Kattalai Mallai was attached as part of the Chockampatty Zemindari and leased to a contractor. It is not obvious why the Kattalai Mallai which is said to have been given away to a pagoda forty years before should have been attached, and the fact is awkward as it seems to admit some right to the bill on the part of the Chockampatty Zemindar, but inquiries should be made as to why the attachment took place, and what tract was actually occupied by the contractor.

9. If the result of the investigation is to show that it is doubtful whether the tract now called the Kattalai Mallai is the tract referred to in Mr. Cotton's Register and the Inam Title-deed, and whether it was occupied sixty years ago, the Board think a suit to recover the property should be filed on behalf of Government. The right of the Chockampatty Zemindar to an isolated hill twenty miles from his Estate, and therefore his right to give such a hill away to a pagoda can no doubt be disputed with success.

10. Should it be found feasible to file this suit and should it be successful it may be possible to revive the claims of Government to immense tracts of forest land which have been endangered by the encroachments of hill Zemindars in Madura or Tinnevely.

(True Copies and Extract.)

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.  
 „ the Collector of Tinnevely.

Copy to the Inam Commissioner.  
 „ to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS, 18TH APRIL 1874, No. 918.

Rev. 1874. Sept.  
 BOARD of Revenue,  
 MADRAS.

APRIL.  
 Forest No. 54.

Kattalai Mallai Forest—said to be property of Pannasem Pagoda, in possession of dispossessed Zemindar of Chockampatty, in Tinnevely District.—Recommendation made to Government that an assignment of land revenue, amounting to Rupees 4,000 a year, should be made to Zemindar on certain conditions, in lieu of which should be taken possession of by Government, and that further inquiry should be made with regard to title of Government to the forest.

Revenue Department.

No. 577

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1354.

From Board of Revenue  
 Dated 18th April 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

If the Government will  
 require in the con-  
 ditions prescribed by  
 the Act the Government  
 arranged work better  
 be a board & carried as  
 it once. Any two the

ed in paragraph 4  
 should be carried out at  
 once.

2. In any case the  
 further

of the  
 letter  
 forests.

18 and  
 No. 48.

car with  
 titions  
 Board  
 their  
 d above  
 suggest.

C. 14. 11/11/1874

4 July 1875 12 29-30  
 18 July 1875 12 29-30

For memo  
 C. 14. 11/11/1874

No. 10577-61 Aug 1874

8. It will be contended that the description in Mr. Cotton's Regi-  
Inam Title-deed are wrong because the Curnam who supplied them w  
and that the tract which was intended in both is the tract now called

in former register, by  
the Govt. should be transfer  
quickly  
L. O. S. Cotton

The Govt. recommend that  
a suit be brought to decide the right  
of the Govt. in possession of the Peland  
in the Civil Court.

The Peland of these tracts  
and adjacent of these claims is  
are present the Govt. of the Govt.  
Law what the Board report  
as far back as 1871. & Govt. account

No. 577  
Revenue Department.

The enactment of that Govt. of the  
the final award of this claim  
- finally settle any interference  
except of way of lease or other  
take exchange, with the occu-  
pation in the mean time

21/5 Mr. Brownlee  
In the present case I am authorized to  
act in this matter as  
as proposed by the Govt.

ed in paragraph 4  
should be carried out at  
once.

2. In any case the  
further

MADRAS.

RECEIVED, 18TH APRIL 1874, No. 918.

Dep. Secy. 1/14 -

No. 16577 - 6 May 1/14.

23/5

APRIL.  
Forest No. 54.

Malai Malai Forest - said to be property  
of the Government, in possession of dispo-  
sition of Chockampetty, in Timorely  
of - Recommendation made to Govern-  
ment an assignment of land revenue,  
to Zemindar on certain conditions, in lieu  
which should be taken possession of by Gov-  
ernment, and that further inquiry should be  
with regard to title of Government to the

For orders

ELC

8. It will be contended that the description in Mr. Cotton's Reg Inam Title-deed are wrong because the Curnam who supplied them v and that the tract which was intended in both is the tract now called

FOR ORDERS.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1874.

READ the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, and letter from the Off. Insp. of Forests

Regarding possession of Kattalai Mallai Forest in Tinnevely District H. E. 18<sup>th</sup> April 1874 No. 918 and 29<sup>th</sup> April 1874 No. 48.

1. If the Zemindar will acquiesce in the conditions prescribed by the Board in paragraph 5 of their Proceedings recorded above the arrangement suggested in paragraph 4 should be carried out at once.

2. In any case the further

MADRAS.

DINGE, 18TH APRIL 1874, No. 918.

Comp. 2204/174 -

ENCL.

No. 46577 - 8 May 1874.

23

APRIL.  
Forest No. 54.

at Mallai Forest - said to be property of the Government, in possession of dispossessed of Chockampatti, in Tinnevely. Recommendation made to Government an assignment of land revenue, to Rupees 4,000 a year, should be remitted on certain conditions, in lieu of which should be taken possession of by Government and that further inquiry should be made regard to title of Government to the

120.  
C. 14 May 1874 R 74

For orders  
C. 14 May 1874 R 74

Further enquiries indicated should be made quickly.

3. Such a commission as that proposed by Captain Walker is out of the question; nor would the Zemindars who are in possession agree to any thing of the kind.

W

14 To the Rev Secy May 74 -  
37 Offg Secy. Forts -  
6 " Acctg. Genl -

120-121

N<sup>o</sup> 48.

Office of Inspector of Forests  
Coimbatore 29<sup>th</sup> April 74

From

Captain Campbell Walker  
Off<sup>r</sup> Inspector of Forests.

To,

C. G. Master Esq<sup>r</sup>  
As Secretary to Government  
R. D.

Sir,

With reference to the Board's  
Proceedings of 18<sup>th</sup> April, Forest  
N<sup>o</sup> 54, regarding the Kuttalai  
Mullay Forest in the Tinnerelly  
District, I have the honor to bring  
to the notice of Government, that  
the fact of the area now claimed  
being identical with that described  
in the Inam title deed has not  
"hitherto been unquestioned" as the  
Board suppose (Para 7). -

2. - In my Report dated 12<sup>th</sup>  
November,

November 1870 (recorded with G.O. of  
3rd June 1871. N. 981.) on all these  
hill Forests, I say with reference  
to the Kattalai Mulla, I see  
nothing to connect either of these  
entries with a block of valuable  
forest land only a comparatively  
small portion of which has ever  
been cultivated as punjah" *Gen Gen*

But even if it be established that  
the tracts are identical I consider the  
annual sum which is proposed to  
pay (Rs 4,000) very high and far  
beyond its value to the Inamdar.

3.- I must express regret that  
more vigorous action was not  
taken with regard to all these hill  
Forests in 1871, after the issue of  
the G.O. already quoted, and I cannot  
concur with Mr. Puckle in his view  
recorded in subsequent proceedings  
that

that it is only with the Southern  
Forests that we need concern ourselves.

4.- I consider all these Ghāt  
Forests of great value both with re-  
gard to climatic considerations,  
water, and timber supply, and I  
beg respectfully to suggest the ap-  
pointment of a Commission to carry  
out the Board's proposals as to  
further enquiry, & vested with full  
powers to investigate, define the  
extent and boundaries *Gen*, and lay  
before Government definite proposals  
for the final settlement of the  
matter.

5.- I made a similar proposal  
in 1869 or 1870, when Dy Conservator  
of the Range, and feel sure it is the  
only way to arrive at definite con-  
-clusions just and satisfactory to  
all the parties concerned.

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

~~Campbell~~ <sup>Captain</sup>  
Offg. Inspector of Forests.

12  
it can be seen in  
out of the question - nor  
shall the game laws  
who are in possession  
agree to any thing of  
the kind.

9/5

10/5  
2/5

I have the honor to

Sir,

No. 1384.  
Revenue 1874-75. Sept.  
Forest Department

From

The Inspector of  
Forests

To

The Asst. Secretary  
to Govt. R. D.

Dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 1876.  
Received 1 May

N. L. 8.  
SO. No. 577-8 May 1876  
Enclosure 1

Subject

Brings to notice, with  
reference to Board's Pro: of  
18<sup>th</sup> April, Forest No. 54,  
the facts of the area now  
claimed on Kattalai, <sup>Mullay</sup> forest  
in the Tirunelveli District.

send out with this paper  
reference to the order of the  
the Govt. to be in principle

120 A.

Ct. May 1876 R7<sup>th</sup>