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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1287. Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 8:10.1874 1896.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 80. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th August 1874, No. 2,147, Forest No. 127 :—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd February 1874, No. 401.

Read also the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th March 1874, No. 3,028 :—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 401,* dated 23rd February last, I have the honor to report—

* 1 Sketch returned.

2. I have already been in consultation with the Collector with regard to his views regarding Kumari cultivation, expressed in paragraphs 6 to 9 of his letter to the Board, and agreed to certain rules which he had drafted on the subject, as reported in my Inspection Report (*Vide* G. O. No. 365, dated 19th March 1874). The cultivation must, however, be very carefully watched, or it is sure to spread, and the hill people cultivating should be entirely under the orders of the Forest Officer whilst within the Forest limits in order to decrease the chance of damage or unauthorized clearing to a minimum. I observe that the Deputy Conservator states (paragraph 11) that the clearings are still cultivated, notwithstanding repeated orders to the contrary.

3. I agree with the Collector and Mr. Ross that it is not advisable at present to undertake the repair of the ghat betwixt Tadacum and Anaeatty, etc., (Collector's Report, paragraphs 12 and 13) but it appears advisable to endeavour to lease the Rajah's forest referred to, for a term of years, or to obtain his permission to fell, on payment of a stump fee, in which case the question of the ghat might be re-considered.

4. The boundaries betwixt the Government and Private Forests should in any case be clearly settled; in fact the entire boundary line between Coimbatore and Malabar appears to require re-settlement, as recently pointed out to me by the Collector, the boundary shown on the Trigonometrical Survey map is clearly wrong, placing, as it does, the whole of Walliar in Malabar. The Collector offers no opinion in his Report on the subject of the boundary dispute referred to by Mr. Ross, in paragraph 28, to illustrate which alone the sketch appears to have been forwarded.

5. I think that probably the time has arrived to place a limit to the extension of cultivation up the Bhowany from Nellitoray to Soondapatti, described by the Collector, at least no land should be cleared *before* application has been made and leave granted after consulting the Forest Officer. The only plan found possible to effect this in Salem was to impose treble or quadruple assessment if land was cleared and cultivated without previous permission, but, in most cases, the village officers are as much or more to blame than the cultivator.

6. I consider that the road from Dombilipoliyam or Porethy to Putti vêle should be repaired and put in good working order as proposed by Mr. Ross and Mr. Wedderburn (paragraph 21, Collector's letter). Estimates should be carefully prepared and submitted for sanction, and the work carried out under Mr. Ross' supervision from Forest funds; the branch roads to Pungumgherri, Vellemgherri, etc., referred to by Mr. Ross in the latter part of his paragraph No. 47, will probably not be required if good dragging paths are made, but this will be matter for future consideration. Meanwhile, the site of the depôt or timber yard, rates for felling, carting and probable selling price per cubic foot should be considered and estimates submitted along with that for the road. It will also be necessary to open a timber depôt at Mettapolliem, and probably one in Coimbatore, supplied partly from the Anamallays, and partly from Bolamputty, would be found to answer.

7. I have no doubt that all the *timber* on those hill slopes should be worked departmentally, and I fear that much is smuggled out under the License system. Limits should, as a rule, be fixed

beyond which cultivation should not encroach, and if these are really to do any good, and retain these forests as a reserve of timber for the future, the practice of annual fire to the grass must be put a stop to, at least in certain places to be taken up as open reserves for the conservation and re-production of timber trees. When I was in Coimbatore lately, the whole of the hills were in a blaze. Conservancy under such circumstances, is impossible, and exists merely in name. I believe it is quite possible to exclude these fires entirely from portions of the forests if the Board and Government will authorize stringent measures, such as have been adopted with success in Tinnevelly and some portions of South Arcot.

8. The railway will not, I believe, take firewood at Mettapolliem at Rupees 6 per ton, as they are obtaining it very cheap from a Contractor who is supposed to be supplying it from private jungles near Walliar. I do not, as a rule, believe in the extensive supply available from these private jungles, and have always found that a great proportion was smuggled from Government, but this case may be an exception. The whole question of the Railway wood-fuel supply is, as the Board are aware, under consideration, and I am of opinion that the Railway Company must ere long be called upon to choose betwixt an uncertain and not to be relied upon supply from private individuals at slightly reduced rates, or a permanent supply all along the line at rates calculated to cover the cost of re-production, etc., from the Government Department. In the present case, I do not imagine that any charge is made by the Traffic against the Locomotive Department for *leading* from Walliar to Mettapolliem which must be a considerable item.

The consumption of firewood taken for local sale from these Forests (Mettapolliem and Bolamputty) must be very large and should bring in a considerable revenue. I believe Mr. Ross was recently to expose a quantity of the stock at Mettapolliem to public auction, but I am not informed of the result.

9. The Sholacurray Forest should be strictly reserved and allowed to rest. The teak trees referred to by Mr. Ross (paragraph 49) if mature and accessible might be felled and brought to market.

10. In conclusion, I beg to point out that both the Deputy Conservator's and Collector's reports are so arranged, in what I must term a disjointed and discursive manner, that any comparison or arrival at definite conclusions on any point is rendered almost impossible, and it is therefore very difficult to state my views on them as requested by the Board.

These papers which relate to the capacities of the new Forest Range which has been constituted in Coimbatore "especially those parts about Lampton's Peak and Copanairy," will be submitted to Government, with reference to G. O., 2nd July 1873, No. 678, paragraph 8.

2. The letters from the Collector of Coimbatore and the Deputy Conservator in charge of the range, Mr. Ross, contain a mass of information and suggestions, but it would require a minute acquaintance with the tract to enable the Board to take full advantage of them. The only map sent includes but a portion of the country described, and shows but a few of the places named by Mr. Ross as situated in that portion. The Collector and Deputy Conservator use different names in designating the same locality. The Deputy Conservator's enumeration of the hills and the way in which they are wooded seems to be laborious and complete, and suggestions for developing its resources are scattered through his letter, but no attempt is made to give a general idea of the character of each prominent division of the range, nor are the suggestions brought together as they should have been. The Collector so far from supplying this want makes confusion worse confounded by a perfectly independent description of portions of the range, and he does not mention some apparently important points in the Deputy Conservator's report.

The Deputy Conservator describes the parts about Lampton's Peak and Copanairy as supplying a great deal of fuel but very little else, and the parts to the west and south-west of the Valley (paragraphs 37-41) which include the Sholacurray Forest as well wooded with trees of a

mature growth. Mr. Ross says that the range must depend chiefly upon the south-east slopes of the Nilgiris for its revenue.

4. The Board will notice seriatim the points which call for orders in the letters from 1st, the Collector, 2nd, the Deputy Conservator, 3rd, the Inspector of Forests.

5. The Collector says that much of the forest has been cleared for Kumari cultivation and that the clearings are covered with matted under-growth, thick enough to prevent trees from growing through. All cultivation of this sort has been stopped, but the Board agree with the Collector and the Inspector of Forests that the hill people should be allowed to cultivate former clearings under restrictions which will prevent them from destroying any more forest. In their Proceedings of the 6th December 1873, No. 2,496, which will now be submitted to Government, and in G. O., 18th April 1874, No. 462, measures have been sanctioned for giving effect to these views.

Collector, paragraph 6.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 2.
Deputy Conservator, paragraph 11.

6. The road for Dombilipoliyam "or rather Porethy," which is apparently required to open out the richest portion of the range should certainly be put in order from Forest Funds. The Inspector points out that the site of the depôt and rates for felling and carting wood, etc., should be considered concurrently with the framing of the estimate.

Collector, paragraph 21.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 6.
Deputy Conservator, paragraph 47.

7. The Board agree with the Inspector of Forests that Depôts should be opened at Mettapolliem and Coimbatore.

Collector, paragraphs 22, 24
Inspector of Forests, paragraphs 6, 8.
Deputy Conservator, paragraphs 4, 5, 10.

8. Under G. O., 4th June 1874, No. 689, the Nilgiris slopes are to be connected with this range, and the Board have no doubt but what it should be the charge of a Deputy Conservator.

Collector, paragraph 25.

9. The disputed boundary between the forests of "the Rajah Aracoverere Nair," and the Government Forests near Copanairy and south of it must be settled before anything else can be done in these parts. The Deputy Conservator submits a sketch of the locality, from which it appears that the Rajah now claims the stream Kodungherry Pollam as the line, whereas the Irulers in the neighbourhood told Mr. Ross that it ought to be the Danyar stream. The Board have been informed that a few years ago the Serowany river was the recognized boundary. The tract in dispute is thus very extensive and valuable. When the boundary is settled it may be desirable to negociate with the Rajah for a lease of his forests or the part of them that can be worked by the ghat between Copanairy and Mungherry, and if the lease is obtained, it will be necessary to put the ghat in repair though it is not worth while to do so now.

Collector, paragraphs 12 and 13.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 8.
Deputy Conservator, paragraphs 28 to 30.

10. No further extension of cultivation should be allowed in the direction up the Bhowany from Nellitoray to Soondapatti without the express permission of the Collector, accorded with due consideration for Forest Conservancy.

Collector, paragraph 14.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 5.

11. The Board agree with the Inspector that the forests must be worked departmentally so far as *timber* is concerned to stop smuggling, that the encroachment of cultivation must be restricted, and that fires must be prevented by stringent measures.

Inspector of Forests, paragraph 7.

12. The Board are aware that the supplies from so-called private forests now sold to the Railway at a cheap rate, are often smuggled from Government Forests. The question of Railway fuel supply is now under consideration.

Inspector of Forests, paragraph 8.

Collector, paragraph 26.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 9.
Deputy Conservator, paragraphs 48 and 49.

13. The Sholacurray Forest should be preserved and not worked for some time to come.

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

No. 81. ORDER THEREON, 8th October 1874, No. 1287.

Forests, No. 4.

THE range referred to in the foregoing papers will remain, as at present, in the charge of a Deputy Conservator stationed at Mettapelliem who will also have the supervision of the Nilgiri slopes.

2. The Acting Inspector of Forests since writing the letter embodied in the foregoing Proceedings has furnished a report* on this range, but it does not appear that he visited the forests now under special notice. He should take an early opportunity of personally inspecting them, and in communication with the Collector should prescribe a programme of systematic operations, submitting his views through the Board of Revenue. The measures he wishes adopted for the exclusion of fires should also be noticed.

*G. O., 25th August 1874, No. 1,656.

3. The alignment of roads must be made by persons accustomed to such work, and it will probably be advisable to obtain for this purpose the services of a competent subordinate of the Public Works Department.

4. The Government have already directed measures to be taken for the settlement of the boundary between the Coimbatore and Malabar Districts, and the work should be expedited.

†G. O. 25th August 1871, No. 1080.

5. His Excellency the Governor in Council is as at present informed unable to endorse the Board's instructions that no further extension of cultivation should be permitted in the Bhowany valley. The Board would apparently treat the whole of these vast and practically inexhaustible forests almost as if they were reserves, and would prohibit culture; but there seems little or no certain advantage to be gained by such procedure, while in the extension of cultivation there is a direct gain to Government and an increased prosperity among the people. Such tracts as may be required for the production of Railway fuel or of valuable timber may be marked off as reserves, but elsewhere cultivation should be allowed and grazing and other prescriptive privileges be freely permitted.

6. His Excellency learns with displeasure from the Collector's letter in Board's Proceedings, dated 6th December 1873, No. 2,496, that cultivation by the Hill-tribes in particular had been restricted to such an extent as to cause distress. The measures for their relief proposed by the Collector and sanctioned by the Board meet with his hearty approval and he looks to Mr. Wedderburn to protect and provide for the interests of these poor and uncomplaining denizens of the forests by making liberal assignments of land for their support in the present and advancement in the future.

7. The Government are pleased to find the Collector so fully alive to this important feature of Forest administration.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of India
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE

&c, &c, &c.

Dated October 8th.

Rcd. *Exd.*

C. O., 8th October 1874, No. 1287.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 80-81.

Mr. Forest Ranger, employed in Coimbatore District.—Directing that the — do remain in the charge of a Deputy-Conservator stationed at Metupalliyam; requiring the Acting Inspector of Forests, to inspect, personally, the forests under notice, and to submit his views through the Board for ordering the services of a Public Works subordinate to be obtained for the alignment of roads; directing that such trees in the Bhowany valley as may be required for the production of railway fuel, or of valuable timber, be marked off as reserves, cutting on private lots being freely allowed elsewhere; disapproving the action taken in restricting cultivation by the Hill-tribes to such an extent as to cause distress; and desiring Mr. Wedderburn to protect their interests by making liberal assignments of land to them.

V Cr 4067/74
Bk Pr Bangalore No 7139

FOREST No. 79.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th December 1873, No. 2,496:

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th November 1873, No. 270:—

I HAVE the honour to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue a plan for the suppression, on the one hand, of Kumari cultivation, which is so destructive to the original forest, which once destroyed never re-appears in similar form; and for the due protection of the jungle-tribes, who, if debarred from cultivation, have inadequate means of subsistence.

2. A large amount of land in the Bolamputty valley and on the slopes of the hills has been denuded of the original forest: this will never grow again, but is succeeded by bushes, and it is consequently needless to conserve it.

3. The habits of the tribes and their implements, as well as the soil, prohibit the annual cultivation of the same land, to which if they were restricted they would leave this district and seek better terms in Malabar. They are useful people to retain in a district, being the only cultivators procurable in tracts where no dweller on the plains would cultivate and live, as they are fever-proof.

4. I learned, on visiting their localities, that they were in distress from having been prohibited cultivating by the Forest Department.

5. The Board, and probably by this time Government, will have remarked on the sale of land for arrears in this district a great proportion of which is due to hill-tribes clearing land, cultivating it, defaulting, having then a putta made out against them to legalize a demand, and, finally, a sale of the land,— always bought in as there are no biddors,—in order that the putta may be cancelled.

6. Now, in order to prevent this practice, which carries its own condemnation, I propose to grant certain land formerly Kumari on cowle, that is, say that the usual cultivation by a Mulcer family tribe is two acres, and that the land must have three years rest to give the Moopen or headman of the family tribe a putta for two bullahs or eight acres, of which he will pay annually one-fourth.

7. This will content the people; it is necessary for their subsistence, unless they are to be driven to emigrate or forced into criminal acts. No other people can cultivate the land, so there is no competition for it; their services are required by land-holders for the nunjah and other cultivation in these unhealthy tracts.

8. Instead of fictitious puttas, defaults, and sham sales, we shall then have fixity of tenure, no sales, and a means of control over these tribes, who will undertake to destroy no more forest as Kumari. They are a rude, half-savage race, extremely poor, and I, therefore, advocate this plan for the reasons above set forth.

THE Collector may try the experiment which he proposes. The results should be reported after a sufficient interval has elapsed.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary,

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1873.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Proceedings, 6th December 1873, No. 2,498.

Encl.

Received

DECEMBER.
Forest No. 79.

Land formerly Kumari—in Coimbatore District.—Collector permitted to carry out his proposal to grant certain — to hill-tribes for cultivation on favourable tenure.—Results of this experiment to be reported.

FOREST, No. 1[illegible]

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2[illegible] February 1874, No. 461.

Read the following letter from A. WADDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Errode, 20th December 1873, No. 297 :—

With reference to Proceedings, Madras Government, Revenue Department, 2nd July 1873, and G. O., paragraph 8, I have the honour to forward Mr. Ross' report on the Gopanairy, Lampton's Peak, and Bolumputty Forests, accompanied by a rough sketch of a boundary dispute with a Malabar Proprietor.

2. I have also myself recently made a tour of the Bolumputty, Sholakarry, and Lampton's Peak range, which overhangs Gopanairy.

3. Mr. Ross first treats of the Lampton's Peak range, which is locally know as the Kuradi Mallay. Lampton's Peak is a very conspicuous, rocky mountain, forming the eastern peak of the range. The elevation is apparently greater by 200 feet than any other peak, but it is almost inaccessible, the top ridge, in one place, being hardly more than a foot wide, and a sheer precipice on each side.

4. There is little wood on the east face; but there are fine sholas on the west, and the magnificent precipices on the north and west, are a conspicuous object from the Neilgherry Hills. The forest is of a shola character, with long, coarse grass dividing the several sholas.

5. The plateau has an elevation of 4,000 feet, while the mountain tops reach 5,000 above the sea.

6. The forest land is very rich, and when it had been denuded by Kumary cultivation, a matted under-growth, which could be walked upon, but not through, covered the soil. The Irulers, who had formerly made this cultivation, had been debarred from re-cultivating it; which was, I think, to be regretted, as no forest trees can ever grow again from such impenetrable cover. At the same time, it is much easier to clear and burn such smaller growth, than to fell large trees; and the Irulers promised that they would not destroy any more forest, and begged to be allowed to re-cultivate the land, which I see no objection to.

Paragraph 11.

7. The land seems of such richness that it might be annually cropped; but cultivation had evidently been stopped for some years, as, in an Iruler's cattle pen near this ground, there was manure accumulated to a depth of four and a half feet, which remained unused.

8. I think if these tracts, once Kumary, had been personally inspected by the Deputy-Conservators, they would have agreed that it was better that this land should be utilized, than remain a certain source of fever.

9. A similar state of things exists at the top of the Bolumputty valley, where I inspected the former cultivation of the Medagurs, as this class is locally named. They even accused the Forest Overseer of having come and destroyed their cultivation. The hill people are of much local use, as they can cultivate tracts where life to others is impossible, and part of the Bolumputty valley irrigated land is under these conditions.

10. On the Kuradi Mallay there are for some months several streams, which, however, except perhaps in floods, do not appear to reach the arid plains below. Water on these hills does not exist from February till June. All the ascents of Kuradi Mallay are very steep; the country on east, north, and south is cleared to the base, on which grows a thorny scrub, after 2,000 feet elevation, the jungle improves.

11. The west peaks look over into the upper Bhowany valley, the river itself is screened from view by a low, intervening ridge.

12. On the north of the Kuradi Mallay is the low range of Palmally Hills, reaching near to Karamaday. On the south side, the chain is joined to the Bolumputty valley range, by a rocky saddle, which has to be surmounted on the way from Tadacum to Anacutty, Gopanairy, and the river.

13. This is the pass alluded to by Mr. Ross, as the ghaut above Mungherry, at the head of the Tadacum valley; and

Paragraph 30.

the opening from Gopanairy, to the plains on the east, the small amount of Government forest to be so opened out, and the expense of making, and repairing, this mountain pass, seem to render present expenditure thereon unadvisable.

14. There has been a very great clearing and extension of cultivation on the Bhowany from Nellitoray to Soondaputty; what was, to my recollection, thirty years ago, continuous forest, is now under crops.

15. The next range of forest, bearing Hills, is that south of Kuradi Mallay. It extends in a semi-circle, due west of Coimbatore, commencing with a low, rocky spur on the north-east, and gradually rising westward, to the Vellingherry Peak, which, though I have not ascended, cannot be less than 5,500 feet. It slopes down to a green saddle at the south, which has an elevation of 3,000 feet, and then ascends to the mountain, on the south, called Kunjeri Muddi; the elevation then decreases as the ridges tend eastward. A remarkable cone-shaped hill, composed of a solid rock, split in two, has the name of Kona Mallay; further east is the serrated ridge of the precipitous Ayasawmy Mallay, past whose eastern spur, the railway tends to Walliar; the southern tops and slopes of this range form the Sholakarry Forests, which culminate in the great Elival mountain, over Paulghaut, turning northwards, and above Munar, in Malabar, are the Chenat Nair forest; the top of Eleval is 7,000 feet above the sea, which is visible therefrom.

16. On the west of the saddle between Vellingherry and Kunjeri Muddi is a magnificent expanse of wood and grassy slopes, about five miles in length, and three in breadth, shut in, on the west, by Pooli Mallay, whence a precipitous descent leads towards Munar.

17. Through this valley, but to the north, run two affluents of the Bhowany; the furthest east is called by the Modagurs, the Vani; it falls over a precipitous side of nearly 2,000 feet, such being the difference of levels, between the upper, and the lower pools. This fall can be plainly seen from the Craigmore cutting leading to Ootacamund.

18. This affluent is considered to be the boundary between Coimbatore and Malabar. In the valley below, when joined by another stream, it gains the name of the Siruvani, and runs into the Bhowany, at the junction above Gopanairy.

19. It has copious springs in the mountain forests at its source, and is never quite dry.

20. The forests, or shoals, of the valley below, at Putti vêle, can only be reached by the passage over the saddle, before alluded to, called Dimbum. Mr. Thomas constructed a road which, in some places, is in fair order, in others, requires to be opened out, and made of an easier gradient; the rise from east below is 1,500 feet; the fall on the west, from the lowest part, is about 200 feet. A scheme was once mooted of making a dam 250 high, across the Siruvani, and cutting through the east saddle, to a similar depth; but I doubt if this proposed diversion of the Bhowany feeder into the Noyel, would ever repay the cost. The Bhowany river, as it is, being very fully utilized by three anicuts in the Coimbatore District, and its surplus goes into the Cauvery.

21. I think the improvement of this forest road from Dombilipoliyam, or Pother, Porethy, adverted to, by Mr. Ross, in paragraph 47, quite practicable and desirable.

22. As regards the supply of fuel to the railway, I learned that the depôt at Pelhamoor is supplied from the private forests under Elival, delivered at a place called Kotakad, at Rupees 2-12-0 per ton, and that the supply is ample.

23. A Railway Depôt at Mettoopoliyam, where the selling price would be Rupees 6, per ton, will not, at present, be of use; nor, as I learned personally from Mr. Wright, was it contemplated to purchase wood there. Hereafter, when the private forests cease to supply at the cheaper rate, the Mettoopoliyam Depôt will come into use.

24. The Coimbatore town supply is derived two-thirds from the Bolumputty Forests, and one-third from Sholakarray, or Walliar range.

25. The result of Mr. Ross' inspection, confirmed by my personal observation is, that the revenue to be derived from the forests aforesaid would not, unless combined with the Neilgherry eastern slopes, repay the charge of a special officer; but if, as recommended by Major Beddome, the union of the range, already sanctioned by Government, be continued, it is most desirable that this should remain as an imperial forest range, under the Deputy Conservator of Mettoopoliyam, and Bhowany Forests.

26. With judicious thinning, and establishment of enclosed fuel reserves, I think that planting will not be requisite; the aridity of the climate is a most serious obstacle, and result would not, I think, repay the expense.

27. I was not able to discern from personal inspection any appearance of smuggling, except by the Bolumputty valley, which is watched, and Walliar; there is no means of getting wood out, except by head loads, and this would never pay the expense of carriage, beyond the villages, where the ryots have a right to fuel for domestic purposes.

28. In paragraph 10, Mr. Ross estimates the cartage of wood from the Tadacum access, at Rupees 2, the market price being Rupees 3; the bandy hire is greater than Rupees 2 and nearer 3, to Coimbatore, and the selling price above 4; but this shows against the presumption of smuggled wood.

29. A detailed chart of these Hill forests will be required of Mr. Ross during next working season.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. G. S. ROSS, Esq., Deputy-Conservator of Bolumputty and Mettoopoliyam Forests, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 1st November 1873, No. 227.

AGREEABLY with the instructions contained in G. O., No. 678, dated the 24th July 1873, and in your Memorandum, No. 236, dated 15th October 1873, I have the honour to forward you my report on the forests in the vicinity of Gopanairy and Kuradi Peak.

2. Going north-eastwards along the slopes of Kuradi Peak, Sinna Kuradi, Pallamali and Katanji Mallay, the hills are rocky, and are mostly covered with Woonjul, (which is a good fuel but useless as timber) in some places presenting a fair growth and in others but a scanty one, and Cooleveh (a thorny shrub).

3. When the Railway was in course of construction, these jungles were worked on license by the Railway Contractors, who required fuel for burning bricks, etc.

Since the Railway has been opened, however, very few licenses are taken out, and the jungles on these hills bring in now little or no revenue.

4. Transport from the eastern slopes would be easy, and should the Railway Company desire a Fuel Depôt between Coimbatore and Mettoopoliyam, which however, I think doubtful, they could be supplied with firewood at Goodaloor or Tudaloor.

5. The northern slopes of these hills could be worked into Mettoopoliyam by the land road which begins at Sholampoliyam, but it must be remembered that three large Reserves are already marked out and partly fenced in at Mettoopoliyam, in order to meet the requirements of the branch line of Railway.

6. In the Sholahs of Kuradi Peak there are some 3rd class jungle trees, but comparatively few in number. On Palla Mallay and Katanji Mallay Peak there are some 1st class jungle woods (viz, Munjé Cuddambé and Vellanaga) and some 2nd class also, but these likewise are scattered.

7. These hills extend north-eastwards from Kuradi Peak, a distance of about seven miles, and north-west from the same place, to Tholampoliyam, about ten miles, (this is the broadest part of this range of hills).

8. Passing westwards from Kanaviapoliyam there is a long low ridge on the left. Kanaviapoliyam hill, which is very rocky, and for about a distance of four miles sparsely covered with Woonjul, of a stunted and crippled growth.

9. From Kuradi Peak to Mungherry the southern slopes of Malai Andi and Shurgam are covered with Woonjul of a good growth, but only head loads are in requisition.

The sholahs contain some jungle trees, but comparatively few in number. The expense of working these slopes departmentally, except in a few places, such as near Veerapandy and Mungherry, would be too great, as it is almost all firewood, to be profitable.

10. Near Veerapandy and Kuddalericee the hills are thickly wooded with Woonjul and, if there was a demand for fuel, a reserve might, with advantage, be made here.

The cost of carting one bandy-load of fuel from here to Coimbatore would be say Rupees 2, and the market selling price Rupees 3 per bandy load.

11. On the slopes near Veerapandy, Verapoliyam, Chinnathadagum and Thopumputty, the villagers have been in the habit of clearing the jungles for kumri cultivation, cultivating for one or two years and then clearing another patch of jungle, instead of manuring the old one.

I believe the former Deputy Conservator put a stop to the extension of this most destructive practice (the best Forest land in the neighbourhood only is used for this mode of cultivation) but the ryots still cultivate the old clearings.

12. At Mungherry there is a hill called Pirumolmoody or Rungasawmy Covil, on the top of the northern slope of which there is a quantity of Venteak, Vellanaga and scattered Vengay, intermixed with jungle-trees of an inferior order.

13. Moving from Mungherry in the direction of Anacutty, the southern and northern slopes as far as Kundanur are covered only with Woonjul, with the exception of some Vella Naga and other jungle woods scattered here and there.

Kundanur itself is also covered with Woonjul, but here Vella Naga, etc., abound in greater number.

14. The southern and western slopes of Jumbagoody and Panapathi are wooded with Woonjul, Vella Naga, etc., but Woonjul largely predominates.

15. Theva Mallay and Padari Mallay are likewise covered with Woonjul and Vella Naga, but possess in addition some scattered Rose-wood and Vengay.

16. On the south-western slopes of Papa Mallay and Wataleckie grow Vella Naga intermixed with Vengay.

17. The northern slope of Oona Mallay, a hill situated four miles distant from Gopanairy, is covered with Vella Naga and Teak saplings, amongst which are scattered Vengay and inferior jungle trees.

The southern slope of this hill is claimed by the Rajah Aracovercie Nair.

18. Two miles north of Oona Mallay, lies Pava Kull on which grow Vengay, Vella Naga, and jungle-trees of an inferior description.

19. North of Pava Kull is situated Sundera Mallay, covered chiefly with Vella Naga and some Vengay trees.

20. On the right bank of the Bhowany, going northwards, at a distance of one mile from Cudapatty, is a hill called Alangoondy, wooded principally with Vella Naga and Vengay growing between.

21. East of this hill is another called Moottadayoo, thinly covered with Vengay, inferior jungle trees, and Woonjul.

22. Eastwards lies the plain of Moodilchtorry full of Carachee trees.

23. East of this plain are situated the hills Ellicuthi Mallay and Curundumcutoo Mallay. These hills are wooded with Vella Naga, Vengay and some Woonjul.

24. East of the last mentioned hill lies Yaloosyloo Mallay. The predominant tree here is Woonjul, intermixed with Vella Naga, Vengay, etc.

25. Going still eastwards one comes to Sorunda Paddy Mallay. Here Woonjul is again predominant, intermixed with Vengay and other jungle trees.

26. The growth on these hills is in some places very good, in others indifferent and bad.

27. The banks of the rivers about Gopanairy are lined with Mathi trees, some of very fine growth.

28. The forests in the vicinity of Gopanairy are not nearly so extensive, as I was led to believe before inspecting them. The boundary of the vast and rich forests of the Rajah Aracovercie Nair, passing very close to Gopanairy and Anacutty, running southwards, and passing the Bolumputty hills on the west.

The Rajah's boundary, as shown to me, runs south-west, along the left bank of the Bhowany to the junction of that river with the Siruvani, it passes southwards along the left bank of the Siruvani for about half a mile. Here the Kodungherry stream flows into the Siruvani, and the boundary runs now south-east along the left bank of the Kodungherry Pallam for some distance, it then passes along the crest of a hill in the same direction until it reaches Paddy Kullikeyur, about one mile from Anacutty. From here the left bank of the Kodungherry Pallam is again the boundary southwards as far as Vella Kullam, where the Kodungherry Pallam has its source. It now runs along the crest of a ridge of hills ~~eastwards~~ westwards to the Siruvani, the left bank of which again forms the boundary.

The Irulers told me that, although they were not aware that the land had ever been demarcated, this had always been considered the boundary, except that it should run along the left bank of the Danyar river, on its junction with the Kodungherry Pallam, instead of following the latter stream to its source.

I have endeavoured in the accompanying sketch to show roughly the boundary as taken by the Rajah, and as the Irulers pointed it out to me.

29. I was first in hopes that the timber felled in the vicinity of Gopanairy might be floated down to Mettoopoliyam, but on examining the bed of the Bhowany I found it to be so rocky that, even with a strong freshet floating, would be impossible, and blasting would be too expensive as the rocks are so numerous.

30. There remains, therefore, no other way of transporting the timber but by the ghaut from Gopanairy to Mungherry. This ghaut is at present in a most ruinous condition, quite impassable for bandies, and in fact in some places almost so for a horse.

I was informed that some years ago Government allowed the Rajah to repair the ghaut, which he did at a cost of 3,000 or 4,000 Rupees on some condition respecting his timber. It is now thoroughly out of repair, and would cost from 4,000 to 5,000 Rupees to restore it.

This amount might well be expended were it not that after every wet season the ghaut will require to be repaired, as in many places it is exposed to the water rushing down from slopes on either side, thus forcing it to run lengthway along the road as the water cannot be drained off to one side.

It must also be remembered that the Rajah has very rich forests, much more so than the Imperial ones in this neighbourhood, close to the ghaut, so that he also would be enabled to bring his timber to market and under-sell Government as he sells Teak, Rosewood, etc., at Rupee per tree, whereas the Government seignorage is Rupees 5.

31. The only mode of transport left, therefore, should the ghaut not be put in thorough repair, is dragging the timber by elephants.

In this case also certain repairs must be made, as it is, I believe, in its present state impassable for elephants, and in many places it is so uneven and rocky, that the timber would certainly suffer.

32. South-west of Kanaviapoliyam, on the road to Bolumputty, is a hill called Mudde Mallay covered principally with Woonjul and Cooleveh but possessing also some 1st class jungle woods (Murdû and others.

33. South of this hill is Oonipoliyam, thinly covered with Woonjul.

34. West from here lies Tarcull, covered with Woonjul and some Jungle trees.

35. Still further westwards is Rungasawmy Covil wooded with Woonjul and scattered Vengay on the southern side.

36. Farther west is situated Udingéwurré covered with Woonjul, intermixed with Vengay.

37. Still going west is Kanawarre hill, wooded with Vengay and Rosewood of good growth, and intermixed with Jungle trees of an inferior order.

38. Further west still is Kongamalai. Here grow Vengay, Rosewood, Vella Naga, etc., also bamboos scattered with Woonjul.

39. West lies Vellingherry covered with the same description of wood, including some teak trees.

40. South of the Valley above Mutty Collam ghaut is Coongeramoody, wooded with Vengay, Rosewood, Jungle woods and Bamboos.

41. East lies Cotititoo, and still further in the same direction Pungumgherry, both wooded like Coongeramoody.

42. Farther eastwards are situated Mungali Palyam and Cootaddymalai covered with Vengay, Rosewood and Jungle trees intermixed with Bamboos and Woonjul.

43. Eastward lies Malapalyam hill, wooded with Woonjul and Jungle trees.

44. South-east is Kuradi Mallay with Woonjul and Jungle trees, also scattered Vengay and Teak.

45. Eastwards from here are situated Soolaparykee, Canawai, and Iasawmy Mallay covered with Woonjul and Jungle trees.

46. All the hills mentioned from para 37 to 41 are well wooded, and the trees are of mature growth.

47. Since the Forest Department was formed, these hills have not been at all or at most very slightly worked. but have been reserved to be worked departmentally. It is now, I think, advisable to fell in many places, but the ghaut from Dombi poliyam up to the Valley above Mootillam or Puttymeré ghaut, must first be repaired. The cost will be at a rough estimate about Rupees 2,500.

Some roads to Pungumgherry, Veilemgherry, Kongamalai and Kanawurri hills must also be constructed before these hills can be worked properly.

48. The Kanawurry Forest commences from the crest of the southern slopes of Mungali Poliyam hill, and extends to the Railway.

This forest abounds principally with Teak, Rosewood, Vengay and jungle trees.

49. These jungles suffered severely from indiscriminate felling before the Forest Department was formed, and it is advisable not to fell in them now, with the exception of some few mature Teak trees.

50. The jungles about Mettapoliyam are chiefly composed of trees, only good for fuel, and this Range must depend chiefly on the south-eastern slopes of the Nilgiris, which are rich in Vengay, Rosewood, Venteak, Blackwood, etc., for its revenue.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. C. WINSCOM,
for Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.—Sketch of Boundary dispute.

Before submitting this report to Government the Board resolve to request the Inspector of Forests to favour them with his views on the subjects treated of herein.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Inspector of Forests, with Sketch, to be returned.
Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Board of Revenue,

1874.

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD FEBRUARY 1874, No. 401.

Encl.

Received

FEBRUARY.

Forest No. 16.

Coimbatore, Lampton's Peak and Bolampatty Forests, in Coimbatore District.—Collector's letter forwarding, with remarks, report of Mr. Ross, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on — referred to Inspector of Forests.

FOREST No. 127.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th August 1874, No. 2,147.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd February 1874, No. 401.

Read also the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th March 1874, No. 3,028 :—

* 1 Sketch returned.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 401,* dated 23rd February last, I have the honor to report—

2. I have already been in consultation with the Collector with regard to his views regarding Nanjai cultivation, expressed in paragraphs 6 to 9 of his letter to the Board, and agreed to certain rules which he had drafted on the subject, as reported in my Inspection Report (*Vide* G. O., No. 365, dated 19th March 1874). The cultivation must, however, be very carefully watched, or is sure to spread, and the hill people cultivating should be entirely under the orders of the Forest Officer whilst within the Forest limits in order to decrease the chance of damage or unauthorized clearing to a minimum. I observe that the Deputy Conservator states (paragraph 11) that the clearings are still cultivated, notwithstanding repeated orders to the contrary.

3. I agree with the Collector and Mr. Ross that it is not advisable at present to undertake the repair of the ghat betwixt Talacum and Anamalatty, etc., (Collector's Report, paragraphs 12 and 13) but it appears advisable to endeavour to lease the Rajah's forest referred to, for a term of years or to obtain his permission to fell on payment of a stamp fee, in which case the question of the ghat might be re-considered.

4. The boundaries betwixt the Government and Private Forests should in any case be clearly defined; in fact the entire boundary line between Coimbatore and Malabar appears to require re-settlement, as recently pointed out to me by the Collector, the boundary shown on the Trigonometrical Survey map is clearly wrong, placing, as it does, the whole of Walliar in Malabar. The Collector offers no opinion in his Report on the subject of the boundary dispute referred to by Mr. Ross in paragraph 28, to illustrate which alone the sketch appears to have been forwarded.

5. I think that probably the time has arrived to place a limit to the extension of cultivation up the Bhowany from Nellitoray to Soondapatti described by the Collector, at least no land should be cleared *before* application has been made and leave granted after consulting the Forest Officer. The only plan found possible to effect this in Salem was to impose treble or quadruple assessment if land was cleared and cultivated without previous permission, but, in most cases, the village officers are as much or more to blame than the cultivator.

6. I consider that the road from Dombilipoliyam or Porethy to Putti vôle should be repaired and put in good working order as proposed by Mr. Ross and Mr. Wedderburn (paragraph 21, Collector's letter). Estimates should be carefully prepared and submitted for sanction, and the work carried out under Mr. Ross' supervision from Forest funds; the branch roads to Pungumgherri, Vellemgherri, etc, referred to by Mr. Ross in the latter part of his paragraph No. 47, will probably not be required if good dragging paths are made, but this will be matter for future consideration. Meanwhile, the site of the depôt or timber yard, rates for felling, carting and probable selling price per cubic foot should be considered and estimates submitted along with that for the road. It will also be necessary to open a timber depôt at Mettapoliem, and probably one in Coimbatore, supplied partly from the Anamallays, and partly from Bolamputty, would be found to answer.

7. I have no doubt that all the *timber* on those hill slopes should be worked departmentally, and fear that much is smuggled out under the Licensee system. Limits should, as a rule, be fixed beyond which cultivation should not encroach, and if we are really to do any good, and retain these forests as a reserve of timber for the future, the practice of setting fire to the grass must be put a stop to, at least in certain places to be taken up as open reserves for the conservation and re-production of timber trees. When I was in Coimbatore lately, the whole of the hills were in a blaze. Conservancy under such circumstances, is impossible, and exists merely in name. I believe

it is quite possible to exclude these fires entirely from portions of the Forests if the Board and Government will authorize stringent measures, such as have been adopted with success in Tinnevelly and some portions of South Arcot.

8. The railway will not, I believe, take firewood at Mettapoliem at Rupees 6 per ton, as they are obtaining it very cheap from a Contractor who is supposed to be supplying it from private jungles near Walliar. I do not, as a rule, believe in the extensive supply available from these private jungles, and have always found that a great proportion was smuggled from Government, but this case may be an exception. The whole question of the Railway wood-fuel supply is, as the Board are aware, under consideration, and I am of opinion that the Railway Company must ere long be called upon to choose betwixt an uncertain and not to be relied upon supply from private individuals at slightly reduced rates, or a permanent supply all along the line at rates calculated to cover the cost of re-production, etc., from the Government Depôts. In the present case, I do not imagine that any charge is made by the Traffic against the Locomotive Department for *leading* from Walliar to Mettapoliem which must be a considerable item.

The consumption of firewood taken for local sale from these Forests (Mettapoliem and Bolamputty) must be very large and should bring in a considerable revenue. I believe Mr. Ross was recently to expose a quantity of the stock at Mettapoliem to public auction, but I am not informed of the result.

9. The Sholacurray Forest should be strictly reserved and allowed to rest. The teak trees referred to by Mr. Ross (paragraph 49) if mature and accessible might be felled and brought to market.

10. In conclusion, I beg to point out that both the Deputy Conservator's and Collector's reports are so arranged, in what I must term a disjointed and discursive manner, that any comparison or arrival at definite conclusions on any point is rendered almost impossible, and it is therefore very difficult to state my views on them as requested by the Board.

These papers which relate to the capacities of the new Forest Range which has been constituted in Coimbatore "especially those parts about Lampton's Peak and Copanairy," will be submitted to Government, with reference to G. O., 2nd July 1873, No. 618, paragraph 8.

2. The letters from the Collector of Coimbatore and the Deputy Conservator in charge of the range, Mr. Ross, contain a mass of information and suggestions, but it would require a minute acquaintance with the tract to enable the Board to take full advantage of them. The only map sent includes but a portion of the country described, and shows but a few of the places named by Mr. Ross as situated in that portion. The Collector and Deputy Conservator use different names in designating the same locality. The Deputy Conservator's enumeration of the hills and the way in which they are wooded seems to be laborious and complete, and suggestions for developing its resources are scattered through his letter, but no attempt is made to give a general idea of the character of each prominent division of the range, nor are the suggestions brought together as they should have been. The Collector so far from supplying this want makes confusion worse confounded by a perfectly independent description of portions of the range, and he does not mention some apparently important points in the Deputy Conservator's report.

3. The Deputy Conservator describes the parts about Lampton's Peak and Copanairy as supplying a great deal of fuel but very little else, and the parts to the west and south-west of the Valley (paragraphs 37-41) which include the Sholacurray Forest as well wooded with trees of a mature growth. Mr. Ross says that the range must depend chiefly upon the south-east slopes of the Nilgiris for its revenue.

4. The Board will notice seriatim the points which call for orders in the letters from 1st, the Collector, 2nd, the Deputy Conservator, 3rd, the Inspector of Forests.

5. It appears that much of the forest has been cleared for Kumari cultivation and that the clearings are covered with matted under-growth, thick enough to prevent trees from growing through. All cultivation of this sort has been

Collector, paragraph 5.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 2
Deputy Conservator, paragraph 11.

stopped, but the Board agree with the Collector and the Inspector of Forests that the hill people should be allowed to cultivate former clearings under restrictions which will prevent them from destroying any more forest. In their Proceedings of the 6th December 1873, No. 2,496, which will now be submitted to Government, and in G. O., 18th April 1874, No. 462, measures have been sanctioned for giving effect to these views.

6. The road for "Dumbilipoliyam" or rather Porethy," which is apparently required to open out the richest portion of the range should certainly be put in order from Forest Funds. The Inspector points out that the site of the depôt and rates for felling and carting wood, etc., should be considered concurrently with the framing of the estimate.

Collector, paragraph 31.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 6.
Deputy Conservator, paragraph 47.

7. The Board agree with the Inspector of Forests that Depôts should be opened at Mettapoliem and Coimbatore.

Collector, paragraphs 22 24.
Inspector of Forests, paragraphs 6, 8.
Deputy Conservator, paragraphs 4, 5, 10.

8. Under G. O., 4th June 1874, No. 689, the Nilgiris slopes are to be connected with this range and the Board have no doubt but what it should be the charge of a Deputy Conservator.

9. The disputed boundary between the forests of "the Rajah Aracoverere Nair," and the Government Forests near Copanairy and south of it must be settled before anything else can be done in these parts. The Deputy Conservator submits a sketch of the locality, from which it appears that the Rajah now claims the stream Kodunghorry Pollam as its source, whereas the Irulers in the neighbourhood told Mr. Ross that it ought to be the Danyar stream. The Board have been informed that a few years ago the Seroor any river was the recognized boundary. The tract in dispute is thus very extensive and valuable. When the boundary is settled it may be desirable to negociate with the Rajah for a lease of his forests or the part of them that can be worked by the ghat between Copanairy and Mungherry, and if the lease is obtained, it will be necessary to put the ghat in repair though it is not worth while to do so now.

Collector, paragraphs 13 and 18.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 3.
Deputy Conservator, paragraphs 28 to 30.

10. No further extension of cultivation should be allowed in the direction up the Bhowany from Nellitoray to Soondapatti without the express permission of the Collector accorded with due consideration for Forest Conservancy.

Collector, paragraph 14.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 5.

11. The Board agree with the Inspector that the forests must be worked departmentally so far as *timber* is concerned to stop smuggling, that the encroachment of cultivation must be restricted, and that fires must be prevented by stringent measures.

Inspector of Forests, paragraph 7.

12. The Board are aware that the supplies from so-called private forests now sold to the Railway at a cheap rate, are often smuggled from Government Forests. The question of the Railway fuel supply is now under consideration.

Inspector of Forests, paragraph 8.

13. The Sholacurray Forest should be reserved and not worked for some time to come.

Collector, paragraph 26.
Inspector of Forests, paragraph 9
Deputy Conservator, paragraphs 43 and 49.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H. Grose
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with one sketch, Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd February 1874, No. 401, and 6th December 1873, No. 2,496.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.
,, the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Revenue Dept.

No.

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 8th August 1874

Read the following Report
of the Bd of Rev.

Select extracts
relating to capacities of
the New Forest Range which
has been constituted in the
Coimbatore District

Dated 8th August 1874 No 2147

The Range referred to
in the foregoing Proceedings
until removed, as at present,
the charge of a Deputy
Conservator stationed at
Mettupalliam with whom
also have the supervision
of the Naligherry division.

2. The existing Chapter
of Forest service requiring
the latter enactment in

Forwarded

No. 2895.
1103
Rev. 1874. Dept.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 8TH AUGUST 1874, No. 2,147.

Dept. 19 Aug 1/74
Encl. 3
1874 Sel. rec'd

SC No 1287-8 October 1874

Received 20th Aug 1874.

AUGUST.

Forest No. 127.

Forest range—New—which has been constituted in Coimbatore District.—Correspondence relating to capacities of —, submitted to Government with remarks.

S.O

Rec'd 22nd Rep. 24
Sent Letter R. 22nd

foregoing Proceedings has furnished a report on this range, but it does not appear that he visited the forests now under special notice and he should take an early opportunity of personally inspecting them so as to be able to give an opinion on the best mode of working them. His report should be submitted through the Board of Revenue.

3. The Government have already directed measures to be taken for the settlement of the boundary between the Coimbatore and Malabar Districts and the work should be expedited.

* G.O. 25th Aug.t/74. No. 1080.

I would beg ... communication ... forests ... Persons ... the willful encroachments ... forests.

... Subordinate ... requirements ... such liberal assignments ... made for their support ... advancement ... conservancy ...

... the Collector ... Malabar ... Lords ...

* G.O. 25th Aug.t 1874 No. 1080

I think Persons ... required ... Conservancy ... forests ... Persons towards the willful encroachments ... forests.

... Subordinate ... requirements ... such liberal assignments ... made for their support ... advancement ... conservancy ...

... the Collector ... Malabar Lords ...

Protected & Reserved Forests for the interests ... will ... danger but ... will see to the ... interests ... and Dist. Mal. ... reserves with ... Government ... Collector has brought ... carry Rest for creation ... work.

I/C VR

I think that any discouragement ... Collection in the Bhowani valley ... a measure ... description ... forest reserves.

The alignment of road ... made ... Complainants ... persons ... Supt. Capt. Walker ... The duties ... detailing a competent subordinate ... the purpose.

Para Forest Capt. Walker ... called on to state what "Stringent measures" ... which he would ... Lawrence.

P.S. Col. Walker ... approaches ... Mysore ... Nilgiris ... Malabar ... with ... Railway for ...

I/C VR

We have no ... these forests are ... inaccessible ... Mad. Railway

I suppose ... Robinson ... & Conservancy ... the Court ... Officer in ... Collectorate ... Nilgiri ... Collectorate ... protected ... Mad. ... in ... it? Cultivation ... conservancy ... the people, & ... reserve ... possible if ... reserve ... extent ... We might (if it ...) ... Conservancy ... out ... extent

spots in Reserved forests for
reserve - if for instance)
they could be shown to be good
for the production of railway
fuel - or for any peculiarly
valuable wood: but
when such reserves shall be
made with all possible
care for the preservation
usages & privileges of the hill
people - What I
understand Mr Brandis
to propose is to treat
the whole of these vast
forests almost as if
they were "Reserves":
protecting culture

Revenue Department.

No. 1287

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 8th October 1874

Read the following

Proc: of the Bd of Rev:

Subject correspondence, relating to the facilities of the New Forest range which has been constituted in Coimbatore District

H.C. 8th August 1874 No. 2157

The change referred to, in the foregoing papers will remain, as at present, the charge of a Deputy Conservator stationed at Mettapolliam who will also have the supervision of the Neilgherry slopes

2. The Acting Inspector of Forests since writing the letter embodied in the foregoing Proceedings has furnished a report on this change, but it does not

appear

appear that he visited the forests now under special working. He should take an early opportunity of personally inspecting them and in communication with the Collector should prescribe a programme of systematic operations submitting his views through the Board of Revenue. The measures he wishes adopted for the exclusion of fires should also be noticed.

3. The alignment of roads must be made by persons accustomed to such work and it will probably be advisable to obtain for this purpose the services of a competent subordinate of the Public Works Dept.

4. The Govt have already directed measures to be taken for the settlement of the boundary between the Coimbatore and Malabar Districts and the work should be expedited.

His

* GO 25th August 1871 No 1080

Lecture: The word "without the sanction or permission of the Govt." This is in strict accordance with the land & the immemorial usage of the country - every where - when application is made for land the Collector must consider whether it is meet for the interest of the State to grant him & is to withhold it. There are numerous decisions of the Highest Court establishing this principle on the law of the land. J.D.L.

5. His Excellency the Governor in Council is also pleased to inform the Board that he is unable to endorse the Board's instructions that no further extension of cultivation should be permitted in the Bowani valleys. The Board would apparently treat the whole of these vast and practically inexhaustible forests almost as if they were reserves and would prohibit cultivation; but there seems little or no certain advantage to be gained by such procedure while the extension of cultivation therefrom would be a direct gain to Govt and an increased prosperity among the people. Such tracts as may be required for the production of Railway fuel or of valuable timber

Money

may be marked as reserves but elsewhere cultivation should be allowed and living and other prescriptive privileges be freely permitted.

P. His Excellency learns with displeasure from the Collectors letter in Boards Proc. dated 8th Dec. 1873 No. 2496 that cultivation by the Hill tribes in particular had been restricted to such an extent as to cause distress. The measures for their relief proposed by the Collector and sanctioned by the Board meet with his hearty approval and he looks to Mr. Nedderburn to protect and provide for the interests of these poor and uncomplaining denizens of the forests by enacting liberal [illegible] assignments

I am to say in reply that the prescription as to Land Cultivation of forest Land by the hill tribes in particular and the Collector's suggestions & calculations for the future disposal of the waste lands in the vicinity of forests are left entirely to the discretion of the Collector subject to the general control of the Board of Revenue and the Government. The Collector is fully aware of the importance of preserving the forests and of the necessity of providing for the wants of the hill tribes and he will no doubt take care that the interests of both are duly protected. His proposals are pleased and the Collector is fully aware that the main object of forest administration is

assignments of land for their support in the present and advancement in the future.

14. To the Board of Revenue 26 Oct
2. The Superintendent Forests

17
1387

Dispatch
with additional
Page 7

80-81.

C 29th Sept 74 R 6/10/74

17-2-17

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government Records.

Revenue Department.

G. O. (Mis).

Dated 8.10.1874

No. 1287