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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. ~~No.~~	1291	Press / ~~Mis.~~

Dated 9. 10. 1874 ~~196-~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 88. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1874, No. 2,690, Forest No. 172:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 25th August 1874, No. 208:—

I HAVE the honor to submit to Government, through the Board of Revenue, the following explanatory remarks in reference to the expressions made use of by the Board, in regard to my report on the Gopanairy and upper Bhowany Forest ranges in this district.

2. Government called for a report on the extent and resources of these forests, which were described by Major Beddome (who had not inspected them) as of great extent and importance, and so leading to the creation of another forest range.

3. This order was passed on 2nd July 1873, and apparently, no steps had been taken to supply the report by Mr. Ross in October of 1873.

4. I must here inform Government that I was prostrated by a severe illness, contracted in discharge of my public duty, by making a preliminary inspection in May and June of the disputed Mysore boundary, on the malarious mountain ranges of Collegal, in consequence of which, I had to take urgent sick leave, in anticipation of sanction, without being even able to hand over my treasury.

5. From that sickness, I did not recover for some months, and as I before stated I found that Mr. Ross had not in October supplied Government with the required report.

6. In October Mr. Ross went on his inspection tour, and on his report reaching me, having regained some strength, I proceeded to make a personal inspection of the Forest Ranges in question, beginning at the north-east and proceeding along the hill forests south-west, describing their contour, position, and local names and apparent capacities.

7. Some names are not given at all in the Trigonometrical Survey Map; and part of the map, which should include Kurudi Mallay or Lampton's peak range is even wanting.

8. I venture to submit that my report is intelligible; but it is characterised by the Board of Revenue as "rendering confusion worse confounded."

9. Although the report was before the Board for eight months, they never asked a single explanation, or pointed to any matter on which they required elucidation.

10. The report was simply handed over to the Inspector of Forests, who made remarks thereon, without any inspection of the country.

11. It is difficult to identify places, not named in the map, and my object was to describe the position of the various ranges, their local names, and such particulars as could not be gathered from the map. There are various names for mountains ending in "Malay," "Giri," and "Betta," which are the Tamil and Canarese words for mountain, and if the Board were in want of any information, I would gladly have supplied it.

12. I do not suppose that Government required me to furnish a map of this extensive range, in the time expected for the report. The Atlas sheet,

No. 61, is the only one which can be referred to, and this is both incorrect, and incomplete.

13. Likewise, I could pass no opinion on the triangular piece of forest claimed by a Malabar proprietor, referred to in a rough sketch by Mr. Ross, as such claims have to be formally investigated and settled.

14. To sum up: there was a delay in carrying out the order of Goverment of 2nd July 1873, by the Deputy Conservator. On my return from sick leave, I took the matter up, and desired the tour to be made, and report furnished without further delay, and so soon as health and strength allowed, I subsequently proceeded to test the accuracy of the report, by my personal observations and enquiries. Mr. Ross (and this will account for some difference in statement) did not ascend several of the ranges, which I inspected, and I had hoped that, by referring to their general position and characteristics, I had rather elucidated, than rendered "confusion worse confounded," his detailed description of the various trees found in the several localities, which are not to be identified by name in the incomplete and incorrect Government map.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 8th August 1874, No. 2,147.

Orders thereon, 9th October 1874, No. 1,291.

Forests, No. 5.

RECORDED with reference to G. O., dated 8th October 1874, No. 1,287.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

FOREST No. 172.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th September 1874, No. 2,690.

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SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 8th August 1874, No. 2,147.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
" to the Inspector of Forests.
Extd. G. A. Turton.

G.O. 2 July/73 Nos 13-15
15 March/73 Nos 177-178
Board's Proc. 8/8/74 No 2147

Record with Reference to
G.O. dated 2nd July 1873
Letter dated 15th March 1873
Letter dated 8th August 1874

No 1291

Nov 1874. Dept

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH SEPTEMBER 1874, No. 2,690.

Encl.

Received 25
No 1291 - 9 October 1874

SEPTEMBER.

Forest No. 172.

Gopanairy and Upper Bhowany Forest Ranges—in Coimbatore District.—Explanation of Collector in reference to expressions made use of by Board in regard to his report on—submitted to Government.