1357

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd October 1874.

No. 273. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th September 1874, No. 2,817:—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd May 1874, No. 1,241.

Read also the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 31st August 1874, No. 457:—

In reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd May last, No. 1,241, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Acting Sub-Collector, No. 444, of the 20th instant, furnishing replies as to the necessity for the construction of bridges over the East Coast Canal, and to state that, considering the large expense involved, I am not disposed to recommend the erection of a bridge at Mahabalipuram, at all events for the present; but one should be constructed, I consider, for the traffic between and around Covelong and Tiruporur.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated 20th August 1874, No. 444.

WITH reference to your letter, dated 8th June last, No. 746, I have the honor to furnish the information called for by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings, dated 23rd May 1874.

Board's query.	*Answer.*
1st. The time at which the communication with Covelong and Mahabalipuram was cut by the East Coast Canal.	In 1854-55.
2nd. The amount of traffic interfered with, and the extent of inconvenience to which the public are exposed.	It is not possible to estimate accurately the amount of traffic interfered with, and the inconvenience to which the public are exposed by the excavation of the canal. The Tahsildar of Chingleput, however, reports that, before its excavation, carts laden with paddy and other grain from surrounding villages, lying at a distance of 10 or 15 miles from Covelong, were brought to the latter station in order to sell the grain, and that prior to its excavation, about forty or fifty carts were passing daily; whereas, at present, only four or five cross the canal with difficulty. As formerly reported, large concourse of people resort to Mahabalipuram* on the occurrence of eclipses and other festivals, and Europeans and Natives visit the place, in order to inspect the unique specimens of architecture existing there.

* The Seven Pagodas.

2. With reference to the last paragraph of the Proceedings of the Board under reply, I have the honor to state that before the excavation of the canal, carts easily crossed the high ground between the backwaters, which appear to have been connected by cuttings so as to form the present canal.

1/1356.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23rd October 1874.

No. 271. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st February 1874, No. 391, Forest No. 14 :—

Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th December 1873, No. 1,984 :—

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that I have just completed tours through the Wynaad Forests, and through the South Canara range.

2. In the Wynaad range I was met by the Deputy Conservator, Mr. Peet, at Sultan's Battery, and he accompanied me on my tour through the Chedalet Forests, the different depôts, office establishment at Manantoddy, and the Koodrikote Forests. I have submitted a report on several subjects to the Collector and Conservator, but there is nothing of importance to bring to the notice of the Board. The subjects that require most attention are, Demarcation; Leasing by Government of the Pulpilly Temple Teak Forests which dovetail with ours, and are likely to prove a great obstacle to proper conservancy and prevention of smuggling; and a proper system of collection of Hill products in our Reserved Forests.

3. In South Canara, I made a tour through the whole length of the range. Mr. Cherry, the Deputy Conservator, meeting me at the southern point of his range, and leaving me at the extreme north, on the confines of North Canara.

4. There is so very much that requires serious attention in this range, that I consider it better to forward the Board a copy of my report* to the Collector and Conservator, as I have in it fully brought to notice all important questions.

* No. 1,958, dated 8th December 1873.

5. A settlement of the Kumaki rights, together with concise Rules on this subject, is a *sine qua non* to conservancy; I only trust that the landholders may not be allowed to become Timber merchants or be allowed to export timber from their Kumakis to the coast or to towns, this was never originally intended or allowed, and if it is to be allowed, the district should at once be placed under a 1st Class Overseer, only a Deputy Conservator will not be required, nor will the Revenue authorize the employment of one.

6. There are, I fear, no continuous tracts available in this district for teak planting, the natural forest is either too valuable to be sacrificed, or there is too much laterite. The Teak Forests about Sooleay and Parapa contain many thousands of fine young trees (up to three and four feet in girth) and a great portion of them have received much attention from this department for the last twelve or fourteen years, and have been treated more like Plantations than Reserves; there are many small tracts of a few acres here and there available for planting, and several of these have already been planted; the conservancy of the standing teak and the planting up of the sites alluded to, should continue to receive careful attention, and great care must be taken that none of these teak tracts are ever alienated from Government.

7. Casuarina or other Firewood plantations are not required in this district, but I would recommend that considerable tracts of the indigenous coppice jungle and scrub should be enclosed and treated as Firewood Reserves.

3. Two bridges have, in point of fact, been erected at points intersected by the canal, where formerly there was dry land, viz., at Sadras and Pudupatnam; and although I have some doubt as to the necessity, in the face of the expense involved, of erecting a bridge at Mahabalipuram, it appears to my judgment, that the case for a bridge between Covelong and Tiruporur is at least as strong as that which justified the construction of the above two bridges.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., dated 18th October 1873, No. 1,127.

2. The Board think a bridge should be built where the canal has cut the communication between Covelong and Tiruporur.

No. 274. ORDER THEREON, 23rd October 1874, No. 1,357.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government consider a bridge at Covelong necessary. Further orders on the subject will be issued from the Financial Department as the cost of the bridge must be defrayed from Cochrane's and Sadras Canal Fund.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. W. H. French.

2/1357.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Bombay, 8th December 1873, No. 1,958.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have lately completed a tour through your Range, with your Deputy Conservator.

2. It was my intention to have first visited the Soobramany Forests and then to have joined your camp, but Mr. Cherry upset these plans; he was only able to meet me at Sumpaji, and was afterwards obliged to go to Mangalore, and as I had an appointment in North Canara, my time did not permit me to proceed to your camp, when we found that we had no chance of seeing you in Mangalore, where, I was led to expect you were returning sometime during our stay there. We visited the Forests of Sumpaji and Sooleay and the Teak Plantations and Depôts at the latter place, the Office Establishment, Plantations, Depôts, etc., at Mangalore, and the Forests, Catechu Jungles, Depôt's, etc., in the Condapore Taluq, and I had the opportunity of giving Mr. Cherry much advice as to the management of his plantations, and the general working of his range.

3. CONSERVANCY IN GENERAL.—I was sorry to observe that there was much want of system throughout the range. The Deputy Conservator is too much in Mangalore, and his tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too hurried to be really of much use, and I found that the Soobramany Overseer was located at the office at Mangalore. The Kumaki and other Rules seem to be less understood, and there appears to be less system generally than in former years, when the district was only under an Overseer, and there is not that systematic assistance from the native Revenue subordinates that I trusted might result from the new organization. I cannot say that Mr. Cherry is to blame for much of this, he is fully alive to it himself, but scarcely sees a remedy, and it is a very difficult question, whilst our rules and regulations are so lax and whilst both Kumaki and Kumeri remain in an unsettled state, the whole question of Conservancy and Establishment requires your earnest attention, and unless placed on a systematic basis, the district can scarcely afford the salary of a 3rd Class Deputy Conservator.

4. DEPARTMENTAL WORKING.—The departmental working of real timber which should be our main profit in a range appeared to me to be carried on at little or no profit, if not at a loss. Mr. Cherry was much divided in his opinion as to what to propose on this subject, and was mainly in favour of reverting to the License system with a seignorage on the cubic foot or candy, or else for a stamp fee. I have given this careful thought, and think that the best plan will be departmental working under a Contract system. All the trees to be marked by the department, and the felling and all transporting to our different depôts to be given over to Contractors at fixed rates per cubic foot; this is the plan pursued in the North Canara Forests through which I have just been making a tour; it allows of strict Conservancy principles (which the license system does not) the profit or probable profits per cubic foot is seen at a glance. Our Establishment can be curtailed or be employed in Conservancy operations instead of watching and directing, carting, and floating, and the chances of peculation on the side of our Overseers and other subordinates is much reduced.

5. GIRDLING—Mr. Cherry is anxious to introduce this. I object to it in the case of Teak, as it has been proved that the wood of that tree being of an oily nature, loses much of its elasticity, becomes brittle, and deteriorates under the operation. I do not think Blackwood (*Dalbergia Latifolia*) or Tirwa (*Inga Xylocarpa*) deteriorate, and I think the practice might be allowed or at least tried with all your heavy jungle timbers though not with Mango, Nanil (*Lagers Trœmia*) or the less durable wood.

6. SHOULD TIMBER BE SQUARED OR BROUGHT OUT IN THE ROUGH—Mr. Cherry is anxious to bring out his timber in round, untrimmed logs. This is done in North Canara; in fact whole trees containing often from eight to even fourteen Candies each are brought to the Coast Depôts; there is however no carting, they are dragged to the river banks by elephants, and then floated, the logs are all floated singly till they arrive below all rapids and rocks. I saw much of this going on in North Canara, it is nearly all performed by the aid of elephants and at no great cost; hundreds of logs are put in at once, and the elephants go along the bank, and deep into the river, pushing or pulling off all logs that get caught by rocks. I have seen the whole breadth of a considerable river blocked up by the logs, so that one could walk across on them, but in a surprisingly short time, two or three elephants would entirely clear the spot and send all the logs floating off.

7. DEMAND FOR JUNGLEWOOD.—Mr. Cherry was in hopes that there might be a large demand in Bombay for his jungle timbers, and that if he could establish an Agency there, that he might realize large profits; I have lately been going into this question in Bombay, and I am afraid that little can be done in this way; jungle timbers are abundant much closer to Bombay, and they scarcely demand a higher price in that market than in our own depôts. Your Kiral boghi (*Hopea Parviflora*) is not known in the Bombay market, and if you could establish for it the reputation it deserves, I believe that it would demand as high a price as Teak, and become most remunerative; it grows to a splendid size throughout your district, and is quite unknown in North Canara or any where north of your district though occurring south, right down to Cape Commorin.

8. PLANTATION AND RESERVES.—TEAK.—I much doubt if any continuous blocks of any size can be found in your district adapted for teak planting, except where the natural forest growth is too valuable to authorize its being felled. The natural teak Forests about Sooleay have for many years been pruned and conserved, and treated more like a reserve than an ordinary forest: there are many small blocks and patches here and there in these forests, that may be planted up with teak, and in other portions, worthless soft, timber trees may be gradually cleared out and teak seed or saplings put down. I should like to see a fair expenditure for this object every year. Care must be taken that none of these tracts are alienated from Government.

CASUARINA AND FIREWOOD.—The Casuarina planting near Mangalore is a failure. Casuarina succeeds well in sand, if water is within three or four feet of the surface, but its growth in such localities is very slow, and very poor if water is at a considerable depth. In your district, I do not think Casuarina or any other firewood planting is necessary, but I should much like to see large blocks of the indigenous coppice jungle (Kiral boghi, etc.,) and scrub enclosed by hedges, ditches or walls, and cattle excluded. Such like tracts would, I am sure, pay well, and this system is pursued by the natives; if cattle are kept out, the growth is very rapid.

PINEY.—The plantations of Piney (*Calophyllum*) near Mangalore, promise well, the oil-nut is a valuable product, and will be remunerative, and I think that these plantations may be extended.

EUCALYPTUS AND AUSTRALIAN ACACIAS.—You proposed plantations of these trees, they would not grow any where in your range, except about the summit of the Kudra Mukh, and would, of course, be of no use up there.

SANDALWOOD.—A plantation might be commenced at or near Nagoody.

9. CATECHU TRACTS.—These require complete rest for at least three years. I should like to see several large tracts enclosed and treated as Reserves and supplemented by planting; there are several little hills well adapted for this.

10. SANDALWOOD STILLS AND FUEL.—The contractors for the stills are dissatisfied at the rules which prohibit the felling of certain kind of timber as fuel, I would recommend that there should be no restrictions except in favour of saplings; blocks for felling should be marked off by the department, and where forest contains much valuable timber, it should not be given over for this purpose; the department can always reserve the right of marking and reserving certain valuable trees, if there is a chance of their being required, but it is not of any use to insist upon a reserved list of timbers, when the growth is in many cases coppice, and the timber really of little value except as firewood, and it hampers the contractor's operations. It is necessary to insist on the reservation of saplings.

11. DEPÔTS.—I would have as few depôts as possible, and except in the Mangalore Depôt I would not allow any petty sales which necessitate the up-keep of establishments and give an opening for peculation and fraud. Large auctions should be held say twice a year after due advertizing, and all the timber should be sold off.

12. DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS TIMBER.—There is a great want of good, seasoned timber for the Department Public Works, but there is no reason, whatever, why this should be the case. Your district abounds with very valuable engineering timbers such as Tirwa (*Inga Xylocarpa*),

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No. 1,241.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23rd May 1874.

Read the following letters:—

From R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pakam, 23rd February 1874, No. 52.

IN reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 7th November last, No. 7,575, I have the honour to report that from a letter received from the Sub-Collector it appears that two channels only have been lately excavated, *i. e.*, the Ninjal Madugu, which crosses the road from Chingleput to Conjeveram, on the 5th mile, and the East Coast Canal.

2. While expressing his doubts as to the necessity of a bridge on the Conjeveram Road, because the project is likely to be abandoned as being impracticable, Mr. Crole supports the recommendation of the Tahsildar that two bridges should be constructed over the East Coast Canal in the limits of Covelong and Mahabalipuram as the lines of communication were cut through by the canal. I am not aware of any similar cases in the Principal Division.

From the same Officer, dated Red Hills, 23rd April 1874, No. 163.

I have the honour to report that the Sub-Collector, on being called upon for the further information, explains "that the construction of bridges over the East Coast Canal is absolutely necessary because there were formerly recognized highways to the places in question which are now reached not without considerable difficulty owing to the canal having been cut across them.

BEFORE addressing Government as to the necessity for making the two bridges to which these letters refer the Board resolve to ask for further information—*first*, as to when the communication was cut by the canal, and *second*, as to the amount of traffic interfered with and the extent of inconvenience to which the public are exposed.

2. The canal at both places passes through a backwater, and the Board doubt whether it cut any previously existing line of communication. At all events bridges would be very expensive.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Collector of the Chingleput District.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Govt. of 1874 Octobre.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c.

Dated October 23rd.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 23rd October 1874, No. 1,357.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 273-274.

Bridge at Covelong over East Coast Canal, Chingleput District.—Considering a — necessary, and directing the issue of further orders on the subject from the Financial Department.

Kiral boghi (*Hopea Parviflora*) and Naga Champa (*Mesue*) timbers fully equal, I think, to Teak; a good stock of these should always be kept on hand in each taluq in depôts, the sites of which might be fixed by the Deputy Conservator in consultation with the Engineer Officer; these hard wood timbers take two or three years to season thoroughly, and they may be kept in store many years without deterioration.

13. JUNGLE TIMBERS.—When Nanil (*Lagerstræmia Microcarpa*), Dindak (*Conocarpus*) wild mango, and such like jungle timbers are felled they should be sold off at once, as deterioration is very rapid with most of those timbers; and any attempt to keep them in store, results in much loss to the department.

14. KUMAKI.—Much doubt now seems to exist with reference to these rights, and until this question is settled, I do not see how your district can be placed under proper Conservancy. In former years, we understood these rights to be as follows:—

Kumaki includes all forests within 100 yards from wet cultivation.

The land-holder is entitled to remove branches and leaves for manure and all unreserved timber for agricultural purposes, fencing houses, sheds, and such like buildings free of any seignorage.

Reserved timbers can be felled for the land-holder's own use on the payment of a fixed seignorage.

The landholder is not entitled to sell any timber from his Kumaki or transport it to towns.

Government are entitled to remove timber of the reserved kinds, if it is required for public works, etc.

I am not aware that any late orders have superseded the old rules, but I think there was some correspondence on the question of the last clause, and Mr. Cherry seemed to be of opinion that ryots could sell timber from their Kumakis. If ryots are allowed to sell timber, it will be almost an effectual check against anything like systematic Conservancy in your ranges.

15. REGISTER OF FREE AND SEIGNORAGE FELLING.—I think that a Register should be kept in each taluq of all timbers given free, or on seignorage rates to ryots not holding Kumakis of their own, all permits should be applied for at a certain period of the year say October and November, the next two months might then be fixed as the felling season, and all measurements, etc., might be taken by the Forest Department during January and February: this is the system pursued in North Canara, and the fixing of stated periods for certain operations renders the work much easier; during the two or three measuring months, the Deputy Conservator and all his establishment are employed in travelling over the districts and carrying out this work.

16. FORESTS PRODUCTS.—This question requires your attention, a considerable revenue might, I believe, be made without any interference with the rights of the hill tribes; at present our non-intervention puts large sums of money into the pockets of chetties and merchants.

(True Copy)

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Major,
Inspector of Forests.

THIS letter in which the Inspector of Forests reports on a tour through Wynaad and South Canara will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. With regard to the Wynaad Forests the Inspector calls attention to the necessity of demarcating, of devising means of raising revenue on forest products and of obtaining on lease the Pulpilly Temple Teak Forests. He refers to a more detailed report which he has sent to the Collector, and the Collector will be good enough to submit the report with his views.

3. In South Canara the Inspector found much that requires serious attention and he submits a report made to the Collector, drawing special attention to the necessity from the Forest Conservancy point of view of settling the vexed question of Kumaki rights, and the course to be adopted with regard to teak.

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4. The question as to Kumeri and Kumaki was fully laid before Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 21st March 1871, No. 1,222, and it was shown that it involved considerations of immense importance to the inhabitants of the district. With regard to Kumaki the Board expressed an opinion that the owners of Kumaki land had a proprietary right to that land and to the trees grown in it.

G. O., dated 31st March 1871, No. 603.

Government have since issued an order that the Public Works Department should cease to take trees from Kumaki land, but the old rules (given in paragraph 14 of the Inspector's letter to the Collector) which require that the owner should not take timber from their Kumaki for sale or transport to towns, and that they should not cut trees of the reserved kinds without paying seignorage have never been rescinded and are still enforced. Colonel Beddome is of opinion that if they are rescinded most of the revenue will disappear, and that an Overseer should be in charge of the district instead of a Deputy Conservator or, in other words, that Forest Conservancy will be impossible. The Board have already submitted to Government all that they have to say on this subject.

5. With regard to teak the Inspector says that the natural Teak Forests about Sooleay have been very carefully conserved and that no other continuous

[illegible] or perhaps a loss which may be remedied if felling and [illegible] made over to contractors, that girdling should not be resorted to in the case of Teak and the less durable woods but is safe in the case of blackwood and heavy jungle timbers, that the Deputy Conservator is anxious to bring out his timber from the forests in round untrimmed logs as is done in North Canara with the aid of elephants, that there is no demand in Bombay for jungle-wood but one might arise for Kiral boghi (*Hopea Parviflora*), that casurina and firewood planting should not be attempted though blocks of forest should be reserved, that the Piney plantations near Mangalore should be extended, that a Sandalwood plantation should be commenced near Nagoody, that the Catechu tracts require three years rest and parts of them should be fenced as reserves, that the restriction on trees allowed for the fuel of sandalwood stills should be removed except as regards saplings, the blocks on which felling may take place being first marked out, that there should be few depôts and no petty sales at Mangalore, but depôts of seasoned wood should be kept ready for the Public Works Department in every taluq, that the poorer sorts of jungle timber should be sold before they deteriorate, that a register of felling whether free or on payment of seignorage should be kept in each taluq, and that such felling should only be permitted at a specified time of the year.

6. The Board await a report from the Collector on these subjects. He will also ascertain whether Kiral boghi (*Hopea Parviflora*) and Naga Champa (*mesua*) which the Inspector considers fully equal to teak have been used by the Public Works Deparment or tested in any other way. The possibility of establishing

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1874.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD MAY 1874, No. 1,241

Encl

Received 26 May 1874.

MAY.

No. 1,241.

Bridges—over East Coast Canal in Chingleput District.—Further information requested from Collector with reference to proposed construction of certain — in limits of Covelong and Mahabalipuram.

4/1357.

No. 2,817.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th September 1874.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd May 1874, No. 1,241.

Read also the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 31st August 1874, No. 457:—

IN reply to the Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd May last, No. 1,241, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Acting Sub-Collector, No. 444, of the 20th instant, furnishing replies as to the necessity for the construction of bridges over the East Coast Canal, and to state that, considering the large expense involved, I am not disposed to recommend the erection of a bridge at Mahabalipuram, at all events for the present; but one should be constructed, I consider, for the traffic between and around Covelong and Tiruporur.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated 20th August 1874, No. 444.

WITH reference to your letter, dated 8th June last, No. 746, I have the honor to furnish the information called for by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings, dated 23rd May 1874.

Board's query.	*Answer.*
1st. The time at which the communication with Covelong and Mahabalipuram was cut by the East Coast Canal.	In 1854-55.
2nd. The amount of traffic interfered with, and the extent of inconvenience to which the public are exposed.	It is not possible to estimate accurately the amount of traffic interfered with, and the inconvenience to which the public are exposed by the excavation of the canal. The Tahsildar of Chingleput, however, reports that, before its excavation, carts laden with paddy and other grain from surrounding villages, lying at a distance of 10 or 15 miles from Covelong, were brought to the latter station in order to sell the grain, and that prior to its excavation, about forty or fifty carts were passing daily; whereas, at present, only four or five cross the canal with difficulty. As formerly reported, large concourse of people resort to Mahabalipuram* on the occurrence of eclipses and other festivals, and Europeans and Natives visit the place, in order to inspect the unique specimens of architecture existing there.

* The Seven Pagodas.

2. With reference to the last paragraph of the Proceedings of the Board under reply, I have the honor to state that before the excavation of the canal, carts easily crossed the high ground between the backwaters, which appear to have been connected by cuttings so as to form the present canal.

a market for Kiral boghi at Bombay is referred to by the Inspector in the letter recorded with G. O., dated 20th January 1874, No. 83.

7. The Inspector also adverts to the subject of the forest products, but this has been disposed of for the present in G. O., dated 19th December 1873, No. 1,463. If, however, Government approve of the system recommended for collecting hill products in Salem which is laid before Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th February 1874, No. 213, those Proceedings may be communicated to the Collector for his consideration. He must remember, of course, that it is a *sine qua non* that the forest officers concerned in the traffic can be trusted to guard the interests of the hill tribes.

No. 272. ORDER THEREON, 23rd October 1874, No. 1,356.

Forests, No. 15.

THE question referred to in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings is under consideration, and the other matters discussed by the Inspector of Forests will be disposed of with the reports called for by the Board.

(True Extract.)

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

Extd. G. A. Turton.

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Govt. of [1874] Coll.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 23rd.

Read.

G. O., 23rd October 1874, No. 2356

OCTOBER.

Nos. 271-272.

Major Beddome's Inspection Report on the Wynaad and South Canara Forest Range.

Observing that the question of Kumaki rights is under consideration, and other matters discussed by the Inspector will be disposed of with the reports for by the Board.

FOREST No. 14.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st February 1874, No. 391.

Read the following letter from Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th December 1873, No. 1,984:—

I HAVE the honour to inform you, that I have just completed tours through the Wynaad Forests, and through the South Canara range.

2. In the Wynaad range I was met by the Deputy Conservator, Mr. Peet, at Sultan's Battery, and he accompanied me on my tour through the Chedalet Forests, the different depôts, office establishment at Manantoddy, and the Koodrikote Forests. I have submitted a report on several subjects to the Collector and Conservator, but there is nothing of importance to bring to the notice of the Board. The subjects that require most attention are, Demarcation; Leasing by Government of the Pulpilly Temple Teak Forests which dovetail with ours, and are likely to prove a great obstacle to proper conservancy and prevention of smuggling; and a proper system of collection of Hill products in our Reserved Forests.

3. In South Canara, I made a tour through the whole length of the range. Mr. Cherry, the Deputy Conservator, meeting me at the southern point of his range, and leaving me at the extreme north, on the confines of North Canara.

4. There is so very much that requires serious attention in this range, that I consider it better to forward the Board a copy of my report* to the Collector and Conservator, as I have in it fully brought to notice all important questions.

* No. 1,958, dated 8th December 1873.

5. A settlement of the Kumaki rights, [illegible] Rules on this subject, is a *sine qua non* to conservancy, I only trust that the landholders may not be allowed to become Timber merchants or be allowed to export timber from their Kumakis to the coast or to towns, this was never originally intended or allowed, and if it is to be allowed, the district should at once be placed under a 1st Class Overseer only, a Deputy Conservator will not be required, nor will the Revenue authorize the employment of one.

6. There are, I fear, no continuous tracts available in this district for teak planting, the natural forest is either too valuable to be sacrificed, or there is too much laterite. The Teak Forests about Sooleay and Parapa contain many thousands of fine young trees (up to three and four feet in girth) and a great portion of them have received much attention from this department for the last twelve or fourtein years, and have been treated more like Plantations than Reserves; there are many small tracts of a few acres here and there available for planting, and several of these have already been planted; the conservancy of the standing teak and the planting up of the sites alluded to, should continue to receive careful attention, and great care must be taken that none of these teak tracts are ever alienated from Government.

7. Casuarina or other Firewood plantations are not required in this district, but I would recommend that considerable tracts of the indigenous coppice jungle and scrub should be enclosed and treated as Firewood Reserves.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Major R. H. BEDDOME, Inspector of Forests, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Bombay, 8th December 1873, No. 1,958.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have lately completed a tour through your Range, with your Deputy Conservator.

2. It was my intention to have first visited the Soobramany Forests and then to have joined your camp, but Mr. Cherry upset these plans; he was only able to meet me at Sumpaji, and was afterwards obliged to go to Mangalore, and as I had an appointment in North Canara, my time did not permit me to proceed to your camp, when we found that we had no chance of seeing you in Mangalore, where, I was led to expect you were returning sometime during our stay there. We visited the Forests of Sumpaji and Sooleay and the Teak Plantations and Depôts at the latter place, the Office Establishment, Plantations, Depôts, etc., at Mangalore, and the Forests, Catechu Jungles, Depôt's, etc., in the Condapore Taluq, and I had the opportunity of giving Mr. Cherry much advice as to the management of his plantations, and the general working of his range.

3. CONSERVANCY IN GENERAL.—I was sorry to observe that there was much want of system throughout the range. The Deputy Conservator is too much in Mangalore, and his tours to the different ranges or taluqs are too hurried to be really of much use, and I found that the Soobramany Overseer was located at the office at Mangalore. The Kumaki and other Rules seem to be less understood, and there appears to be less system generally than in former years, when the district was only under an Overseer, and there is not that systematic assistance from the native Revenue subordinates that I trusted might result from the new organization. I cannot say that Mr. Cherry is to blame for much of this, he is fully alive to it himself, but scarcely sees a remedy, and it is a very difficult question, whilst our rules and regulations are so lax and whilst both Kumaki and Kumeri remain in an unsettled state, the whole question of Conservancy and Establishment requires your earnest attention, and unless placed on a systematic basis, the district can scarcely afford the salary of a 3rd Class Deputy Conservator.

4. DEPARTMENTAL WORKING.—The departmental working of real timber which should be our main profit is [illegible] to be carried on at little or no profit, if not at a loss. Mr. Cherry was much divided in opinion as to what to propose on this subject, and was mainly in favour of reverting to the License system with a seignorage on the cubic foot or candy, or else for a stamp fee. I have given this careful thought, and think that the best plan will be departmental working under a Contract system. All the trees to be marked by the department, and the felling and all transporting to our different depôts to be given over to Contractors at fixed rates per cubic foot; this is the plan pursued in the North Canara Forests through which I have just been making a tour; it allows of strict Conservancy principles (which the license system does not) the profit or probable profits per cubic foot is seen at a glance Our Establishment can be curtailed or be employed in Conservancy operations instead of watching and directing, carting, and floating, and the chances of peculation on the side of our Overseers and other subordinates is much reduced.

5. GIRDLING—Mr. Cherry is anxious to introduce this. I object to it in the case of Teak, as it has been proved that the wood of that tree being of an oily nature, loses much of its elasticity, becomes brittle, and deteriorates under the operation. I do not think Blackwood (*Dalbergia Latifolia*) or Tirwa (*Inga Xylocarpa*) deteriorate, and I think the practice might be allowed or) at least tried with all your heavy jungle timbers though not with Mango, Nanil (*Lagers Trœmia* or the less durable wood.

6. SHOULD TIMBER BE SQUARED OR BROUGHT OUT IN THE ROUGH—Mr. Cherry is anxious to bring out his timber in round, untrimmed logs. This is done in North Canara; in fact whole trees containing often from eight to even fourteen Candies each are brought to the Coast Depôts; there is however no carting, they are dragged to the river banks by elephants, and then floated, the logs are all floated singly till they arrive below all rapids and rocks. I saw much of this going on in North Canara, it is nearly all performed by the aid of elephants and at no great cost; hundreds of logs are put in at once, and the elephants go along the bank, and deep into the river, pushing or pulling off all logs that get caught by rocks. I have seen the whole breadth of a considerable river blocked up by the logs, so that one could walk across on them, but in a surprisingly short time, two or three elephants would entirely clear the spot and send all the logs floating off.

7. DEMAND FOR JUNGLEWOOD.—Mr. Cherry was in hopes that there might be a large demand in Bombay for his jungle timbers, and that if he could establish an Agency there, that he might realize large profits; I have lately been going into this question in Bombay, and I am afraid that little can be done in this way; jungle timbers are abundant much closer to Bombay, and they scarcely demand a higher price in that market than in our own depôts. Your Kiral boghi (*Hopea Parviflora*) is not known in the Bombay market, and if you could establish for it the reputation it deserves, I believe that it would demand as high a price as Teak, and become most remunerative; it grows to a splendid size throughout your district, and is quite unknown in North Canara or any where north of your district though occurring south, right down to Cape Commorin.

8. PLANTATION AND RESERVES —TEAK.—I much doubt if any continuous blocks of any size can be found in your district adapted for teak planting, except where the natural forest growth is too valuable to authorize its being felled. The natural Teak Forests about Sooleay have for many years been pruned and conserved, and treated more like a reserve than an ordinary forest: there are many small blocks and patches here and there in these forests, that may be planted up with teak, and in other portions, worthless soft, timber trees may be gradually cleared out and teak seed or saplings put down. I should like to see a fair expenditure for this object every year. Care must be taken that none of these tracts are alienated from Government.

CASUARINA AND FIREWOOD.—The Casuarina planting near Mangalore is a failure. Casuarina succeeds well in sand, if water is within three or four feet of the surface, but its growth in such localities is very slow, and very poor if water is at a considerable depth. In your district, I do not think Casuarina or any other firewood planting is necessary, but I should much like to see large blocks of the indigenous coppice jungle (Kiral boghi, etc.,) and scrub enclosed by hedges, ditches or walls, and cattle excluded. Such like tracts would, [illegible] system is pursued by the natives; if cattle are kept out, the growth is [illegible]

PINEY.—The plantations of Piney (*Calophyllus*) near Mangalore, promise well, the oil-nut is a valuable product, and will be remunerative, and think that these plantations may be extended.

EUCALYPTUS AND AUSTRALIAN ACACIAS.—Your proposed plantations of these trees, they would not grow any where in your range, except above the summit of the Kudra Mukh, and would, of course, be of no use up there.

SANDALWOOD.—A plantation might be commenced at or near Nagoody.

9. CATECHU TRACTS.—These require complete rest for at least three years. I should like to see several large tracts enclosed and treated as Reserves and supplemented by planting; there are several little hills well adapted for this

10. SANDALWOOD STILLS AND FUEL.—The contractors for the stills are dissatisfied at the rules which prohibit the felling of certain kind of timber as fuel, I would recommend that there should be no restrictions except in favour of saplings; blocks for felling should be marked off by the department, and where forest contains much valuable timber, it should not be given over for this purpose; the department can always reserve the right of marking and reserving certain valuable trees, if there is a chance of their being required, but it is not of any use to insist upon a reserved list of timbers, which the growth is in many cases coppice, and the timber really of little value except as firewood, and it hampers the contractor's operations. It is necessary to insist on the reservation of saplings.

11. DEPÔTS.—I would have as few depôts as possible, and except in the Mangalore Depôt I would not allow any petty sales which necessitate the up-keep of establishments and give an opening for peculation and fraud. Large auctions should be held say twice a year after due advertizing, and all the timber should be sold off.

12. Department Public Works Timber.—There is a great want of good, seasoned timber for the Department Public Works, but there is no reason, whatever, why this should be the case. Your district abounds with very valuable engineering timbers such as Tirwa (*Inga Xylocarpa*), Kiral boghi (*Hopea Parviflora*) and Naga Champa (*Mesue*) timbers fully equal, I think, to Teak; a good stock of these should always be kept on hand in each taluq in depôts, the sites of which might be fixed by the Deputy Conservator in consultation with the Engineer Officer; these hard wood timbers take two or three years to season thoroughly, and they may be kept in store many years without deterioration.

13. Jungle Timbers.—When Nanil (*Lagastræmia Microcarpa*), Dindak (*Conocarpus*) wild mango, and such like jungle timbers are felled they should be sold off at once, as deterioration is very rapid with most of those timbers; and any attempt to keep them in store, results in much loss to the department.

14. Kumaki.—Much doubt now seems to exist with reference to these rights, and until this question is settled, I do not see how your district can be placed under proper Conservancy. In former years, we understood these rights to be as follows:—

Kumaki includes all forests within 100 yards from wet cultivation.

The land-holder is entitled to remove branches and leaves for manure and all unreserved timber for agricultural purposes, fencing houses, sheds, and such like buildings free of any seignorage.

Reserved timbers can be felled for the land-holder's own use on the payment of a fixed seignorage.

The landholder is not entitled to sell any timber from his Kumaki or transport it to towns.

Government are entitled to remove timber of the reserved kinds, if it is required for public works, etc.

I am not aware that any late orders have superseded the old rules, but I think there was some correspondence on the question of the last clause, and Mr. Cherry seemed to be of opinion that ryots could sell timber from their Kumakis. If ryots are allowed to sell timber, it will be almost an effectual check against anything like systematic Conservancy in your range.

15. Passes.—I think that a Register should be kept in each taluq of all timbers given free, or on seignorage rates to ryots not holding Kumakis of their own, all permits should be applied for at a certain period of the year say October and November, the next two months might then be taken as the felling season, and all measurements, etc., might be taken by the Forest Department during January and February; this is the system pursued in North Canara, and the fixing of stated periods for certain operations renders the work much easier; during the two or three measuring months, the Deputy Conservator and all his establishment are employed in travelling over the districts and carrying out this work.

16. Forests products.—This question requires your attention, a considerable revenue might, I believe, be made without any interference with the rights of the hill tribes; at present our non-intervention puts large sums of money into the pockets of chetties and merchants.

(True Copy)

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Major,
Inspector of Forests.

This letter in which the Inspector of Forests reports on a tour through Wynaad and South Canara will be submitted for the information of Government.

2. With regard to the Wynaad Forests the Inspector calls attention to the necessity of demarcating, of devising means of raising revenue on forest products and of obtaining on lease the Pulpilly Temple Teak Forests. He refers to a more detailed report which he has sent to the Collector, and the Collector will be good enough to submit the report with his views.

T/1356

3. In South Canara the Inspector found much that requires serious attention and he submits a report made to the Collector, drawing special attention to the necessity from the Forest Conservancy point of view of settling the vexed question of Kumaki rights, and the course to be adopted with regard to teak.

4. The question as to Kumeri and Kumaki was fully laid before Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 21st March 1871, No. 1,222, and it was shown that it involved considerations of immense importance to the inhabitants of the district. With regard to Kumaki the Board expressed an opinion that the owners of Kumaki land had a proprietary right to that land and to the trees grown in it. Government have since issued an order

G. O., dated 31st March 1871, No. 603.

that the Public Works Department should cease to take trees from Kumaki land, but the old rules (given in paragraph 14 of the Inspector's letter to the Collector) which require that the owner should not take timber from their Kumaki for sale or transport to towns, and that they should not cut trees of the reserved kinds without paying seignorage have never been rescinded and are still enforced. Colonel Beddome is of opinion that if they are rescinded most of the revenue will disappear, and that an Overseer should be in charge of the district instead of a Deputy Conservator or, in other words, that Forest Conservancy will be impossible. The Board have already submitted to Government all that they have to say on this subject.

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6. The Board await a report from the Collector on these subjects. He will also ascertain whether Kiral boghi (*Hopea Parviflora*) and Naga Champa (*mesua*) which the Inspector considers fully equal to teak have been used by the Public Works Department or tested in any other way. The possibility of establishing a market for Kiral boghi at Bombay is referred to by the Inspector in the letter recorded with G. O., dated 20th January 1874, No. 88.

7. The Inspector also adverts to the subject of the forest products, but this has been disposed of for the present in G. O., dated 19th December 1873, No. 1,463. If, however, Government approve of the system recommended for collecting hill products in Salem which is laid before Government in Board's Proceedings, dated 4th February 1874, No. 213, those Proceedings may be communicated to the Collector for his consideration. He must remember, of course, that it is a *sine qua non* that the forest officers concerned in the traffic can be trusted to guard the interests of the hill tribes.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J Grote
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, the Collector of Malabar
,, the Collector of South Canara.
,, the Inspector of Forests.
Copy to the Collector of Salem.

Board of Revenue, 1874. Dupty
MADRAS.
Sir
Proceedings, 21st February 1874, No. 2911
Encl
Forest tour.—Report of Inspector of Forests on his tour through Wynaad and South Canara Forests, submitted to Government, with remarks: and Collectors concerned requested to report on certain points.
FEBRUARY.
Forest No. 14.
No 1356 — 23 Oct 74
Received 2a Branch