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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1205	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	11-8-1875	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th August 1875.

No. 98. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th June 1875, No. 1,802, Forest No. 122 :—

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kudremook, 14th May 1875, No. 869.

I HAVE the honor to forward the report of the Inspector of Forests on the forests of this district with the following remarks.

2. *Paragraph 2 of the Report.*—Inquiries are now being instituted as to the ownership of the Parapa forests, and I will, at the conclusion of the inquiry, take measures to obtain on lease those portions of the teak plantations that may be found to be private property.

3. *Paragraph 3.*—I regret to state that one of the elephants, the large cow, has recently died. She was pregnant when captured, and gave birth to a calf soon after her arrival in this district. She was far from well when she arrived, and was suffering from large abscesses on her body. After the birth of the calf she was attacked with dropsical swellings, a disease stated in the Manual to be incurable. She rallied at one time, but had a relapse and died. Every attention was paid to her. She refused to suckle her calf, which died a few days after its birth. I now hear that another elephant has been attacked with the same disease, and I fear a fatal termination. If it recovers, I think it and the healthy elephant should be sent to Mudumallai to be trained and worked until required here. At present the elephants are not sufficiently trained to be of much use, and they will learn more rapidly in company with other elephants at Mudumallai than they would if worked by themselves in this district.

4. *Paragraph 5.*—Inquiries are now being instituted prior to the demarcation of Government forests, and, on their completion, Captain Campbell Walker's remarks regarding cutting kumari in virgin forests will be borne in mind.

5. *Paragraph 7.*—The proposed scale of establishment for this district has been sent to the Inspector of Forests. I have made provision for an extra clerk in my office to look after forest correspondence and accounts. Mr. Cherry has now a room in my office, and correspondence has been greatly decreased, and is now principally semi-official, but still there is quite enough work for one man to do, and my establishment was overworked before the forest conservancy was transferred to the Collector, so that an extra clerk is required.

6. *Paragraph 9.*—Forest operations in this district are on so comparatively a small scale and so scattered that it is difficult to get the work done on contract. Local or communal jungles, if such are found after the general inquiry, should be worked under the general control of the forest officers. The conservancy should be entrusted to the potails, who would be remunerated by a share of the license fees collected, and the balance of receipts should be credited to the Jungle Conservancy Fund. I think it probable that several jungles will be found on inquiry to which private claims will not be established, but which have been in the common enjoyment of the neighboring villagers. Such jungles should not be reserved and demarcated as State reserves, but should be classed as communal jungles and administered as above stated.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq.,
Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Salem, 8th March 1875, No. 688.

I HAVE the honor to submit the inspection report for the South Canara forests, in which I shall also dispose of the reference contained in Board's Proceedings, No. 167A-2,640, of 16th September last, and paragraph 1 of G.O., No. 1,383, dated 2nd November 1874.

I entered the South Canara District by the Sumpajee Ghaut from Marcara, and was met by Mr. Cherry at Sooleay, whence we proceeded to Parapa, Taloor, Soobramooney, and Sirady, inspecting the teak reserves and some of the forests en route. At Sirady we met the Collector,

Mr. Webster, and remained with him four days, after which we proceeded to Mangalore via Ooperangady. I spent three days at Mangalore, examined the office registers, depôt, site, &c., and left on the morning of the 18th for North Canara, having been fifteen days in the South Canara District.

2. The teak plantations and reserves in the vicinity of Parapa are doubtless valuable from the scarcity of the tree in the South Canara District, and the situation in the plains rendering transit comparatively easy to the coast by road; the river is unsuited for floating, and I fear it would cost too much to remove the obstructions which consist in sheets of rock; the growth, however, is very poor compared with that in Malabar except in a few small patches of alluvial soil near the river. Both the planted and indigenous trees have been much overpruned, which gives them a stunted, gnarled appearance, and I fear the timber will be found very crooked in the grain and knotty. The extent and nature of the planting is described in paragraphs 62 to 65 of my last half-yearly report, but I observe that the Collector, in paragraph 17 of his letter recorded with Board's Proceedings, No. 246-3,667, dated 18th December 1874, anticipates that the whole area will be claimed as kumaki land, and the Board direct that he should "endeavor to get a lease

(Since sanctioned by G.O., No. 271, of 20th February 1875, paragraph 7.)

of the land." I presume that this is in accordance with the recent orders of Government,*

but it appears strange that we should now have to endeavor to lease land on which we have been planting and conserving trees for years at a cost of nearly Rupees 7,000, and to which I am not aware that any claim has ever been raised. In any case I do not advocate any further expenditure on regular planting operations. I would merely take up patches of what belong to us, and encourage the natural growth and reproduction, and when necessary cover the ground by rearing *in situ*.

3. The three elephants recently purchased are here under charge of the Overseer, and are so tame that Mr. Cherry does not think it will be necessary to send them away to be trained. Having regard, however, to the fact that operations in South Canara will probably be on a very limited scale for some years to come, I think it worthy of consideration whether they should not be transferred to Wynaad and Mudumullai, where elephants are much required, to be trained and worked until required in South Canara. One, if not two, of them will probably not be fit for much work for some years. The Collector and Mr. Cherry are best able to judge what work there is, or will be, for the next few years in South Canara, and the question can be settled by the former in forwarding this report.

4. I think that all other points worthy of notice are included in the sixteen headings under which Mr. Thomas arranges his report (paragraph 9 of that officer's letter, No. 1,489, recorded with Board's Proceedings, No. 167A-2,640), and I, therefore, proceed to deal with them *seriatim*, saying that they were considered on the spot with Mr. Webster, and that the conclusions now arrived at are, I believe, in accordance with his views.

5. KUMARI.—Since Mr. Thomas wrote, Government have issued their Order, No. 1,361, of 23rd October 1874, which decides the matter in a manner contrary to his views. I trust, however, that no Kumari will be allowed in Government reserved forests, and no clearing of virgin forest for that purpose even in unreserved tracts which are found to be Government property.

6. KUMAKI.—This has also been disposed of by Government.

7. FOREST ESTABLISHMENT.—A general revision of all subordinate forest establishments is pending, and will be taken up early in next official year. Mr. Cherry has been instructed to submit an amended scheme for revision through the Collector, the outline of which were sketched out during my visit. I do not think any extra clerk is necessary in the Collector's Catcherry in which the Deputy Conservator and his office will soon be located and of which it will form a portion, so that little or no correspondence will be necessary.

8. FOREST HANDBOOK.—I quite agree with Mr. Thomas as to the want of a forest handbook or manual. There is no leisure to undertake its compilation in conjunction with current work, but Government may, I hope, ere long be able to appoint an officer for the special duty as

has been done in other departments. The manual should be general and complete in every respect, so as to form a guide and means of reference to Collectors, Forest Officers, and Overseers.

9. WORKING.—Colonel Beddome and Mr. Thomas advocate "departmental working under a contract system." If by this it is meant that we should have contractors to fell where and when required, drag, slip, float, and cart to depôt at fixed rates, it is already done whenever possible. The difficulty in South Canara appears to be to get contractors, but I believe this can gradually be overcome. We agreed that all imperial reserved forests should be worked departmentally through contractors as far as possible, and that no sales should take place except from market depôts to be fixed and notified. Local or communal jungles, if any, are left to be worked under the license and voucher system for villagers only under supervision of the village officers aided by such special establishments as may be required, the whole to be under the general control of the forest officer.

10. GIRDLING.—The girdling of teak has long since been condemned in this Presidency after careful inquiry. It is still practised in North Canara, but I believe it to be objectionable. I have no practical experience, nor is there any data to go upon, with regard to the effect of girdling on other timbers, but I agree with Colonel Beddome in recommending that it should be tried with Blackwood (*Dalbergia Latifolia*), Tirwa (*Inga Xylocarpa*), Nanil (*Lagerstræmia*), and all heavy jungle-woods. If the quality of the timber does not suffer, it will be a great boon if we introduce saw-machinery at any time.

11. FELLING TIMBER.—On this point I agree generally with Mr. Thomas, whose theory, as stated in paragraph 52 of his report, is excellent. I found Mr. Cherry fully awake to the necessity of more systematic management, and I think the matter may confidently be left to his discretion aided by Mr. Webster's judgment.

12. SQUARING TIMBER.—This also is a matter of detail which may be left to the local officers. The logs referred to in Colonel Beddome's report are from girdled trees and hence much lighter, and there is excellent water-carriage which is not the case in South Canara. Almost all the timber from the North Canara forests which goes inland to Dharwar, &c., is squared or rough hewn in the forest, and it is to obviate the waste which occurs on this process that Major Peyton has recently imported saw-machinery from England, which, should it prove successful as I have every reason to hope, will completely revolutionize our methods of conversion of timber wherever we have a sufficient supply to justify its introduction.

13. ACCOUNTING FOR TIMBER.—Mr. Thomas' remarks on this point are unfortunately founded on fact, but I do not consider Mr. Cherry or the Overseers to blame for it, there being no system of timber stock accounts except in a few districts, where they have been introduced without any orders from head quarters. Mr. Cherry doubtless found in South Canara the same system, or want of system, as he found in the Wynad, to which he was first appointed. It is probably some time before the want struck him, and it is by no means easy to devise a proper system of stock accounts, however simple it may be, to denounce their absence. Any such system should be general in its application and emanate from head quarters. I regret to say that, beyond certain vague rules published in the old Forest Manual, there are no general instructions on the subject, and the state of things brought to notice by Mr. Thomas, I have found more or less general. Trees have been felled, entered in stock, and allowed to remain lying in the forest for years without any check. There were monthly statements of timber felled and sold (at present discontinued, but which will have to be revived), but no proper registers in most districts from which they were supplied. I think we may congratulate ourselves that our officers and subordinates have, as a rule, been honest men, though we have no means of being certain that many logs have not disappeared. The matter shall have attention. Meanwhile all outlying logs will be brought into depôts, and the following rules have been drafted, which will probably, after modification, find place in the manual. They resemble those already in force in Madura and elsewhere.

(1.) The Sub-Overseers or Duffadars to mark all trees to be felled and estimate contents, entering the same at once in a rough register, checking the measurements when felled and stored

in forest depôts, which should be well recognized and cleared places in the forest where the forest mark and number should be put on.

(2.) Timber not to appear in stock till lodged in a recognized forest or market depôt, and measured up by the Overseer in charge, after which only the account should be adjusted and the entries in register tally with those of payments in the monthly bills; as a rule the Overseer will measure up the timber in the forest depôt and arrange for its despatch to the market depôt, being responsible for it until its arrival, when the depôt-keeper will receipt the duplicate list which should always accompany each log or lot sent in, retaining the original for check and enter into the depôt register.

(3.) In addition to the Sub-Overseer's rough register, there will be a set of accounts for each recognised depôt, consisting of, 1st, a register; 2nd, detailed account of additions, deductions, and balance; 3rd, abstract of the detailed accounts.

(4.) All logs to be carefully measured up, marked, and registered on receipt in the market depôt, from whence they will be sold periodically by auction unless transferred to another depôt.

Forms for the above and rules as to numbering, &c., will have to be drawn up; meanwhile I think those which Mr. Cherry has drafted may be made use of; he has given the subject much attention, and has elaborated a very simple, but effective, system of accounts based on the only true principle, that of double entry. Instead of censure, I saw much for which he is deserving of praise in this and other respects.

14. LEASING TIMBER.—Mr. Thomas' strictures on this head are severe, and to a great extent I think uncalled for. The cause of the bridges giving way is not far to seek. No attempt was ever made to season the timber, because it was never known where or when the Department of Public Works would demand it, nor did they know themselves until the estimate for a particular work was sanctioned: when they called for timber at once on the spot it was supplied and, in a climate like South Canara, naturally became rotten after a few months. The present District Engineer has removed this difficulty; he will select all the timber he requires in Mangalore, and leave it with us to season, for which purpose Mr. Webster has selected a suitable site on the quay, including a wet dock in which the timber can be salt-water seasoned, which, I believe, is the best for some descriptions though for most I can only repeat Colonel Beddome's advice as to piling the logs in shady places in such manner that the air can get freely at them. I do not approve of Mr. Thomas' plan of burying timber; creosoting might doubtless be introduced with advantage in some cases, but is very costly, and it would be very difficult to impregnate most of our jungle-woods, which are much closer in the grain than the pine to which the system is generally applied in Europe.

Entirely Colonel Beddome's opinion that we are not called upon to season at all except for our own (i.e. Government) purposes. It is not a legitimate branch of forestry except in so far as we wish to teach others how to do it. Timber floated to depôt must be to a certain extent seasoned to allow of its floating at all: the Department of Public Works will then select what they require, and the rest should be sold off by public auction, leaving the purchaser, to season as they like. The same applies to bamboos though I think we should take their felling and removal to depôt more in our own hands for a time at least. There appears to be little doubt that large profits are made at the present rate of seigniorage, and great damage done. I believe it is undoubted that bamboos should be felled at the fall of the moon and when getting yellow.

I do not gather that we have ever "placidly" gone on cutting and storing bamboos. On the contrary, we have left the trade entirely in the hands of merchants to whom we issue licenses, and have only stored and sold the bamboos required to float down our timber, which we should be very willing to have done on contract if Mr. Thomas had got the contractors, which is not an easy matter.

I do not think it is the duty of the Forest Department to guarantee a supply of either seasoned timber or bamboos to the public.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th August 1875.*

15. **SELLING TIMBER.**—We propose to sell by auction after supplying the Department of Public Works demand. In exceptional cases tenders for timber at out-depôts or in transit may be accepted by the Deputy Conservator. Purchasers will remove the timber on payment of the money into the treasury, and receiving a pass from the yard-keeper on production of the treasury receipt. A few simple rules and forms as in use in other districts can be prescribed.

16. **DEPÔTS.**—We propose for the present to have six market-depôts, viz., Mangalore, Kundapur, Kalianpur, Ooperangady, Hospett, and Jalsoor, but such points may safely be left to the judgment of the Collector and his Forest Assistant.

17. **AUCTION SALES.**—*Vide* paragraphs 13 and 15. Due notice will be given and the term of sale, which should be as liberal as possible, made generally known. The Deputy Conservator will, of course, consult the Collector as to date, &c., of auction sales, and is not authorized to sell any forest produce the value of which exceeds Rupees 500 without his express sanction. The auction sales will be superintended by the Deputy Conservator or other revenue officer whom the Collector may depute. Petty sales of confiscated timber, &c., may be superintended by the Taluq Tahsildar, Forest Overseer, or Revenue Inspector acting under instructions from the Deputy Conservator.

18. **SANDALWOOD OIL STILLs.**—Mr. Cherry proposes to put up to auction the right to work and fell firewood in certain large blocks for a period of three years, and thus encourage men with capital and enterprize to embark in the business and improve the stills which are very primitive. I think highly of his plan, the details of which need not be given here. It has also, I believe, Mr. Webster's approval, and will probably form subject of separate communication.

19. **FIREWOOD.**—No opinion can be formed until the result of recent Government orders is ascertained. If land near the coast covered with scrub is then available either as Government waste or at moderate purchase rates, I would strongly advocate its being taken up and conserved. I agree with Mr. Thomas (paragraph 161) that "the want and desirability of self-growing conservancy is freely admitted."

20. **CATECHU.**—Mr. Webster has already requested Mr. Cherry to proceed to reserve tracts and work the catechu jungles systematically for the future. Nothing further appears necessary pending the settlement of private claims to the jungle under the recent ruling.

21. With reference to Mr. Thomas' strictures, I must report that it is abundantly clear to me that there never has been any systematic forest conservancy in South Canara either before or since the re-organization. The difficulties experienced in other districts were here enhanced by those connected with the land tenure, and conflicting views and orders regarding Kumari, Kumaki, &c. From the situation of the district also it was doubtless less frequently visited than others, though I cannot say that it appears to have suffered much in this respect. I believe that Mr. Cherry is the first forest officer in South Canara who has endeavored to evolve order out of chaos, and I have no doubt that, once the result of recent Government orders is known, real progress may be made, though it is doubtful, as Colonel Beddome has already remarked, whether we shall then have sufficient Government forest left to justify our retaining a special forest officer in the district.

22. In paragraph 10 of their recent Order (No. 1,361 of 23rd October 1874), Government direct that the demarcation of valuable forests "*admittedly the property of Government*," should be at once taken in hand, but I very much doubt if any valuable Government forest will remain. The valuable forests which now clothe the plains and render South Canara so different from other districts will, I should imagine, all be claimed and disappear at no distant date, and I can see no reason why the people should limit their claim to the forest of the plains. The Collector indeed tells us in paragraph 11 of his letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 246-3,667, of 18th December 1874, now before Government for orders, that the "correctness of this supposition is disputed by the people," who have already put in claims to portions of the ghaut forests. Government have doubtless well weighed the result of their recent orders (which are diametrically opposed to those of the Bombay Government in the adjoining district of North

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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Canara, where privileges and servitudes in forests are liberally construed, any claim to proprietary right rejected as untenable), and Mr. Webster has already proposed measures for ascertaining the extent and value of what may be left unclaimed.

If sanctioned, this will fully occupy the Deputy Conservator for one or two years, during which operations will be reduced to a minimum. On the result of the inquiry and settlement hinges the future of forest conservancy by the State in the South Canara District; and, pending a more definite knowledge of our real position, the question regarding minor forest produce (G.O., No. 1,325, dated 15th October 1874) may remain in abeyance.

No. 689.

SUBMITTED through the Collector of South Canara and Revenue Board in accordance with G.O., No. 1,511, dated 7th December 1874.

SALEM,
8th March 1875.

(Signed) CAMPBELL WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 99.

ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1875, No. 1,205.

Forests, No. 8.

It is observed with satisfaction that Captain Walker is able to testify to Mr. Cherry's efficient conduct of his duties.

2. The elephants should be transferred to Mudumallay as proposed if this has not already been arranged departmentally.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2878

From 13th of Riv

Dated 30 June 1875.

FOR ORDERS.

I do express satisfaction
in finding that
Capt Walker is able
to testify to Mr. Cherry's
efficient conduct
of his duties.

I do direct the
transfer of the young
elephants as proposed
if it has not already
been arranged or particularly
K.A. C.

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Bolt. of 1875 Orders.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

to do do do

Dated August, 11th.

G. O. 11th August 1875, No. 1205.

AUGUST.
Nos. 98-99.

South Omore District Forests.—With reference
to the report on the —, expressing satisfaction at
Mr. Cherry's efficient conduct of his duties; and
observing that the elephants should be transferred
to Mulemully if not already arranged depart-
ment.

FOR ORDERS.

Superior Portland Cement Co.
St. Louis, Mo.

FOREST No. 122.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th June 1875, No. 1,822.
Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kudremook, 14th May 1875, No. 869 :—

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I entered the South Canara District by the Sumpajee Ghaut from Marcara, and was met by Mr. Cherry at Sooleay, whence we proceeded to Parapa, Taloor, Soobramooney, and Sirady, inspecting the teak reserves and some of the forests en route. At Sirady we met the Collector,

Mr. Webster, and remained with him four days, after which we proceeded to Maggalore via Ooperangady. I spent three days at Mangalore, examined the office registers, depôt, site, &c., and left on the morning of the 18th for North Canara, having been fifteen days in the South Canara District.

2. The teak plantations and reserves in the vicinity of Parapa are doubtless valuable from the scarcity of the tree in the South Canara District, and the situation in the plains rendering transit comparatively easy to the coast by road; the river is unsuited for floating, and I fear it would cost too much to remove the obstructions which consist in sheets of rock; the growth, however, is very poor compared with that in Malabar except in a few small patches of alluvial soil near the river. Both the planted and indigenous trees have been much overpruned, which gives them a stunted, gnarled appearance, and I fear the timber will be found very crooked in the grain and knotty. The extent and nature of the planting is described in paragraphs 62 to 65 of my last half-yearly report, but I observe that the Collector, in paragraph 17 of his letter recorded with Board's Proceedings, No. 246-3,667, dated 18th December 1874, anticipates that the whole area will be claimed as kumaki land, and the Board direct that he should "endeavor to get a lease of the land." I presume that this is in accordance with the recent orders of Government,* but it appears strange that we should now have

* (Since sanctioned by G.O., No. 271, of 20th February 1875, paragraph 7.)

to endeavor to lease land on which we have been planting and conserving trees for years at a cost of nearly Rupees 7,000, and to which I am not aware that any claim has ever been raised. In any case I do not advocate any further expenditure on regular planting operations. I would merely take up patches of what belong to us, and encourage the natural growth and reproduction, and when necessary cover the ground by rearing *in situ*.

3. The three elephants recently purchased are here under charge of the Overseer, and are so tame that Mr. Cherry does not think it will be necessary to send them away to be trained. Having regard, however, to the fact that operations in South Canara will probably be on a very limited scale for some years to come, I think it worthy of consideration whether they should not be transferred to Wynaad and Mudumullai, where elephants are much required, to be trained and worked until required in South Canara. One, if not two, of them will probably not be fit for much work for some years. The Collector and Mr. Cherry are best able to judge of the work there is, or will be, for the next few years in South Canara, and the question can be settled by the former in forwarding this report.

4. I think that all other points worthy of notice are included in the sixteen headings under which Mr. Thomas arranges his report (paragraph 9 of that officer's letter, No. 1,489, recorded with Board's Proceedings, No. 167A-2,640), and I, therefore, proceed to deal with them *seriatim*, premising that they were considered on the spot with Mr. Webster, and that the conclusions now arrived at are, I believe, in accordance with his views.

5. KUMARI.—Since Mr. Thomas wrote, Government have issued their Order, No. 1,361, of 23rd October 1874, which decides the matter in a manner contrary to his views. I trust, however, that no Kumari will be allowed in Government reserved forests, and no clearing of virgin forest for that purpose even in unreserved tracts which are found to be Government property.

6. KUMAKI.—This has also been disposed of by Government.

7. FOREST ESTABLISHMENT.—A general revision of all subordinate forest establishments is pending, and will be taken up early in next official year. Mr. Cherry has been instructed to submit an amended scheme for revision through the Collector, the outlines of which were sketched out during my visit. I do not think any extra clerk is necessary in the Collector's Cutcherry in which the Deputy Conservator and his office will soon be located and of which it will form a portion, so that little or no correspondence will be necessary.

8. FOREST HANDBOOK.—I quite agree with Mr. Thomas as to the want of a forest hand-book or manual. There is no leisure to undertake its compilation in conjunction with current work, but Government may, I hope, ere long be able to appoint an officer for the special duty as

has been done in other departments. The manual should be general and complete in every respect, so as to form a guide and means of reference to Collectors, Forest Officers, and Overseers.

WORKING SYSTEM.—Colonel Boddome and Mr. Thomas advocate "departmental working under a contract system." If by this it is meant that we should have contractors to fell where and when required, drag, slip, float, and cart to depôt at fixed rates, it is already done whenever possible. The difficulty in South Canara appears to be to get contractors, but I believe this can gradually be overcome. We agreed that all imperial reserved forests should be worked departmentally through contractors as far as possible, and that no sales should take place except from market depôts to be fixed and notified. Local or communal jungles, if any, are left to be worked under the license and voucher system for villagers only under supervision of the village officers aided by such special establishments as may be required, the whole to be under the general control of the forest officer.

10. **GIRDLING.**—The girdling of teak has long since been condemned in this Presidency after careful inquiry. It is still practised in North Canara, but I believe it to be objectionable. I have no practical experience, nor is there any data to go upon, with regard to the effect of girdling on other timbers, but I agree with Colonel Boddome in recommending that it should be tried with Blackwood (*Dalbergia Latifolia*), Tirwa (*Inga Xylocarpa*), Nanil (*Lagerstrœmia*), and all heavy jungle-woods. If the quality of the timber does not suffer, it will be a great boon if we introduce saw-machinery at any time.

11. **FELLING TIMBER.**—On this point I agree generally with Mr. Thomas, whose theory, as stated in paragraph 52 of his report, is excellent. I found Mr. Cherry fully awake to the necessity of more systematic management, and I think the matter may confidently be left to his discretion aided by Mr. Webster's judgment.

12. **SQUARING TIMBER.**—This also is a matter of detail which may be left to the local officers. The logs referred to in Colonel Boddome's report are from girdled trees and hence much lighter, and there is excellent water-carriage which is not the case in South Canara. Almost all the timber from the North Canara forests which goes inland to Dharwar, &c., is squared or rough hewn in the forest, and it is to obviate the waste which occurs on this process that Major Peyton has recently imported saw-machinery from England, which, should it prove successful as I have every reason to hope, will completely revolutionize our methods of conversion of timber wherever we have a sufficient supply to justify its introduction.

13. **ACCOUNTING FOR TIMBER.**—Mr. Thomas' remarks on this point are unfortunately founded on fact, but I do not consider Mr. Cherry or the Overseers to blame for it, there being no system of timber stock accounts except in a few districts, where they have been introduced without any orders from head quarters. Mr. Cherry doubtless found in South Canara the same system, or want of system, as he found in the Wynaad, to which he was first appointed. It was probably some time before the want struck him, and it is by no means easy to devise a proper system of stock accounts, however simple it may be, to denounce their absence. Any such system should be general in its application and emanate from head quarters. I regret to say that, beyond certain vague rules published in the old Forest Manual, there are no general instructions on the subject, and the state of things brought to notice by Mr. Thomas, I have found more or less general. Trees have been felled, entered in stock, and allowed to remain lying in the forest for years without any check. There were monthly statements of timber felled and sold (at present discontinued, but which will have to be revived), but no proper registers in most districts from which they were compiled. I think we may congratulate ourselves that our officers and subordinates have, as a rule, been honest men, though we have no means of being certain that many logs have not disappeared. The matter shall have attention. Meanwhile all outlying logs will be brought into depôts, and the following rules have been drafted, which will probably, after modification, find place in the manual. They resemble those already in force in Madura and elsewhere.

(1.) The Sub-Overseers or Duffadars to mark all trees to be felled and estimate contents, entering the same at once in a rough register, checking the measurements when felled and stored

in forest depôts, which should be well recognized and cleared places in the forest where the forest mark and number should be put on.

(2.) Timber not to appear in stock till lodged in a recognized forest or market depôt, and measured up by the Overseer in charge, after which only the account should be adjusted and the entries in register tally with those of payments in the monthly bills; as a rule the Overseer will measure up the timber in the forest depôt and arrange for its despatch to the market depôt, being responsible for it until its arrival, when the depôt-keeper will receipt the duplicate list which should always accompany each log or lot sent in, retaining the original for check and entry into the depôt register.

(3.) In addition to the Sub-Overseer's rough register, there will be a set of accounts for each recognised depôt, consisting of, 1st, a register; 2nd, detailed account of additions, deductions, and balance; 3rd, abstract of the detailed accounts.

(4.) All logs to be carefully measured up, marked, and registered on receipt in the market depôt, from whence they will be sold periodically by auction unless transferred to another depôt.

Forms for the above and rules as to numbering, &c., will have to be drawn up; meanwhile I think those which Mr. Cherry has drafted may be made use of; he has given the subject much attention, and has elaborated a very simple, but effective, system of accounts based on the only true principle, that of double entry. Instead of censure, I saw much for which he is deserving of praise in this and other respects.

14. **LEASING TIMBER.**—Mr. Thomas' strictures on this head are severe; and to a great extent I think uncalled for. The cause of the bridges giving way is not far to seek. No attempt was ever made to season the timber, because it was never known where or when the Department of Public Works would demand it, nor did they know themselves until the estimate for a particular work was sanctioned; when they called for timber at once on the spot, it was supplied and, in a climate like South Canara, naturally became rotten after a few months. The present District Engineer has removed this difficulty; he will select all the timber he requires in Mangalore, and leave it with us to season, for which purpose Mr. Webster has selected a suitable site on the quay, including a wet dock in which the timber can be salt water seasoned, which, I believe, is the best for some descriptions though for most I can only repeat Colonel Boddome's advice as to piling the logs in shady places in such manner that the air can get freely at them. I do not approve of Mr. Thomas' plan of burying timber; creosoting might doubtless be introduced with advantage in some cases, but is very costly, and it would be very difficult to impregnate most of our jungle-woods, which are much closer in the grain than the pine to which the system is generally applied in Europe.

I share entirely Colonel Boddome's opinion that we are not called upon to season at all except for our own (i.e., Government) purposes. It is not a legitimate branch of forestry except in so far as we wish to teach others how to do it. Timber floated to depôt must be to a certain extent seasoned to allow of its floating at all: the Department of Public Works will then select what they require, and the rest should be sold off by public auction, leaving the purchasers to season as they like; the same applies to bamboos though I think we should take their felling and removal to depôt more in our own hands for a time at least. There appears to be little doubt that large profits are made at the present rate of seigniorage, and great damage done. I believe it is undoubted that bamboos should be felled at the fall of the moon and when getting yellow.

I do not gather that we have ever "placidly" gone on cutting and storing bamboos. On the contrary, we have left the trade entirely in the hands of merchants to whom we issue licences, and have only stored and sold the bamboos required to float down our timber, which we should be very willing to have done on contract if Mr. Thomas had got the contractors, which is not an easy matter.

I do not think it is the duty of the Forest Department to guarantee a supply of either seasoned timber or bamboos to the public.

15. SELLING TIMBER.—We propose to sell by auction after supplying the Department of Public Works' demand. In exceptional cases tenders for timber at out-depôts or in transit may be accepted by the Deputy Conservator. Purchasers will remove the timber on payment of the money to the treasury, and receiving a pass from the yard-keeper on production of the treasury receipt. A few simple rules and forms as in use in other districts can be prescribed.

16. DEPÔTS.—We propose for the present to have six market-depôts, viz., Mangalore, Kundapur, Kalianpur, Ooperangady, Hospett, and Jalsoor, but such points may safely be left to the judgment of the Collector and his Forest Assistant.

17. AUCTION SALES.—*Vide* paragraphs 13 and 15. Due notice will be given and the terms of sale, which should be as liberal as possible, made generally known. The Deputy Conservator will, of course, consult the Collector as to date, &c., of auction sales, and is not authorized to sell any forest produce the value of which exceeds Rupees 500 without his express sanction. The auction sales will be superintended by the Deputy Conservator or other revenue officer whom the Collector may depute. Petty sales of confiscated timber, &c., may be superintended by the Taluk Tahsildar, Forest Overseer, or Revenue Inspector acting under instructions from the Deputy Conservator.

18. SANDALWOOD OIL STILLIS.—Mr. Cherry proposes to put up to auction the right to work and fell firewood in certain large blocks for a period of three years, and thus encourage men with capital and enterprise to embark in the business and improve the stills which are very primitive. I think highly of his plan, the details of which need not be given here. It has also, I believe, Mr. Webster's approval, and will probably form subject of separate communication.

19. FIREWOOD.—No opinion can be formed until the result of recent Government orders is ascertained. If land near the coast covered with scrub is then available either as Government waste or at moderate purchase rates, I would strongly advocate its being taken up and conserved. I agree with Mr. Thomas (paragraph 161) that "the want and desirability of self-growing conservancy is freely admitted."

20. CATECHU.—Mr. Webster has already requested Mr. Cherry to proceed to reserve tracts and work the Catechu jungles systematically for the future. Nothing further appears necessary pending the settlement of private claims to the jungle under the recent ruling.

21. With reference to Mr. Thomas' strictures, I must report that it is abundantly clear to me that there never has been any systematic forest conservancy in South Canara either before or since the re-organization. The difficulties experienced in other districts were here enhanced by those connected with the land tenure, and conflicting views and orders regarding Kumari Kumaki, &c. From the situation of the district also it was doubtless less frequently visited than others, though I cannot say that it appears to have suffered much in this respect. I believe that Mr. Cherry is the first forest officer in South Canara who has endeavored to evolve order out of chaos, and I have no doubt that, once the result of recent Government orders is known, real progress may be made, though it is doubtful, as Colonel Beddome has already remarked, whether we shall then have sufficient Government forest left to justify our retaining a special forest officer in the district.

22. In paragraph 10 of their recent Order (No. 1,361 of 23rd October 1874), Government direct that the demarcation of valuable forests "*admittedly the property of Government*," should be at once taken in hand, but I very much doubt if any valuable Government forest will remain. The valuable forests which now clothe the plains and render South Canara so different from other districts will, I should imagine, all be claimed and disappear at no distant date, and I can see no reason why the people should limit their claim to the forest of the plains. The Collector indeed tells us in paragraph 11 of his letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, No. 246-3,667, of 15th December 1874, now before Government for orders, that the "correctness of this supposition is disputed by the people," who have already put in claims to portions of the ghaut forests. Government have doubtless well weighed the result of their recent orders (which are diametrically opposed to those of the Bombay Government in the adjoining district of North

Canara, where privileges and servitudes in forests are liberally construed, but any claim to proprietary right rejected as untenable), and Mr. Webster has already proposed measures for ascertaining the extent and value of what may be left unclaimed.

If sanctioned, this will fully occupy the Deputy Conservator for one or two years, during which operations will be reduced to a minimum. On the result of the inquiry and settlement hinges the future of forest conservancy by the State in the South Canara District; and, pending a more definite knowledge of our real position, the question regarding minor forest produce (G.O., No. 1,325, dated 15th October 1874) may remain in abeyance.

No. 689.

SUBMITTED through the Collector of South Canara and Revenue Board in accordance with G.O., No. 1,511, dated 7th December 1874.

SALEM,
8th March 1875.

(Signed) CAMPBELL WALKER, Captain,
Officiating Inspector of Forests.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.
(True Copies and Extract.)

H. B. M.
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,

Copy to the Acting Collector of South Canara.
" to the Inspector of Forests.

No 1205.

It is observed with satisfaction that
Capt. Walker is able & testifies to his (her) ^{efficient}
conduct of his duties -
The elephant should be transferred to
Madras as proposed if this has not
already been arranged departmentally.

14 To the Director of Forests, Madras
15 The Officer in Charge of Forests, Madras

11 Aug 75. All

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Ans: 1895: 20/5
N. 26/8.

1875.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30th JUNE 1875, No. 1,802.

24/10 July 75

End

Received 24: July

Ch 1205. 10 Aug 1875

JUNE.
Forest No. 122.

Forests of South Canara District. Letter
from Collector forwarding, with certain remarks,
report of Inspector of Forests on - submitted
to Government.

With Order

Wm