M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 6

(2) Date of repair 20-12-67

(3) Initials of the Referencer D 24.4.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1350	Press / Mis.
Dated	10-9-1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Rev.

1350/1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th September 1875.

No. 97. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th August 1875, No. 2,210, Forest No. 162 :—

Read the following letter from J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 6th July 1875, No. 66.

PROCEEDINGS of the Board of Revenue, Forest No. 119, dated 28th June 1875, No. 1,778, contain a letter from me recommending an application of a Mr. Lowry for forest land near Neddivuttum.

2. I know the land. I asked the opinion of the Forest Officer, Captain Jago, on the application, and he wrote : " I consider the application for the present should be refused unless Government are most anxious the planter should open out and settle near Neddivuttum. In a picturesque point of view, I consider the same order that protects the woods on the Coonoor Ghaut might be made applicable here."

3. I forwarded the application with my letter through the Inspector of Forests, and the Inspector reported to the Board, " The shola is a very fine one running up to the crest betwixt Neddivuttum and the Ouchterlony Valley, and it will probably be deemed advisable to enter it on the reserve list, on account of its picturesque effect, on a main line of road, and climatic considerations." The Inspector further wrote that he considered Mr. Lowry should have a prior claim on the land if new rules came into force, and it was not placed on the reserve list.

4. The Board, in forwarding the application, expressed an opinion that it should be rejected altogether.

5. In G. O., No. 1,102, of 28th August 1874, the Government have called on me to submit, in conjunction with other gentlemen, new rules for application to the land on the Nilgiris and they are ready. Captain C. Walker sat on the Commission. In the letter recording the new rules, it is stated that the authorities consider, as regards rain-fall and streams, that it is only necessary to preserve forest on ridges and forest round the sources of streams, and it is submitted that fifty yards on either side of ridges should be reserved and a radius of thirty yards round the heads of streams.

6. It is further submitted that the present land rules and their application are restrictive, and that under such rules the opening out of the Nilgiris is indefinitely retarded. It is implied that if the Hills are to be occupied by planters, the policy adopted must be a business policy, and forest must not be reserved merely because it is picturesque. It is impossible to combine the two objects.

7. With these views in my mind, I forwarded Mr. Lowry's application. If it be a fact that the forest runs up to a ridge, fifty yards on the ridge should be preserved. The rest at all events can be made available on the principles adopted by the Commission.

8. I beg to submit this question for the decision of the Board of Revenue.

9. There is a further point for consideration. The Board have recently endeavoured to elevate the authority of Collectors in forest administration. In the present case, Captain Walker's opinion is adopted in preference to mine,

founded in regular course on the letter of Captain Jago, who had no departmental objection to the alienation of the land.

10. I and my staff are over-ruled by the head of a department whose functions do not consist of executive detail.

THE Board await the report which it is presumed the Commissioner is about to submit to them under paragraph 8 of G.O., dated 28th August 1874, No. 1,102, and of which the general tenor is given in the foregoing letter. Meanwhile, they adhere to the opinion which they have expressed in the Proceedings to which the Commissioner now refers.

2. The Board are surprised at the Commissioner's present letter, which seems to carp at the Board for expressing an opinion contrary to his own.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 98. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1875, No. 1,350.

Forests, No. 9.

THE Governor in Council will await the submission of the revised draft of rules for disposing of land on the Nilgiris before sanctioning applications. It is understood that these will very shortly be submitted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd F. R. Bantleman.

1350
2

Govt. of Madras
REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated September 10th.
Read.

G. O., 10th September 1875, No. 1,350.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 97-98.

Land on the Nilgiris.—A writing the submission of the revised draft rules for disposing of — before sanctioning applications.

135°/3

FOREST No. 162.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th August 1875, No. 2,210.

Read the following letter from J. R. COCKERELL, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 6th July 1875, No. 66:—

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2. The Board are surprised at the Commissioner's present letter, which seems to carp at the Board for expressing an opinion contrary to his own.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Commissioner of the Nilgiris.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" to the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

Extd. W. J. Lewis.

Ltr 28 Aug/74 No 282-88.
28 July/75. 304-305

Rev. 1175. Dft
No 989 1.3194

1875.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH AUGUST 1875, No. 2,210.

Dep 12 aug 75

Encl.

Received 16. Aug.
No 1050 - 10 September 1875

AUGUST.

Forest No. 162.

Land—on the Nilgiri Hills.—Report of Commissioner as to the advisability of a change in the present system of selling—by auction, awaited, and Board's opinion regarding Mr. Lovry's application for certain forest land near Neddivuttum, adhered to.

Worth Oder

No 1350
The Governor in Council will remit the consideration of the Revenue Board's proceedings on the Nilgiris to the Collector of Land Revenue & Settlement. It is understood that the Collector will be ready to submit his report to the Board by the 10th September 1875

14 Aug. Board's Rev. Proceedings

167/1875 13/8/75 C.J. 13/8/75. No. 7 614/75