

(1) Number of Pages..... 20
(2) Date of repair..... 24-2-68
(3) Initials of the Referencer..... 26.6.68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1557 Press
B.P. No. 1557 Mis.

Dated 2-11-1875 196 .

[Handwritten signature]

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 20. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th September 1875, No. 2,541, Forest No. 193:—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 24th July 1875, No. 2,065.

Read also the following letter from Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 14th August 1875, No. 429.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 147-2,065, dated 24th July (enclosures returned), I have the honor to report that I think very highly of Mr. Logan's proposals as to the disposal of the portion of the Kanoth Nambiar's escheated property not permanently occupied, the employment of the resident Kurchiars as Government foresters, and endeavoring to utilize their services in replanting the tract, guarding, and collecting minor forest products, &c.

2. I have consistently advocated for years the making the "jungleman" a forest ryot and adherent, and I am glad to see a Collector advocating the same.

3. I have not unfortunately been able to visit the Kanoth escheat, but I have heard all about it from Mr. Peet and Mr. Logan himself, and think we may rely on their opinion as to the situation, soil, and climate being suitable for the growth of timber.

4. I would not, however, advocate the commencement of planting operations on a large scale at present, or the employment of any special establishment beyond the resident Kurchiars for that object.

5. I would, as Mr. Logan suggests, induce them to fell, cultivate, and plant such portions of the forest as it appears most advisable to plant on such terms as may be arranged by Mr. Peet, to whose immediate charge I would transfer the whole block.

The establishments proposed in the revision scheme will probably suffice for supervision, and, if necessary, the services of a trained planter may be obtained from Nelambur and debited to working charges.

6. The Kurchiars will probably ask for permission to cultivate a cereal crop for two or three years after clearing; if the seedling trees are put out with the last crop and handed over one year afterwards in good condition, I think the arrangement will be fair and advantageous to both parties.

7. This system is common in the black forest in the Grand Duchies of Baden and Wurtemberg, where cultivators get forest land to clear and cultivate for a term of years on condition that they reproduce (naturally or artificially) young trees on it and hand it back to the Forest Department after taking their last crop. The growth is there generally Oak coppice, and under the above system the cultivator has the land for five years and the Forest Department for fifteen, when a crop of timber and bark is ready and secured, after which the same process is repeated.

8. I shall be happy to arrange details with Mr. Logan if the Board and Government approve of his proposals generally.

IN the letter recorded in the Proceedings above read, Mr. Logan, Acting Collector of Malabar, submits proposals for the treatment of a block of escheat forest land close to the Periah Ghaut in view to the restoration of the forest and

to possible plantation of Teak as at Nilambur. The present *ponnam* cultivation by other than the jungle tribe of Kurchiars is to be stopped, and the parties compensated by grants for permanent cultivation; and the services of the Kurchiars are to be enlisted, which can be done without expense for the planting and rearing of trees and for the protection of the tract. The Inspector of Forests cordially concurs with Mr. Logan's proposals except that he would not for the present undertake planting or any operations that would involve a special establishment.

2. The Board cordially approve Mr. Logan's scheme, which seems to them to have the elements of great success, and they recommend that he be authorized to carry out his proposals as limited by the Inspector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 21. ORDER THEREON, 2nd November 1875, No. 1,557.

Forests, No. 1.

HIS EXCELLENCY in Council fully approves the scheme proposed by the Acting Collector, and sanctions its being

carried out as recommended by the Board.

2. The Government recognise Mr. Logan's useful intervention in the matter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

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

1557/3

FOREST No. 147.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th July 1875, No. 2,065.

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 2nd July 1875, No. 220 :—

I HAVE the honor to enclose copy of a letter which I addressed to Mr. MacGregor in May of last year, regarding the disposal of a large forest block of escheat land lying in the Kottayom Taluq of the Sub-division. The letter has lain over till now, chiefly because I believe Mr. MacGregor wished to have an opportunity of personally inspecting the land in question before deciding what was to be done with it.

2. I think it will be unnecessary for me to recapitulate at any length the contents of the letter. The block of land lies adjacent, on the south side, to the Periah Ghaut Road for some sixteen or eighteen miles, and, superficially, it is at least forty square miles in extent. A portion of about 600 acres of it, being under permanent cultivation, has been disposed of by the Escheat Department in the ordinary way. It is the question of what ought to be done with the remainder of it that is taken up and fully discussed in the letter. It is shown that through the pernicious system of Ponnarn cultivation the block has been almost completely disafforested, but that it would be neither just nor profitable for Government to sell it, because of the jungle tribe who have made this their home, and to whom I will presently allude, and because the land is now at its lowest market value. If the land is to be kept as recommended, then it becomes the duty of Government to set an example to the private proprietors of such other tracts as have been ruined in the same way; and, in addition to this, a scheme is proposed which would render the speculation a very remunerative one. The argument on this point is summed up in paragraph 18, and is briefly that Ponnarn cultivation by others than the Kurchiar tribe should be stopped: this would diminish the present revenue by one-third (out of a total of about Rs. 600): that such persons should in lieu thereof be allowed to take up land for *permanent* cultivation on regular durkhasts and on easy terms as to quit-rent, and that an effort should be made to reclothe the hills with Teak and other timber, for the cheap growth of which, and eventual cost of bringing the timber to market, the block offers unusual facilities. The letter winds up with a recommendation that plantations on the Nilambur system be commenced either on a small scale, or, if the Inspector of Forests should consider the speculation a safe one, on a scale similar to that now existing at Nilambur.

3. It is more than a year since the letter was written, and the only point in which I feel disposed, after the fuller consideration the lapse of time has permitted to alter the views therein set forth, is to make an even more extensive use than originally contemplated of the Kurchiar tribe living on the land. Allusion is made in the letter to the degree of advancement which the tribe, living comparatively unmolested in these wilds, has attained, and to the feeling which has

3/10/75
T. S. Logan Esq. 9/11/75
22-2-08-5

Govt. of 1875

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated November, 2nd.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 2nd November 1875, No. 1,557.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 20-21.

Escheat Forest land at Periah Ghaut in Malabar District.—Approving and sanctioning the scheme proposed by the Acting Collector for the treatment of a block of—in view to the restoration of the forest and the plantation of Teak.



sprung up among them that they are strong enough, as *Government Kurchiars*, to defy even the wily Moplah in the Courts of Law. This feeling I would like to see fostered still more; for the fact is, in my opinion, that we have long been living with our eyes to a great extent shut to the advantages which would accrue from the more extensive employment of these men in our malarious ghaut forests. They are "born foresters," men whose tools of trade are an axe and a bow and arrows, who live and enjoy comparatively good health in localities so deadly malarious, that imported labor has to be paid for at ruinous rates. Their labor may, it is true, be intermittent, but the fact remains that, as noticed in the letter, they can plant and rear trees; and the guarding of forests from plunderers and fire and the planting out of young seedlings, prepared for them ready to hand, would, I feel quite sure, be for them most congenial employment. Mr. Peet has found great difficulty in guarding the Cardamom crop in the Wynaad forests, and there is no doubt in my mind the only effectual plan is to allow a family of Government Kurchiars to squat down near each patch of Cardamom, provide the head of the family with a peon's belt and a bow and arrows, and tell him to keep off the Moplahs and their slaves, and to make his wife and children pick the Cardamoms when ripe, and store them up till the appointed forest agent, in his weekly or fortnightly visit, should come round to collect them. We have 1,700 such Kurchiars in this forest land, and the Cardamom tract under Mr. Peet lies contiguous to it on the Wynaad plateau. I can, I think, also foresee openings for the useful employment of these men and their families elsewhere.

4. The Board need therefore, I think, be under no apprehension that, with the contemplated gradual planting up of this forest block, there will be any danger of our ultimately depriving these Kurchiars of the land which they cultivate in their own rough way, and leaving them unprovided for.

5. If the Board consider that a beginning may be made, I would advocate the transfer of the whole of the forest block to Mr. Peet, in order that it may be more immediately under my own superintendence at starting; for the question of employing the labor of the jungle tribe is one that will require careful supervision at first. I will not take up the question of establishment until the Board has approved generally of these proposals. But in any case, I would not at first contemplate employing more men than would be necessary to prepare seed beds sufficient for a small patch of plantation, and to instruct the Kurchiars in planting out this small experimental patch. The Board will notice that a part of the scheme is to put down the seedlings at the same time as the Ponnarn crops; an arrangement regarding which I should like to have the Inspector of Forests' opinion.

6. One more point requires to be noticed, *viz.*, that people have squatted on the land in many places, chiefly to grow Coffee; and one of them, a wealthy Moplah of Kottayom, has, to my knowledge, set up a jennom claim to the land he occupies and to a further tract which he was trying to lease out, when I stopped him. I inquired into his title and made sure he has not a valid one; and I have little doubt that he could be easily brought to terms. But to prevent any such claims in future, I should like to see the whole of the block surveyed and mapped, and the boundary, especially on the north and west sides, definitely settled.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Sub-Collector, to A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Calicut, 26th May 1874, No. 277.

I HAVE the honor to request your instructions on the subject of disposing of the Kanoth Nambiar's escheated property, lying in the Kanoth Amshom of Kottayom Taluq.

2. This Nambiyar was one of those who cast in their lot with the rebellious Pychy Rajah of the Kottayom family, and who fell with his fortunes. The Nambiar was himself hanged, and his property declared escheated to Government.

3. The property is of large extent. The Escheat Department has dealt with most of it that is permanently occupied, and it is only as regards the jungle and forest-land that I now seek your instructions.

4. If you will refer to Sheet No. 44 of the Trigonometrical Survey Map, you will see almost on a line with the word "Kottayom" the name of a place "Cheruwanchairy." From the "U" in that word a range of hills is shown running due east, and terminating where they join the Wynaad plateau at a place called "Murdanycul Station" or Kunmearkotu Peak; the watershed formed by that ridge is, I understand, the southern boundary of the land. The crest of the hills of the Wynaad plateau from "Murdanycul Station" above mentioned to "Wagapurmbu Redoubt in ruins" is the eastern boundary. The old military road from the coast, which near this redoubt ascended the old Periah Pass, may be roughly taken as the northern boundary from the ridge of the ghauts to the two "tts." in "Chittaripurmbu." I am not quite sure of the western boundary; but it includes "Puwatur" shown in the map, and extends some distance to the west of it. This will give you some idea of the extent of land which has now to be disposed of. The late Kottayom Tahsildar put the superficial area down at 375 square miles, and I consider that, not taking into consideration the increased superficial area caused by the mountainous character of the locality, forty square miles is a very moderate estimate. Enclosed you will find a statement giving the names of all the hills and jungles, 114 in number, included in the tract. From that, of course, the area under permanent occupation has to be deducted; but this, owing to the feverish nature of the place, is inconsiderable. The extent under permanent occupation and already sold, is as follows:—

	Acres.			Amount of Settlements.
				rs.
Wet land	324	3	11½	13,488
Parambas	281	14	10½	6,783

5. You are aware that some weeks ago, Mr. Peet of the Forest Department and I visited the place and spent two days in gaining as accurate an idea, as our time would permit, of its capabilities for forest working. I asked Mr. Peet to embody his views on the subject in a letter, copy of which I enclose.

6. In arriving at a determination of what ought to be done with the land, its present condition forms a very important consideration. It would seem as if this large tract of forest had, in common with all or certainly most of the escheated properties in the district, been quite neglected from time immemorial. Ponnarn cultivation, which has done and is doing incalculable mischief in all the private ghaut forest in my division, has, in this tract, been peculiarly rampant. With no supervision from the landlord, with no landlord's share of the produce to pay, the jungle tribe of Kurchiars, which inhabits this forest tract, has so increased in numbers that, according to a census which I have had made since the date of our inspection, the community now numbers 1,700.

1557
4

The forest lies in the two Amshoms of Kanoth and Manatana, and I have had the Revenue accounts of these Amshoms for the last twenty years examined and the results embodied in a statement, which I enclose. It would appear that in the first period of five years, viz., Fasli 1264 to 1268, there was an average Ponnarn felling of 482-3-15½ acres; in the second period, from Fasli 1269 to 1273, an average felling of acres 657-1-3¼; in the third period, from Fasli 1274 to 1278, an average felling of acres 848-0-9¾; and in the last five years, from Fasli 1279 to 1283, an average felling of acres 909-13-5. Here I would desire to guard against an impression that these figures are absolutely correct, and that they represent accurately the actual area of forest felled each year. Even supposing that all the Revenue officials concerned had conscientiously measured each patch of cultivation, it is still far from probable that the returns made would be correct; for Ponnarn cultivators pay no attention to straight lines, and no one, who has not tried it, can be aware how difficult it is properly to calculate the area of a hilly irregularly-shaped patch of such cultivation. The figures must be taken for what they are, and that is approximate estimates, chiefly under estimates, of the areas under cultivation. It would seem that during the last ten years a great impetus has been given; for, while in the five years from Fasli 1264 to 1268 only 482-3-5½ acres were felled, in the the last five years, from Fasli 1279 to 1283, no less than 909-13-5 acres were felled, or nearly double the former area.

A perusal of the statement will show you that this increase is chiefly due to increased felling by Kurchiars. Other caste people, Moplahs, Tiyars, and Nayars have been in the habit of felling, but the area cultivated by them has not increased in the same proportion as the area cultivated by the jungle tribe; for, whereas the average area cultivated by Kurchiars in the last period of five years is rather more than double the average area of the first period of five years, a comparison of the areas cultivated by other castes shows an increase of little more than half. It is worthy of remark that the number of Kurchiar holdings has also, in the same period, more than doubled—the average for Faslis 1264 to 1268 being 267¼ against 553½, the average of Faslis 1279 to 1283. The same rate of increase has no doubt been going on for the last thirty or forty years, and probably before that—for these Kurchiars never were slaves in the sense that the Cherumers of the low country were, and it is probable that when oppressed elsewhere they flocked to this Government forest tract, where no one except Government officials could bully them. I heard complaints from some of them that Moplahs and others have gradually dispossessed them of their rights by cultivating the lower and more accessible hills, and compelling them to cultivate the higher slopes; this is no doubt to some extent a fact; for, as mentioned above, other castes now cultivate half as much again as they did twenty years ago, but it is obvious that the increase in their own numbers within the same period would act more forcibly in compelling them to take in more of the virgin forest on the slopes of the hills. Besides which it is well known that the land occupied by virgin forest when first felled yields better crops than it does afterwards—no restrictions were ever imposed on their operations, and hence in time it came to pass that all suitable land in accessible situations was brought under cultivation.

7. It is no wonder therefore that, as Mr. Peet observes, Ponnarn cultivation "has been so extensively practised over the tract of land in question as to have left scarcely a single accessible site with timber worth working at the present date." In paragraph 2, Mr. Peet observes "about Canenth there are specimens of Mutly, Benteak, Irul, Eine, Teak, and other good timbers," and he continues "they are chiefly dwarfed and stunted specimens owing to their growth having been arrested by having been repeatedly subject to Ponnarn treatment." I am quite unanimous with Mr. Peet in considering that the timber resources of the tract as a remunerative speculation are completely exhausted. If, therefore, the land is to be taken over by the Forest Department, it must be with a view to planting; there is very little, if any timber, that could be remuneratively felled.

8. The question then comes to be whether it is worth the while of Government to commence forest operations on that understanding, or whether it would be better otherwise to dispose of the land, or whether, as a third alternative, it would be best to leave things as they are.

9. We must either keep the land or sell it, and my advice is to keep it. If we sell it to outsiders, we virtually sell along with it the jungle tribe which now inhabits it. It is out of the question to expect the Kurchiars themselves to purchase it at any considerable price, though I have reason to think they do to some extent hoard money. If it was sold to them outright at a price which they could pay, I have no doubt whatever that in ten years the whole of it would be in the hands of the Moplah traders living in that locality, and they themselves would be reduced to the position of slaves so long as they remained there. It would be just as well for them to sell it over their heads at once to outsiders, but it would not be just. This forest tract has been a Kurohair Paradise for generations. All over the land in the best spots near springs of water old houses are to be found. In the neighbourhood of these spots considerable number of Jack-trees have been planted, and in a desultory way Pepper is grown in favorable places. The system seems to be to clear away the undergrowth and plant a Vine or two at the root of each suitable tree, the Vines take care of themselves and the undergrowth is cut over as it springs up. That such plantations are of some value is evident from the fact that in the case reported to you in my letters Nos. 154 and 253, dated 19th March and 13th May 1874, respectively, the Moplah plaintiff thought it worthwhile to have one of these Jack and Pepper plantations attached in satisfaction of a decree. Now it would be manifestly unjust to sell the land without reserving the Kuchiar's rights in these plantations, and to sell the Government right, subject to such reservations, would be just equivalent to a shepherd handing over his flock to the care of the wolf. Besides which, it must be remembered that the land is now at its lowest possible market value, and the price, which might be anticipated, would be altogether insignificant. It seems to me that it would be neither just nor profitable to sell the Government rights.

10. If you are with me on that point, the question then comes to be, whether it would be best to leave it as it is, or to take the management of it and try to improve it. I am very strongly against leaving matters exactly as they are. All the private forest in the northern part of my division have been utterly ruined by this Ponnarn system of cultivation, and that being the case with this forest tract also, it behoves Government, I think, to show private proprietors the way to improve their properties. The question must force itself forward sooner or later. I have often heard it remarked by the more intelligent men, that it becomes less and less profitable to cultivate Ponnarn. They are dazzled by the prospect of the enormous gains to be obtained by felling and burning virgin forest, but after a time the gains dwindle away, and at last it will hardly pay to clear the land of the wretched scrub-jungle which overruns it. With an increase in the population a point is at last reached when it becomes no longer profitable to cultivate in this fashion, when in fact, owing to the land being limited in extent, it becomes necessary to crop it oftener than it will bear. The remedy is, of course, to ring a certain portion of it under permanent cultivation, and the sooner the fact is recognized by the people of my division, the better it will be for themselves, and this is a point which the Government ought to put prominently forward in dealing with this tract. Nor is this all. The late Vengayil Chathu Kutti Nair of Kuthur Amshom in Cherikal Taluq, one of the largest proprietors of Ponnarn land in my division and a shrewd observer, told me some years ago, that, within his recollection, a great change for the worse had come over the seasons. In former days they used not to have such heavy floods as now, though there was just as much rain then; and he attributed the change, and rightly I think, to the extensive Ponnarn clearing of heavy forest in his neighbourhood. The fact is that while in heavy forest-land the rain has time to soak into the ground, which is broken up by the roots of the trees, in scrub-jungles the water runs off the surface at once and is gone, and floods in the low country are the consequence. Mr. Peet alludes to the effect produced on climate by denuding the summits and slopes of hills of timber in the case of the valley of the Rhone, and I anticipate that if our ghaut forests are destroyed, we shall have here a change for the worse in climate—eight months of arid drought succeeded by four months of rain, deluges, and floods. I am, therefore, also of opinion that it would be unwise to stand still, and that an effort to reclothe the hills with timber, in place of that of which this Ponnarn system of cultivation has denuded them.

11. But when, in addition to these general considerations, I think it can be shown that, viewed as a mere speculation, it would be in the highest degree profitable to Government to undertake replanting this land, there will be the strongest reasons for not allowing matters to slide on as at present.

12. First of all what revenue does this forest at present yield? The answer is given in the twenty years statement, which I enclose. This tract of forty square miles yielded on the average of five years:—

Faslis 1264 to 1268.....	Rs. 267	8	8½.
Faslis 1269 to 1273.....	„ 413	6	8½.
Faslis 1273 to 1278.....	„ 596	1	7½.
Faslis 1279 to 1283.....	„ 623	3	3½.

that is, at the rate of about Rupees 6-11-4/200, Rupees 10-5-4 21/50, Rupees 14-14-11-14/50, and Rupees 15-9-3-39/100 per square mile.

13. As to the capabilities of the land for producing good and serviceable timber, Mr. Peet observes in paragraph 2: "However in certain rocky tracts, too rocky for Ponniam, the growth is so good that it is evident that timber would grow well in more favored soil." My own opinion not only coincides with Mr. Peet's, but I feel inclined to go a good deal further, and to say, that, in my judgment, not only the alluvial deposits by the sides of the river, but the mountain slopes themselves are capable of growing the very finest timber. So far as I could judge, there is but little laterite; the greater portion of the soil has been produced by the decomposition of the gneiss rocks which form the hills. Anyone acquainted with the growth of the heavy timber on the Peria Ghaut will be able to judge of the capabilities of the land for growing timber.

14. As to whether the land would grow Teak, Mr. Peet observes: "I believe that Teak would not only grow, but grow well on the banks of the river and on any of the undulating hills whose subsoil is not laterite. We saw specimens of indigenous Teak in some of the native enclosed lands that were in flourishing condition, and there were stumps of Teak that must have formed first-class logs." To which I may add that a healthy and apparently young tree that we measured gave a girth at six feet from the ground of something over six feet; and this in spite of the annual fires, one of which had just before our visit licked up the long grass round the roots of the tree, of which we took the measurement. I have often been surprised in this district at the dimensions attained by Teak growing on rocky laterite soil, and as regards this forest I am sure that Teak could be grown over nearly its whole extent.

15. But I would not feel inclined to confine forest operations to Teak alone. On the wasteful system in which the private forests in my division are being worked, the supply of other useful timber such as Eine used for boats, Uruppu, I rul, &c., must sooner or later run short, and these timbers all grow well in this forest tract.

16. Next as regards the cost of working it as a forest. I would observe that in the first place there will be no large outlay as at a Nilambur to secure the land, because the land belongs to Government already. If it had to be bought, I should be afraid to guess what would have to be paid for it. Then as to working expenses, I beg to call your attention to three facts, viz., that a river, which is tidal as far as a Anjarakandy, takes its rise in the forest, flows through nearly its whole length, and is available for floating the timber in the monsoon months; secondly, that the Peria Ghaut Road skirts the forest throughout its whole length on the north, and eventually leaves it at a point which is only fourteen miles from the sea-coast; and finally we have living in the forest itself an ample supply of labor in the Kurchiar tribe who are born foresters, only wanting to be taught the proper way to employ their labor. This last point I look upon as a most important one; these Kurchiars from long enjoyment of immunity from trouble, now look upon Government as their best protector. So strong is this feeling, that in two magisterial cases I had before me lately, the Kurchiars actually had the hardihood to complain against the Moplah traders who buy up their surplus grain. Their usual tactics

when bullied is to quit the place, but here they consider themselves so strong under Government protection that they dare to defy retaliation. I am quite sure that a forest officer who would treat them kindly and abstain from unnecessary interference with their habits and customs would be able, at a day's notice, to command the services of the whole tribe.

17. I would not at first propose to make any great change on existing arrangements:—

I would first forbid all Ponniam cultivation by other castes than Kurchiars. A reference to the statement will show you that the average area felled by such persons was:—

In Faslis 1264 to 1268.....	Acres.	113	14	11½
1269 to 1273.....	„	140	14	10½
1274 to 1278.....	„	211	8	11½
1279 to 1283.....	„	171	6	13½

To compensate such persons I would instead allow them to take up, for permanent occupation on regular durkhasts, such portions of the forest as it might be decided not to plant and the occupation of which was unobjectionable on other grounds.

To give such persons every encouragement, and it is to be remembered that in such malarious tracts a great deal of encouragement is needed, I would propose to give them the land on the same terms as those sanctioned recently by the Secretary of State for ancient holders of escheat lands. Such holdings would require to be surveyed and demarcated.

As regards the Kurchiars, I would impose no restrictions on their Ponniam cultivation except that the virgin forest still remaining must not be touched. The stoppage of Ponniam cultivation by other castes would leave available for the Kurchiars a very much larger area, so that the refusal to allow them to take in any more of the virgin forest would not affect them injuriously. Inducements should at the same time be held out to these men to settle down and occupy permanently some portion of the land. They are for Kurchiars a very intelligent race, well-fed, independent, living in substantial houses, and remarkably simple and straightforward; they have already taken the first step towards settling down by forming Pepper and Jack-tree gardens, to which allusion has already been made. It will be a difficult task, however, to induce them to settle down permanently anywhere, for traditionary custom compels them periodically to change the sites of their dwellings. Much would depend on the officer to whose management they were committed. The inducements to be held out to them should be in the way of favorable rates of assessment in addition to remission as at present of the shistom or landlord's share. They should always remain in the position of Government tenants. Bearing in mind the servile position they would occupy on the land if it belonged to a private native owner, I see no reason why advantage should not be taken of the Government's position as landlord to induce them to fell and cultivate such portion of the forest as it might be intended to plant, to dig the pits and take care of the trees for one year on such terms as might be arranged. This would be a most economical way of working, and Mr. Ferguson of Nilambur, to whom I mentioned the plan, was of opinion that it would do the plants no harm to be put down along with the crop, leaving a small space round each.

18. To sum up on this point, I have shown that the present revenue of the forest is altogether inconsiderable, and that my plan would not diminish the present income from the Kurchiar cultivation, which amounts to more than two-thirds of the whole on the average of the last five years. While on the other hand, it is needless to point out that Teak and other plantations which have every chance of succeeding would be a most remunerative speculation in this locality, which has advantages as regards original cost of the land, communications and labor non-existent elsewhere.

19. I would therefore recommend for your consideration the advisability of forming plantations on the Nilambur system, as the best way of making use of this large extent of escheat land. The plan I have suggested would admit of a small beginning being made to see if it would answer, or, on the other hand, if the Inspector of Forests thought, as I do, that as a mere money

1557
6

speculation it would be safe, operations could be commenced on a scale similar to that now existing at Nilambur.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From A. W. PEET, Esq., Deputy Conservator, Wynaad Forests, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Sub-Collector of Malabar, dated Manantoddy, 6th March 1874, No. 299.

I HAVE the honor to forward a short report on the subject of the tract of land between Canenth and Periah, forming a Government escheat that was lately visited by you and myself.

1. *Ponnam Cultivation.*—This species of cultivation, termed Kumari in Mysore, Tukkul in Wynaad, Punakad in Salem, has been so extensively practised over the tract of land in question as to have left scarcely a single accessible site with timber worth working at the present date. The evil does not stop even with the forest on the plain, or with that on the low undulating hills, but the slopes of the ghauts are being systematically worked; the Kurchiars affirming that the Moplahs have dispossessed them of their old Ponnam grounds, and driven them up the face of the mountains. In going up the Periah Ghaut I saw fresh Ponnam made as far as five miles up the ghaut, that is to within three miles of Periah. Between the third and fourth miles from Periah the heavy forest has been almost entirely felled. There is a large native coffee estate in this tract.

I would strongly urge that some distinct limits should be set to this system of Ponnam cultivation: not only on account of its wasteful tendency in sites that afford opportunities for timber working, but also because heavy forest on the ghauts should not be left to the chance of hap-hazard felling, but treated as much as possible on scientific principles. The effect of a growth of timber on the slopes and summits of mountains is undoubtedly an important consideration, and one that, under the different condition of east country, should be a paramount object of study.

The well-known case of the valley of the Rhone in France is an instance in point. After the felling of timber on the hills the first evil consequence that ensued was the disintegration of the soil by means of frost and rain, and this went on so rapidly as to leave the hill sides altogether bare of vegetation; the effect on the valley below was that the climate became so much colder that it was impossible to grow even the cereals which formerly flourished there. It is now one vast scene of desolation in many places where prosperous villages formerly existed. In his book entitled "Man and Nature," Marrh states that even the Mistral, the north-west wind so frequently destructive to shipping at Marseilles, is the work of man, and began in historical times in consequence of the clearing of the slopes and summits of the Pyrenees.

One of the great problems that now engages the Forest Department in France is the re-introduction of a timber growth on many of the hills formerly wooded. In some parts the amount of soil left is so scanty, that they are obliged to commence by re-turfing.

2. *The Nature of the Tract of Land in question as regards its Capabilities of producing good and serviceable Timber.*—About Canenth there are specimens of Mutty, Benteak, Irul, Eine, Teak and other good timbers. They are chiefly dwarfed and stunted specimens, owing to their growth having been arrested by having been repeatedly subject to Ponnam treatment. However, in certain rocky tracts, too rocky for Ponnam, the growth is so good that it is evident that timber would grow well in more favored soil.

3. *Would this Tract be favorable for the growth of Teak?*—I believe that Teak would not only grow but grow well on the banks of the river, and on any of the undulating hills whose subsoil is not laterite. We saw specimens of indigenous Teak in some of the native enclosed

lands that were in flourishing condition; and there were stumps of Teak that must have formed first-class logs.

On this subject I would refer to an extract from the *South of India Observer* of 27th February 1874, which says: "We notice from the *Rangoon Gazette* that during the year 1873, the imports into the United Kingdom of East India, Teak timber amounted to 44,000 tons against 32,000 tons in 1872 and 26,300 tons in 1871, the ruling prices being £10-13-0 to £14 per ton. Our contemporary further informs us that a largely increasing consumption of the timber for Railway purposes is being experienced in the English markets. We have alluded to the subject as we look upon the planting of Teak as a speculation in which capital can be as safely and advantageously invested as in any other agricultural enterprise. Malabar, among other districts in the Presidency, offers a fair field for the purpose."

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 3 and 4.—Statements.

THE Collector should ascertain the limits of the tract and might advantageously define the boundaries of the actual forest excluding the skirting cultivation and jungle intermixed with it. Ponnam cultivation within these limits might be put a stop to in the way proposed, and the Kurchiars might be settled down as forester-guards and regular cultivators. The opinion of the Inspector is requested as to the suitability of the block for planting, and as to the desirability of undertaking operations such as proposed by Mr. Logan.

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

To the Inspector of Forests, with two enclosures, to be returned.
,, the Acting Collector of Malabar.

Erd. W. H. French.

Re: Improving Kallu, D. M. M.

8

FOREST No. 193.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th September 1875, No. 2,541.
Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 24th July 1875, No. 2,065.

Read also the following letter from Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 14th August 1875, No. 429:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 147-2,065, dated 24th July (enclosures returned), I have the honor to report that I think very highly of Mr. Logan's proposals as to the disposal of the portion of the Kanoth Nambiar's escheated property not permanently occupied, the employment of the resident Kurchiars as Government foresters, and endeavoring to utilize their services in replanting the tract, guarding and collecting minor forest products, &c.

- 2. I have consistently advocated for years the making the "jungleman" a forest ryot and adherent, and I am glad to see a Collector advocating the same.
- 3. I have not unfortunately been able to visit the Kanoth escheat, but I have heard all about it from Mr. Peet and Mr. Logan himself, and think we may rely on their opinion as to the situation, soil, and climate being suitable for the growth of timber.

4. I would not, however, advocate the commencement of planting operations on a large scale at present, or the employment of any special establishment beyond the resident Kurchiars for that object.

5. I would, as Mr. Logan suggests, induce them to fell, cultivate and plant such portions of the forest as it appears most advisable to plant on such terms as may be arranged by Mr. Peet, to whose immediate charge I would transfer the whole block.

The establishments proposed in the revision scheme will probably suffice for supervision, and, if necessary, the services of a trained planter may be obtained from Nelambur and debited to working charges.

6. The Kurchiars will probably ask for permission to cultivate a cereal crop for two or three years after clearing; if the seedling trees are put out with the last crop and handed over one year afterwards in good condition, I think the arrangement will be fair and advantageous to both parties.

4. This system is common in the black forest in the Grand Duchies of Baden and Wurtemberg, where cultivators get forest land to clear and cultivate for a term of years on condition that they reproduce (naturally or artificially) young trees on it and hand it back to the Forest Department after taking their last crop. The growth is there generally oak coppice, and under the above system the cultivator has the land for five years and the Forest Department for fifteen, when a crop of timber and bark is ready and secured, after which the same process is repeated.

8. I shall be happy to arrange details with Mr. Logan if the Board and Government approve of his proposals generally.

In the letter recorded in the Proceedings above read, Mr. Logan, Acting Collector of Malabar, submits proposals for the treatment of a block of escheat forest land close to the Periah Ghaut in view to the restoration of the forest and to possible plantation of teak as at Nilambur. The present *ponnam* cultivation by

1875.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH JULY 1875, No. 2,065.

Received

*12/12/75
Ru 1/370/75*

JULY.

Forest No. 147.

Forest Block—of certain escheat land in Kottayam Taluk, Malabar District.—Instructions issued to Collector regarding disposal of and employment of Kurchiar tribe on it as cultivators and guards. Opinion of Inspector of Forests requested on certain points connected therewith.

*Done in R. 902 November 1875
No. 1557.*

other than the jungle tribe of Kurchiars is to be stopped, and the parties compensated by grants for permanent cultivation; and the services of the Kurchiars are to be enlisted, which can be done without expense for the planting and rearing of trees and for the protection of the tract. The Inspector of Forests cordially concurs with Mr. Logan's proposals except that he would not for the present undertake planting or any operations that would involve a special establishment.

2. The Board cordially approve Mr. Logan's scheme, which seems to them to have the elements of great success, and they recommend that he be authorized to carry out his proposals as limited by the Inspector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. W. Fischer
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 24th July 1875, No. 2,065,
and two original statements, its enclosures, to be returned.

Copy to the Acting Collector of Malabar.
" to the Officiating Inspector of Forests.

14. For the Office of the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Madras, 1875.

Exd J. W. Fischer.

Mr. Logan's proposals with full approval. & recognize Mr. Logan's ample intervention in the matter. I should appreciate the evidence of the Inspector of Forests in view of the restoration of the forest and to possible plantation of teak as at Nilambur approved, and recommendation made to Government that he be authorized to carry out his proposals as limited by Inspector of Forests.

1875.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 10th SEPTEMBER 1875, No. 2,541.

24/9/75

Encl. 3

Received

7th Oct

SEPTEMBER.

Forest No. 193.

Escheat forest land—close to Periah Ghāt in Malabar District.—Scheme proposed by Acting Collector for the treatment of a block of — in view to the restoration of the forest and to possible plantation of teak as at Nilambur approved, and recommendation made to Government that he be authorized to carry out his proposals as limited by Inspector of Forests.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3870

9

From Board of Revenue
Dated 10th Sept

1875.

FOR ORDERS.

Lac

*I hereby give
RM*

*Sanctioned
23/6*

I should appreciate the evidence of the Inspector of Forests in view of the restoration of the forest and to possible plantation of teak as at Nilambur approved, and recommendation made to Government that he be authorized to carry out his proposals as limited by Inspector of Forests.

I should appreciate the evidence of the Inspector of Forests in view of the restoration of the forest and to possible plantation of teak as at Nilambur approved, and recommendation made to Government that he be authorized to carry out his proposals as limited by Inspector of Forests.

*Ans: 10/25: 24/25
20.3870.*

C. 8. 1875/150675

24/9/75
24/9/75
1875

Richard M. Smith
Hoboken, N.J.

FOR ORDERS.

1970

Cover

c. 5th 11/75 N. 2500/75