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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Dated	15.5.1875	~~196~~ .

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FOREST No. 64.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th April 1875, No. 1,079.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trinomalai, 23rd February 1875, No. 46-A :—

I HAVE the honor in reply to the Board's Proceedings of the 16th ultimo, No. 93, (Forest No. 7,) to forward herewith a copy of Mr. Wooldridge's letter of the 20th instant, No. 55, in which he shows to what extent the expenditure on reserves and plantations for the present year and for 1875-76 can be reduced.

2. *For the current year.*—From a note left with me by Mr. Wooldridge it appears that by stopping all work from the date of the receipt of G. O., of the 21st December 1874, No. 1,604, except what is absolutely necessary, the expenditure actually incurred for up-keep and salaries in connection with the plantations in the Trikalore Taluq (Mallatar plantations) and in the Merkanum Division of the Tindivanam Taluq, which are to be transferred to the Forest Department under the terms of the Government Order above quoted from the 1st April next, was on the 1st instant as shown below :—

	RS	A.	P.
Actually expended	5,336	1	7
Salaries and wages in arrears	2,694	9	10
Total...	8,030	11	5

and that to maintain the fixed establishments and keep work at its lowest possible point a sum of Rupees 1,155 will be required. This is what is meant when Mr. Wooldridge says, (paragraph 5) that the lowest amount to which the expenditure on the transferred plantations can be reduced is 9,000 Rupees for 1874-75 ; while all other operations in connection with the reserves at Gingee and Chengam, which are also to be transferred to the Forest Department, and the little experimental Forest plantations at Chengam and Trinomalai, can be met out of the allotments in the sanctioned Forest Budget for the year.

3. Mr. Wooldridge's financial position is briefly as follows :—His Forest Budget for the current year provides funds to the extent of Rupees 12,080, of which Rupees 6,660 are for the pay of establishments and contingencies, and 5,420 Rupees for conservancy and working charges. He also had a credit of Rupees 6,534 from the Jungle Conservancy Fund Budget, which provided a sum of Rupees 8,200 for the whole of the Jungle Conservancy expenditure of the district. His total available assets were thus 18,614 Rupees, of which he had spent as follows up to the end of January 1875 :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Forest Working charges	3,633	0	4
Forest Establishment, &c....	5,560	5	4
Total ...	9,193	5	8

Expenditure on Plantations and Jungle Conservancy—

	RS.	A.	P.
Actual...	5,336	1	7
Incurred, but not yet paid	2,694	9	10
	8,030	11	5
Total...	17,224	1	1

adding together, therefore, the sum due up to the 31st of January, but not paid, to the sum required for establishment and working charges for Plantations and Jungle Conservancy, the total sum of money now required to keep matters going till the 1st April is 1,155+2,695=3,850 Rupees, which sum I propose to draw under the authority of the Board's telegram just received.

4. Besides the above sum two sums of Rupees 1,000 and Rupees 435 were allowed by me to be expended from Forest funds on plantations, the former because the Board approved the transfer of the Mallatar plantations to the Forest Department in their Proceedings of the 1st September 1874, No. 2,470, and because an allotment of 1,000 Rupees was entered in the Forest Budget for expenditure on plantations, and the latter pending the Board's sanction, (*vide* my letter to the Board, dated 9th January 1875, No. 11, in which sanction for the transfer was solicited.) An adjustment of these two sums, or of the latter at least, will also have to be made for which funds will have to be drawn.

5. *For the year* 1875-76.—Mr. Wooldridge thinks the expenditure proposed in the budget for that year may be reduced by Rupees 12,195 as detailed in paragraph 2 of his letter but only by putting a stop to all the works which are most necessary for the conservancy of the reserves and plantations.

6. The present value of the plantations proposed to be transferred is no doubt very small if calculated on the actual yield of fuel to be procured from them now, but their prospective value is very considerable. I calculate that they ought to yield about 50 tons of railway fuel per acre when the trees are five years old, and, as their present area is 542 acres while the young trees are for the most part only yearlings, that yield might be expected in four years more, and if realized would far more than cover all charges incurred by Government in bringing them into existence in conserving them, and in felling them for fuel, while the benefit conferred on the railway, which by that time will probably be finished, by the existence of such sources of fuel supply, will be very great. It should also be remarked that after two years of age, when the young trees are firmly rooted, the cost of conservancy is very trifling, so that, though the average monthly cost of up-keep and conservancy is just now as high as 600 Rupees a month for these plantations during the six months of the year when they require tending and watering, in another year the charges will be very considerably reduced. On all grounds I strongly urge the careful conservation of these plantations and the sanctioning of all expenditure necessary to that end.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. L. WOOLDRIDGE, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Arcot, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Trinomalai, 20th February 1875, No. 55.

As requested in your letter, No. 10, of 22nd January 1875, and in conformance to G. O., dated 21st December 1873, No. 1,604, and Board's Proceedings of 16th January 1875, No. 93, Forest No. 7, received 30th January and 5th February 1875 respectively, I have the honor to submit a fresh estimate for the year 1875-76 in which the cost of plantations and reserves have been reduced Rupees 12,195 less than the Forest estimate submitted to you on 10th October 1873.

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2. The items struck out are as follow:—

From Reserve Estimate.

	Rs.	
40 Miles bush fencing at 13 Rupees per mile	520	
3¼ Do. roading at 60 Rupees per mile	225	
75 Do. patrol lines at 15 Rupees per mile	1,125	
Survey and mapping of 16,000 Acres at 1 Anna per acre	1,000	
Permanent demarcation of 25 miles of boundary at 45 Rupees per mile.	1,125	
		3,995

From Plantation Estimate.

For planting 10 Acres with Teak and Sandal trees in pits	250	
For raising 2 lacs strong nursery plants	600	
For planting 140,000 Casuarina trees in pits at 14 Rupees per 1,000 ...	1,960	
For maintaining for one year 140,000 yearlings at 36 Rupees per 1,000.	5,040	
For fencing the 10 Acres = 640 Yards	50	
For fencing 171¼ chains of Casuarina plantation	300	
		8,200
Total...		12,195

3. The rest of the estimate is the same as the original in every respect.

4. The items of charges struck out are for extensions, fencing, roading, surveying, and demarcating as ordered, but I hope I may be permitted to record my opinion that by so doing the most necessary works have been put a stop to. This reduction will leave the total estimated cost of Forest operations in this district, including B. Establishment during 1875-76, at Rupees 19,685 instead of Rupees 31,880 as by former budget.

5. With respect to the current year's expenditure I beg to state that the lowest amount to which it can be brought is Rupees 9,000 for the transferred plantations for the year 1874-75; for other operations the Forest Budget allotment will be sufficient, but there can be no reduction effected at this late date. On the transferred plantations at the end of January 1875 there were wages to the amount of Rupees 2,694-9-10 in arrears. A sum of Rupees 1,200 has been expended (under sanction) in anticipation of the transfer of these plantations to Forest being sanctioned by Government from Forest allotment for 1874-75, partly in liquidation of arrears to coolies and gardeners, and partly for maintaining the plantations since casualties were replaced in November 1874.

6. The mean cost of working the two blocks, that is Mallatar plantation and Mercanum plantation, as they now stand is found to average 600 Rupees per month. The sum of wages now in arrears as stated above, *plus* the cost of the next two months up-keep at 600 per month together amounting to 3,850 Rupees, is now urgently needed. On one plantation the workmen are ten months in arrears and suffer greatly, and all the more from not being continued in employ, which, however, was impracticable in the face of such scarcity of funds.

7. As to the present and prospective value of the transferred plantations there are in round figures 65,000 two year old trees that is planted in monsoon of 1872, which if felled now might give about 300 tons of dry firewood, and placing the value of a ton of such firewood at 4 Rupees that quantity would give Rupees 1,200. There are also about 65,000 one year old trees, which would give probably 150 tons at same rate, Rupees 600; the 75,000 younger trees would scarcely sell as firewood at all, consequently the present value of the wood raised on these "transferred" plantations may be set down at Rupees 2,000; the prospective value, however, is quite another matter, and I shall be able to give precise information of the yield of [illegible] young plantation of three, five, and seven years' old respectively, planted at 8 feet apart in sand on the coast and inland, at the completion of the felling and weighing of the "trial areas" now being cut in the plantations.

8. At this date I can only beg most respectfully to refer you to the estimates of yield I have from time to time submitted, but I have no hesitation in asserting that Casuarina plantations will repay any money judiciously expended on them three-fold.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

The figures given in the letter are not quite clear. As the official year 1874-75 has expired, the Collector is requested to furnish a statement in the accompanying form showing the actual expenditure up to the end of the year :—

Items.	Amount provided for in the Budget.			Actual Expenditure.				
					Working charges on.			
	Working Charges.	Establishment.	Total.	Sanctioned Establishment.	(a) Plantations and Reserves proposed to be transferred from Jungle Conservancy to Forest.	(b) Other items.	Total Working Charges.	Total Working Charges and Establishment.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.					
Forest Imperial... ...	5,420	6,660	12,080					
Jungle Conservancy ...	...	...	8,200					
Amount debited to "Advances recoverable" as per Board's telegram, dated								
Total...	...	..	...					

The Collector should state how much of the sum expended in 1874-75 on the reserves and plantations proposed to be transferred from 1st April 1875 to Imperial can be met from the Jungle Conservancy, and how much has to be provided from Forest Imperial.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of South Arcot.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
,, to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 29TH APRIL 1875, No. 1,079.

Received 14 May

APRIL.
Forest No. 64.

Jungle Conservancy and Plantations—in South Arcot District—Collector requested to furnish a statement in certain form showing the actual expenditure on— up to the end of 1874-75, and to state how much of the sum expended in that year on the reserves and plantations proposed to be transferred to Imperial from 1st April 1875 can be met from the Jungle Conservancy, and how much has to be provided from Forest Imperial.