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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1335
B.P. No.

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 25th September

1876
196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th July 1876.

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallur, 31st May 1876, No. 348:—

REFERRING to Board's Proceedings, No. 1,232, dated 11th May 1875, in which the right to the Kattalai Malai is recognized as appertaining to the temple, I have the honor to report that the Darmakarta, the late Zemindar of Chokampatti, has leased 1,200 acres of the mountain forest land to Messrs. Ritchie and Ross for coffee on condition of payment of 12 Annas an acre to the pagoda after five years and the present payment of Rupees 19,000. These gentlemen have paid Rupees 7,000. Thirty acres have been rented for coffee to another person.

2. This land lies just above Papanasam and in that part of the mountain forests which Mr. Puckle considered most necessary to preserve for the security of the springs and sources of the Tambrapurni river upon which the prosperity of this district largely depends.

3. I beg to suggest the propriety of asking the Government to authorize the taking up of this piece of land under the Land Acquisition Act as required for a public purpose. It will be cheaper if taken now, and if taken promptly the destruction of the forests upon it will be prevented.

4. The lesson will probably not be lost upon Zemindars and others who have mountain property in Tinnevely, as it will show them that to commence clearing away the forests will, in all probability, involve the loss of the mountain property altogether, in consideration, it is true, of its value as determined under the Act, but even so it will expose themselves.

BEFORE disposing of the Collector's letter, the Board desire to have further information as to the necessity for interfering for the preservation of the forest on the Kattalai Malai in order to protect the springs and sources of the Tambrapurni. Mr. Happell in his report embodied in G.O., dated 31st May 1875, No. 849, states that, judging by the eye, the ayacut measurement which gives the area of the tract as under six square miles is not very wide of the mark, and that the denudation of a hill of this size could have no appreciable effect on the water-supply of the Tambrapurni valley. The area of the adjoining Government Forests should be approximately stated; also whether their preservation will not sufficiently provide for the security of the water-supply. It is not clear whether the acquisition of the whole hill is contemplated, or of that portion only which has been leased for planting purposes. Unless the whole tract is taken up at once, it will be open to the Zemindar to lease other portions and the acquisition of the land piecemeal will probably prove to be far more expensive in the end. Unless, however, the water-supply is likely to be seriously affected, it does not appear advisable to take action in the manner suggested.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of the Tinnevely.

Copy to the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

No. 1,732.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th July 1876.

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BEFORE disposing of the Collector's letter, the Board desire to have further information as to the necessity for interfering for the preservation of the forest on the Kattalai Malai in order to protect the springs and sources of the Tambrapurni. Mr. Happell in his report embodied in G.O., dated 31st May 1875, No. 849, states that, judging by the eye, the ayacut measurement which gives the area of the tract as under six square miles is not very wide of the mark, and that the denudation of a hill of this size could have no appreciable effect on the water-supply of the Tambrapurni valley. The area of the adjoining Government Forests should be approximately stated; also whether their preservation will not sufficiently provide for the security of the water-supply. It is not clear whether the acquisition of the whole hill is contemplated, or of that portion only which has been leased for planting purposes. Unless the whole tract is taken up at once, it will be open to the Zemindar to lease other portions and the acquisition of the land piecemeal will probably prove to be far more expensive in the end. Unless, however, the water-supply is likely to be seriously affected, it does not appear advisable to take action in the manner suggested.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of the Tinnevely.

Copy to the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Kattalai Malai Forest — in Tinnevely District.—Calling for further information with reference to Collector's suggestion to take up certain land above Papanasam under Land Acquisition Act.

Received

JULY.
No. 1,732.

PROCEEDINGS, 7th JULY 1876, No. 1,732.

MADRAS.

Board of Revenue.

1876.

Encl.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th September 1876*

No. 266. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd August 1876, No. 2,159, Forests No. 77:—

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Melagaram, 26th July 1876, No. 462.

With reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 1,732, dated 7th instant, I have the honor to report that Mr. Happell's description of the Kattala Malai may be taken to be correct. My proposal was to take up the whole hill; I agree that nothing less would be of permanent use.

2. The question of what is to be done is, I think, a very difficult one, as, on the one hand, it is by no means proved or certain that felling the mountain forests affects the rain-fall materially, while, on the other, if it does so, then the interests at stake in this district can hardly be exaggerated.

3. It can hardly be doubted that, if the present case is allowed to go on, and, as is most probable, the cultivation of coffee proves remunerative, the planters from Travancore will come over the ridge and enter into similar arrangements with the Zemindars of Singampatti, Setur, and the owners of portions of the broken up Zemindary of Chokampatti, all of whom together are in possession, with or without right, of more than half of the best forest tracts in our mountains.

4. In the particular case referred to, viz., the sources of the Tambrapurni, more than half the mountain and forest area, whence this river derives its supply, is claimed, and more than one-fourth is in possession of the Singampatti Zemindary, to the interests of whom it would be to convert large areas of the said forest tracts into coffee plantation.

5. I do not myself believe in the theory of the forests affecting the rain-fall, and I think that, so far as concern the water-supply of this district, we should not be very seriously affected by the replacing of forest by coffee, wherever this will grow well, while the amount of capital in the form of employment for labor that opening the mountains for coffee would throw into the district would be very great, hundreds of thousands of pounds annually.

6. But I am aware that the balance of opinion, including nearly all those of persons having special knowledge on such subjects, is the other way, and I imagine that the Board and Government would think it prudent to assume that they are correct until time and experience shows decidedly whether or no.

7. If that is so, we must assume that any large extension of coffee in Tinnevely would produce very disastrous effects upon the water-supply, upon which again depends a revenue amounting to about 10 lakhs, taking the Tambrapurni and Chittar rivers alone; and we must prepare to act upon that assumption.

8. On such an assumption, I do not think any course is open other than that proposed by me in my letter contained in the Board's Proceedings under reply, and I still think that the moral effect upon the various Zemindars of an evident intention on the part of Government not to permit the destruction of the forests, even for the sake of coffee, would be such that, in all probability, we should save the whole range of forests by the purchase of this one hill. The Zemindars being afraid that the Government would, in like manner, step in and take up their mountains, would turn a deaf

1876.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7th July 1876, No. 1,732.

Encl.

Received

JULY.
No. 1,732.

Kattala Malai Forest — in Tinnevely District.—Calling for further information with reference to Collector's suggestion to take up certain land above Papanasam under Land Acquisition Act.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th September 1876.*

ear to the offers and representations of the coffee planters from Travancore, who are already casting a longing eye at the better forested of our mountain valleys and slopes.

A PORTION of the Kattalai Malai having been recently leased for coffee planting by the ex-Zemindar of Chokampatti, who is the Trustee of the Temple to which the hill appertains, Mr. Stuart proposes to take up the whole hill under the Land Acquisition Act on the ground that if the theory of the denudation of forests affecting the rain-fall be correct, the water-supply of the Tambrapurni will be prejudicially affected by the alienation of those tracts of forest which protect the sources of the river, and that the moral effect of such action in preventing the destruction of forests, owned or claimed by Zemindars, will be wholesome and well worth the expenditure involved in the purchase advocated.

2. It appears to be a moot point whether the denudation of forest tracts affect to any serious extent the sources of the large rivers of the country, especially when the land is replanted, as in the case of coffee clearings, with shrubs which prevent the evaporation of moisture. As a matter of fact the extensive clearings for coffee in Coorg have not, so far as the Board are aware, affected the supply of the Cauvery, nor have the clearings on the Nilgiris had any appreciable effect on the affluents of the Bhowany. When land is replanted the danger does not appear to be imminent, nor such as to justify any very heavy outlay; the purchase of all private forests supposed to protect the sources of the river-supplies would of course be out of the question, and the Board do not imagine that the action suggested in the particular instance brought to notice would be likely to have a deterrent effect, but probably rather the reverse. As the matter is one of importance, however, the Board resolve to submit the correspondence for the orders of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 267. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1876, No. 1,335.

Forests, No. 18.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council
is not prepared to adopt the suggestion
of the Collector of Tinnevely to take up

the Kattalai Malai under the Land Acquisition Act to prevent its denudation, even though the theory be correct that extensive clearings affect injuriously the rain-fall and the water distribution. It appears doubtful whether the Act covers such a comparatively remote contingency, and it is out of the question to incur the very heavy outlay which the preservation of the hill-sides all over the Presidency must necessarily lead to.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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Kattala Malai.—Declining to adopt the suggestion of the Collector of Tinnevely to take up the — appertaining to certain temple in Tinnevely under the Land Acquisition Act.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 266-267.

G.O., 25th September 1876, No. 1,336.

Recd.
Dated September, 25th.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

REVENUE.

Oct. of 1876 Madras.

FOREST No. 77.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 23rd August 1876, No. 2,159.

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2. The question of what is to be done is, I think, a very difficult one, as, on the one hand, it is by no means proved or certain that felling the mountain forests affects the rainfall materially, while, on the other, if it does so, then the interests at stake in this district can hardly be exaggerated.

3. It can hardly be doubted that, if the present case is allowed to go on, and, as is most probable, the cultivation of coffee proves remunerative, the planters from Travancore will come over the ridge and enter into similar arrangements with the Zemindars of Singampatti, Setur, and the owners of portions of the broken up Zemindary of Chokampatti, all of whom together are in possession, with or without right, of more than half of the best forest tracts in our mountains.

4. In the particular case referred to, viz., the sources of the Tambrapurni, more than half the mountain and forest area, whence this river derives its supply, is claimed, and more than one-fourth is in possession of the Singampatti Zemindary, to the extent of whom it would be to convert large areas of the said forest tracts into coffee plantation.

5. I do not myself believe in the theory of the forests affecting the rainfall, and I think that, so far as concerns the water supply of this district, we should not be very seriously affected by the replacing of forest by coffee, wherever this will grow well, while the amount of capital in the form of employment for labor that opening the mountains for coffee would throw into the district would be very great, hundreds of thousands of pounds annually.

6. But I am aware that the balance of opinion, including nearly all those of persons having special knowledge on such subjects, is the other way, and I imagine that the Board and Government would think it prudent to assume that they are correct, until time and experience shows decidedly whether or no.

7. If that is so, we must assume that any large extension of coffee in Tinnevely would produce very disastrous effects upon the water supply, upon which again depends a revenue amounting to about 10 lakhs, taking the Tambrapurni and Chittar rivers alone ; and we must prepare to act upon that assumption.

8. On such an assumption, I do not think any course is open other than that proposed by me in my letter contained in the Board's Proceedings under reply, and I still think that the moral effect upon the various Zemindars of an evident intention on the part of Government not to permit the destruction of the forests, even for the sake of coffee, would be such that, in all probability, we should save the whole range of

Profess that, from my own point of
 view, it is a source of unalloyed
 satisfaction that the Mill sides in
 question are in the hands of private
 individuals who know how to turn
 them to profit & to the use of
 the people. I have not thought about
 the theories of diversion of manures
 on flood & on dry ground Mill sides
 - and are opening their vil-
 lages & human industry.
 I do hold the application
 of one paper to arrest them was one
 was a waste, happily the
 amount that we have secured
 for the "public purpose" places

its consideration out of the
question - irrespective of the means.
That is ~~not~~ ^{proper} ~~affected~~ ^{concern} to the
doers proprietary - wrong & alien
from the policy of just work -
of dunceably -
tell the OS - that the OS
place to be made

of duress -
I tell the Gov. that the Gov.
are not prepared to place obstruction
in the way of the extension of Coffee
trading once private land
accretion act is applied the land
suggestion

I myself believe the
demolition of the ~~front~~ hill sides
to be mischievous - but
the question is in an
uncertain state, & it would
be well to put an inquiry
really & effectually to
protect all these ~~hill~~ hill-sides
we must let the
front be cut down - there
seems no help for it.
Papers should go to
the Governor Mr

8/13/35
 I agree to the opinion that the
 denudation of forest land to any
 large extent - will affect the rainfall &
 water distribution - that very extensive
 clearing & destruction of timber
 impairs the climate as regards temperature
 & health. —
 With denuded hill slopes you will be
 required extension of bridges & waterways -
 but the question is a large one. & what
 is not to be decided by the mode of
 clearing with 6 square miles —
 therefore as the Commission is paid a
 liberal fee. I did not mean to
 doubt the present but properly covering
 such a ^{comparatively} remote contingency - Bal. 19/9

FOR ORDERS.

25 Sept 1876

Ind. Sept 20. Dear day. Please send body in. I will
be the. Cancer & about 17. I have 17. I have 17.

Sent to this Lane 13: 4th A 22: 4th
C 4: 4th B A 7: 4th