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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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1380/1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, *29th September* 1876.

No. 357. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th July 1876, No. 1,715A, Forest No. 59:—

Read the following papers:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 12th May 1876, No. 669.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th March 1876, No. 677, together with the replies (herewith returned) of the several Collectors in charge of Forest Districts to Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd September 1874, No. 152-2,478, on the subject of the management of Forests and preparation of accounts which were transferred to me for disposal.

2. Regarding the area of the reserved forests and the number or value of the timber or other valuable trees contained in them, I have to report that these particulars cannot, at present, be accurately ascertained until such time as the forest survey, which is now being carried out in several districts, is completed; in the meanwhile every effort should be made by Range Officers to obtain as much reliable information as possible on the points in question. Little, however, can be done with such forests as the Wynaad Teak tracts, Mudumallay, the Anamallays, &c., until they are marked out into blocks, such as recommended in my report on the Wynaad Teak forests, dated 1st April 1876, No. 456.

3. As regards the form of return for fuel reserves prescribed by the Board in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings noted above, I think that a similar form should be submitted by Range Officers for plantations, as thinnings are supplied as firewood to the Railway Company from the latter.

4. General instructions respecting planting operations having already been given in Circular, No. 34, dated 26th March 1874, no further remarks appear here requisite beyond drawing the particular attention of Divisional Officers to the information contained therein.

5. I quite agree with the Collector that the experimental plantations in Kurnool should be given up; the distance from any line of Railway is too great, and the natural forest too extensive, to render them in any way necessary, at least for the present.

6. With reference to the subject of periodical auction sales of timber, it will be observed that Collectors disagree, but the fact is that no general rules can be laid down on the subject, as entirely different conditions obtain in different divisions; in some, auctions must be chiefly looked to; in others, daily or weekly sales from depôt; in others, again, almost all the timber is prepared for Government Departments; arrangements of this nature, therefore, must be left to the Deputy Conservator of the Division, who will, of course, act in communication with the Collector and the Conservator of Forests.

7. With a view to obtaining better financial results in future, I would suggest the advisability of establishing an experimental Government Depôt at Madras, with a temporary establishment attached to it, which should contain a small consignment of all valuable timber both for house-building and for furniture

as well as the different kinds of minor forest produce. In the event of the scheme proving successful, it could be permanently maintained with a fixed establishment.

8. Regarding the valuation of timber, I am of opinion that the best plan is that laid down in Circular, No. 29, of the 6th July 1872, from this office and sanctioned by Government; but to the cost of felling and conveyance, *plus* the seigniorage value, a small percentage should be added, in the first instance, to cover superintendence; this will vary in different years in the same district, as it will depend much upon the outturn of the year, but it should, I think, never exceed three annas the cubic foot. Government, in their Proceedings, dated 29th April 1874, No. 503, paragraph 3, refer to the method proposed by the Collector of Malabar. I cannot agree with the Collector in his objections; he says that "*two logs side by side may appear in the accounts as of widely [illegible]erent values owing to the accident of one having been felled by a deep river and the oth[illegible]n a steep hill difficult of access.*" It has never been proposed to show the actual cost of each log with reference to the position of the tree it happened to be cut from, nor would such an intricate system be practicable or of any value; the cost of felling and transport is a general average on the whole outturn for the consignment in question or of the season's felling. Again, the Collector says: "*A more serious objection is, that, suppose timber is being worked at a loss, the stock account being fictitious and false conceals the fact as the timber is all along shown as worth what it has cost.*" This is the very reverse of what is really the case. When the timber is only valued in our accounts at its actual cost to the department, it cannot be a fictitious or false valuation, and instead of concealing the fact that it is being worked at a loss (if such is the case) our profit or loss on the transaction is seen at a glance. The Collector then goes on to propose that the valuation should be the *probable market value.* This was our old system prior to the method proposed by me in 1872, which led to the circular above alluded to, and was given up because it was proved to be fictitious and false, not enabling our officers to see the profit or loss on the sale of the timber, and, owing to the fluctuating condition of the markets, requiring a constant alteration of our stock accounts.

9. The forest operations noted in the margin being as important as felling departmentally, it is necessary that the cost of the fixed establishment should be distributed to each head, according to the relative magnitude of the work during each quarter.

1. Working under the License system.
2. Plantations.
3. Fuel Reserves.
4. Forest Surveys—Demarcation.
5. Works of utility for the development and improvement of Forests (only such as are done by the Department).

10. The method proposed by the Board for exhibiting the quantities of timber, &c., felled and sold in the accounts is generally approved by the Collectors.

11. The Collector of North Arcot reports that timber removed on license by the bandy-load cannot be shown in cubic feet, as it is difficult to find out the cubical contents of a bandy-load, which generally varies according to the size of the bullocks used and the nature of the timber carted. He further states that Redwood posts must be shown in cubic feet and firewood and bamboos removed on license by the bandy-load. The Collector of Coimbatore observes that bamboos are calculated by the bandy-load, which is equal to eight bullock-loads or eighteen head-loads. He points out that fuel cannot be measured by the ton, as there are no possibilities of

weighing it. It is generally taken on an average that a full cart is 750 lbs., or about one-third of a ton. When fuel is stocked for sale 58 cubic feet are taken as a ton, the weight varying according as the fuel is dry or wet.

12. With reference to the difficulties noticed above, I beg to propose the following method:—

Description of Timber, &c.	If felled or sold by Departmental Agency.	If removed on License.
Teak, Ebony, Blackwood, Vengai, and all the more valuable timber of the division as may be settled by the Forest Officer in communication, if necessary, with the Collector and the Conservator.	In cubic feet.	
Junglewood.	In cubic feet or tons.	In (2 bullocks) bandy-loads calculated at 1,000 lbs.
Saplings.	In numbers by classes.	
Sandalwood.	In maunds.	
Red Sanders Posts.	In cubic feet.	In bandy-loads.
Red Sanders Stumps and Roots.	In maunds.	Do.
Bamboos.	In numbers or bandy-loads.	Do.
Forest Produce or Fruits.	In maunds or lbs.	
Fuel.	In bandy-loads or tons (58 cubic feet when stocked).	In bandy-loads or tons.

13. As it is common in certain Rangers to remove firewood, bamboos, &c. by head* or donkey† load, &c., Forest Officers should be requested to take the bandy-load consisting of 40 maunds, or 1,000 lbs., as the standard measure for exhibiting all such articles in the statements accompanying the Annual Administration Report of their respective ranges.

* Containing 50 lbs. or 2 maunds.
† Do. 200 ,, or 8 ,,

14. Respecting the remark made by the Collector of South Canara, I think Forest Officers should be allowed to use their discretion in separating valuable timber from being classed under junglewood.

15. Touching paragraph 11, regarding the extension of conservancy to the western side of the chain of mountains running from Tripatty to Cuddapah, the Collector appears doubtful whether it will be remunerative, but recommends that the operations of the Forest Department be extended to that side; there are large tracts of Red Sanders on the western or Royachoty side of these mountains which should certainly be conserved by Government, even if they cannot be worked to a profit just at present; and the Collector, on a former occasion, fully agreed in this, and I trust that no time will be lost in placing them under this department.

16. The question of obtaining the lease of the Kalastri Zemindari has been disposed of in the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st August 1874, No. 147-2,448.

17. As stated by the Collector, the reduction in the rates of seigniorage is not advisable in Kurnool as they are already low.

18. The departmental disputes pointed out by Mr. Wooldridge will be settled as soon as the demarcation of the boundaries of the North Arcot, South Arcot, and Salem Forests is completed agreeably to G.O., dated 14th April 1875, No. 592.

19. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Board's Proceedings, the Collector reports that he thinks it very desirable that the firewood plantations should be extended to meet the wants of the railway and the public; this department will be ready to plant all the pudugay land that can be handed over, and I believe that there are thousands of acres that might be most profitably planted with Casuarina, Babul, and Sissoo; but, on the other hand, there are constant objections about grazing rights, river encroachments, and other matters which must be first settled by the Revenue Department and the Department of Public Works.

20. The Collector of Coimbatore states that he will work the Bolumpatty Forests departmentally, by which I suppose he means departmental felling as opposed to voucher and license. I think the matter of management may be left to the Forest Officer, who will, of course, consult the Collector and Conservator.

21. The subject of timber supply to the Department of Public Works in Ganjam has been separately disposed of in the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th May 1875, No. 1,267. The Collector of South Canara reports that arrangements have been made for supplying the Department of Public Works with seasoned timber at the coast depôt. He thinks that six market depôts, *viz.*, at Mangalore, Kalianpore, Kunapur, Upperangudy, Hospett, and Jalsoor are sufficient. I think that Government must insist on the Department of Public Works getting their supply of timber as far as practicable from the Forest Department in all districts, even if the rates are somewhat in excess of those ruling in private forests (worked without Conservancy establishments); in fact, Government will often find that conservancy will not pay otherwise.

From the same Officer, dated Ootacamund, 31st May 1876, No. 739.

With reference to the Board's Official Memorandum, No. 41, dated 13th January last, and to their Proceedings, F. Miscellaneous No. 44-1,987, dated 6th March 1876, I have the honor to forward a letter from the Deputy Conservator of the Cuddapah Division on the subject of extending conservancy of the western slopes of the Palkonda hills. I have strongly advocated this in former years, and the Board will note that I have lately recommended it in paragraph 15 of my letter, No. 669, of the 12th instant. The Collector also in his docket on the Deputy Conservator's letter strongly recommends it, stating that there is much valuable timber now uncared for, and that the revenue under Jungle Conservancy by no means represents what it ought to be.

2. Mr. Yarde proposes an establishment amounting to Rupees 226 per mensem, which I approve of as a beginning; against this proposed annual expenditure of Rupees 2,712, the receipts may be calculated at Rupees 4,500, the actuals for last year under Jungle Conservancy being Rupees 1,451, and our experience from other tracts transferred from Jungle Conservancy to this department in this district and North Arcot proving that the revenue is trebled by only checking smuggling. Our chief care at first, however, must be conservancy and the care of the Red Sanders which abounds, so that this estimate may possibly be over-sanguine for the commencement.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. H. YARDE, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Cuddapah Forests, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, dated Codoor, 11th May 1876, No. 62. (through the Collector of Cuddapah).

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 344, dated 14th March 1876, and its accompaniments (herewith returned as therein requested) with reference to taking charge of the western slopes of the Palkonda and Cuddapah Hills. I beg therefore to report that it was the intention of Mr. Horsley to transfer to the special department for conservancy purposes those slopes in question attached to the Voilpaud and Royachoty Taluqs, besides the opposite slopes of the Goovalcheroovoo Hills in the Cuddapah Taluq, together with the table-land on and along these ranges.

2. The objection to the handing over to us of the slopes does not now seem to exist, which was the reason for its not being made a portion of the Imperial forests under our control since 1869, fully recorded in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 6,443, dated 27th August 1869, and my letter of objection to you, No. 250, dated 18th September 1869, in connection therewith.

3. On assuming charge of these tracts, I do not propose shutting up these forests completely by the formation of reserves and thus entirely excluding the grazing, &c., privileges of the agricultural and other population surrounding these hills, but hope with increased and judicious conservancy to recover the past ravages committed by reckless felling hitherto almost unnoticed from want of establishment, and with no advantage to the public exchequer; though I purpose enhancing my forest revenue with this additional charge to my division, yet I am confident of being able to do so without in any way impoverishing these forests, and towards this end would suggest that this portion of my district be styled the western range, while the distribution and cost involving will be as follows:—

Three taluqs, Voilpaud, Royachoty, and Cuddapah—Head-quarters, Sonepoy.

		RS.
1 Forest Ranger, 3rd Class		75
1 Gumastah		15
1 Peon		6
2 Foresters, at Rs. 30 and 20		50
Voilpaud.		
1 Forest Guard	8	
2 Do. at Rs. 7 each	14	
	—	22
Royachoty.		
1 Forest Guard	8	
2 Do. at Rs. 7 each	14	
	—	22
Cuddapah.		
1 Forest Guard	8	
4 Do. at Rs. 7 each	28	
	—	36
Total		226

The Rupees-30 Forester will have charge of the Royachoty and Cuddapah side of the same range, while the Rupees-20 Forester will look after the Voilpaud Taluq.

The collection under Jungle Conservancy for the official year 1875-76 has been as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Cuddapah Taluq	1,120	5	5
Royachoty	19	0	0
Voilpaud	312	4	6
Total	1,451	9	11

Though the above sum appears inadequate to cover the expenses attendant on the entertainment of the foregoing establishment, as I have already said, I am sanguine of realizing more than enough to do so, conservancy improved, and in no way circumscribe the privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants of these taluqs.

No. 116.

FORWARDED to Conservator (with enclosures).

2. The undersigned is of opinion that the conservancy of these western slopes is highly desirable. There is a quantity of valuable timber which ~~is~~ now uncared for. Whether the establishment now proposed will be sufficient is open to doubt, as the extent of country covered by this forest must be nearly forty miles in length. The revenue hitherto received by no means represents the amount which ought to have been received.

CUDDAPAH, (Signed) M. RAMASAWMY, Deputy Collector,
13th May 1876. for Acting Collector.

THE reports received from Collectors in charge of Forests on the several points noticed by the Board and Government in their reviews* of the Forest Administration Report for 1872-73 were transferred to the Conservator of Forests for disposal. The letters read above are in reply, and the subjects will be dealt with in order.

* Board's Procs., 2nd Sep. 1874, No. 2,478.
G.O., 29th April 1874, No. 503, R.D.
Board's Proceedings, 10th Mar. 1876, No. 677.

2. *Endeavours to be made to collect as much information as possible regarding the Area, &c., of Reserved Forests.*—The Collectors and the Conservator think that particulars regarding area, &c., cannot be accurately ascertained until the Forest Survey, which is now being carried out in several districts, is completed. Meanwhile endeavours should be made to collect as much information as possible.

3. *Fuel supply to the Railway should be separately noted.*—The Conservator suggests that, in addition to this information being shown in the statement of fuel reserves, it should also be shown in the statement of plantations, as thinnings from the latter are supplied to the Railway Company. The Board approve of the suggestion, and the Conservator will arrange for the information being exhibited in the plantation statement accordingly.

4. *Whether Plantations in Kurnool cannot be abandoned.*—The plantations have been since abandoned—*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 10th March 1875, No. 568.

5. *Periodical Auctions of Timber.*—The Board agree with the Conservator that no general rule can be laid down on the subject. Auctions are of no use unless they are outright, and such auctions may, in some places, entail loss to Government. The question of the best mode of disposal of forest produce should be left to the discretion of the officers responsible for the profitable working of the forests. The Board concur with the Conservator in the opinion that the establishment of a depôt at Madras for the sale of Government timber as an experiment is worth a trial. It will enable Forest Officers to judge whether they are working at a profit, and show whether Government timber is really cheaper or dearer then that which is procurable in the open market, on which point there is at present much uncertainty and doubt. The Board recommend that sanction be accorded for the entertainment of a small temporary establishment as requested.

6. *Method of exhibiting quantities of Timber, &c., in the Accounts.*—The Conservator proposes different denominations for forest produce sold by Departmental Agency and that removed on license. The Board think it desirable that both should be shown in the accounts under the same denomination. It is true that timber removed by license cannot be weighed or measured, but there cannot be much difficulty in estimating the weight or measurement. With this exception, the Board have no objection to the Conservator's proposals.

7. *Valuation of Timber.*—The ruling at present is, that actual cost, *plus* the seigniorage value of timber standing in the forest, should be taken as the value. Exception is taken to this by the Collector of Malabar, who considers that timber which has reached the depôt ought to be valued at the probable selling price. The Conservator is in favor of the existing rule subject to the modification that to the actual cost a small percentage not exceeding three annas the cubic foot should be added to represent the cost of supervision, and points out that the system proposed by Mr. Macgregor was in force prior to the adoption of the present method, and was deliberately abandoned on good grounds. The Board agree with the Conservator in thinking that the actual cost, including a percentage for supervision *plus* the seigniorage, should be entered as the value of stock on hand. Of course, the cost of supervision should be distributed under each of the heads noted by the Conservator in paragraph 9 of his letter in proportion to the extent of the operations in each branch; the apportionment must be left to the Conservator, as it is difficult to lay down a rule applicable to all cases.

G.O., dated 22nd June 1872, No. 962.

8. *Necessity for Conserving the western side of the chain of Mountains running from Tripatty to Cuddapah.*—Mr. Horsley, the Collector of Cuddapah, in which district the above tract is situated, considered that the conservancy could not be undertaken without an increase of establishment, and that it was doubtful whether such a measure would prove remunerative. He thought that the demand for timber on the western side of the hills being slight, no protective measure was called for, and that the natural growth would keep up the supply. He, however, recommended that the operations of the Forest Department be extended to that side also as an experiment which could be given up should experience demonstrate its inutility. The Conservator thinks that the forest should be conserved, even if it cannot be worked at a profit at present. He accordingly recommends, at the suggestion of the present Acting Collector, the entertainment of an establishment costing Rupees 226 per mensem, or 2,712 Rupees per annum. The receipts *per contra* are estimated at Rupees 4,500, while the amount actually realized in 1875-76 under the Jungle Conservancy Rules was only Rupees 1,451. The Board recommend that the establishment proposed be sanctioned experimentally for two years. It is hoped that the cost during the current year can be met from savings in the budget grant.

9. *Boundary disputes of Shrotriem Villages in Cuddapah.*—Some of the disputes are reported to have been satisfactorily disposed of. The Collector does not say what was the nature of the settlement, or how many claims remain for disposal. He should report on the point.

10. *Whether the Forests of Kalastri Zemindar in Kurnool cannot be obtained on lease.*—The forests have been already sublet up to the end of Fasli 1287 by the

Contractor who leased them from the Zemindar; nothing can therefore be done at present—Board's Proceedings, dated 31st August 1874, No. 2,448.

11. *Reduction of Seigniorage on Timber in Kurnool.*—The Collector and the Conservator consider that no reduction in the rates of seigniorage is called for. A statement of the existing rates compared with those in force in the neighbouring districts should have been forwarded.

12. *Explanation of the South Arcot Forest Officer's statement that fear of Departmental disputes has prevented profitable felling of Sandalwood.*—It is explained that one and the same tract is claimed by the Forest Officers of Salem and South Arcot as belonging to their respective ranges, and that the matter will be disposed of as soon as the demarcation of the boundaries of the districts of North and South Arcot and Salem is complet[illegible] reference to G.O., dated 14th April 1875, No. 592. The Board presun[illegible] in question is being worked to the best advantage by the Salem Forest Officer pending settlement of the boundary, and that no loss is being incurred through a dispute which the Conservator is competent to settle at once. So long as the tract is conserved and worked to the best advantage for Government, it is immaterial whether it is included in the Salem or South Arcot range.

13. *Necessity of extending Plantations in Trichinopoly.*—The subject has been disposed of in G.O., dated 25th March 1875, No. 839, Public Works Department, communicated to the Collector of Tr[illegible]inoply with Board's Proceedings, dated 20th April 1875, No. 2,811. The Di[illegible]ct Engineer has been called upon to exhibit on a map the pudugay lands [illegible]ired for river conservancy and those which may be safely devoted to cultiv[illegible]n or plantation, respectively.

14. *Extensions of Plantations i[illegible] Pulny.*—The Collector thinks that the plantation should be extended, but the [illegible]nservator offers no opinion on the point. The latter will dispose of the matter.

15. *Division of pay of Overseers between Imperial and Local Funds in Tinnevelly.*—It is reported that the Overseer, whose services the Collector proposed to utilize for Jungle Conservancy, has been removed from the district and that the division of the salary is not required.

16. *Whether it is desirable to work the Bolumpatty Forests on the License and Voucher system.*—The Collector says that he has arranged to work the forests departmentally, and the Conservator thinks that the question of management may be left to the local authorities. The Board concur.

17. *Map and report on Nelambur Plantations called for by Government from Malabar.*—The map and report have not yet been received. The Collector should state what progress has been made in compiling the account.

18. *Results of the Bamboo Depôts in Salem.*—No special report appears to have been received from the Collector, but in the Administration Report for 1874-75, the Forest Officer states that the Bamboo Depôts were closed for a time owing to the combination of Town traders to undersell Government, but that the combination having been broken up subsequently, they were re-opened. The subject should be more fully noticed in the Administration Report for 1875-76.

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19. *Supply of Timber to Public Works Department in Ganjam and South Canara.*—The subject of supply in Ganjam has been disposed of in Board's Proceedings*, dated 13th May 1875, No. 1,267. In South Canara arrangements have been made for supplying timber to the Public Works Department and for the provision of suitable sites for depôts. The Conservator, with reference to this subject, gives it as his opinion that the Government should insist on the Public Works Department getting their supply from Government forests as far as practicable, even if the rates charged are somewhat in excess of those ruling in private forests, and that otherwise conservancy will not pay. The Board have already in their Proceedings of the 13th May 1876, No. 1,254, stated that they do not approve the proposal that the Public Works Department should be precluded from purchasing timber in the open market. The reason [illegible] the Forest Department cannot supply timber at the low rates frequently prevailing in the market, is that private forests are being sacrificed for a temporary gain. This cannot last, and eventually the Forest Department will have to meet the demand and will realize their price; meanwhile the Government forests are saved. The fact that the Forest Department cannot compete with the timber merchant on equal terms is no reason why the cost of Public Works should be unnecessarily enhanced to enable the Forest Department to show a profit, gained at the expense of the Public Works Department. The preference should undoubtedly be given to the Forest Department when they are prepared to supply timber of the same quality and at the same price as that to be procured in the open market. If the Forest Department cannot compete, however, depar[illegible]ental felling must be restricted for the present, and if conservancy entails a te[illegible]orary loss, it must be borne by the Forest Department, the main object being the [illegible]eservation of an adequate supply rather than the realization of a profit.

* G.O., dated 31st May 1875, No. 851.

20. These Proceedings will be submitted for the information and orders of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 358. Order thereon, 29th September 1876, No. 1,380.

Forests, No. 21.

With the above Proceedings, the Board submit letters from the Conservator of Forests and certain Collectors, called for in connection with their instructions on the orders of Government reviewing the Annual Report of the Forest Department for 1872-73.

2. The information regarding area, &c., of reserved forests was called for two years and a-half ago by the Board, who remarked that it was "no doubt extremely difficult to make an accurate estimate in forests where trees are generally unequally distributed; but the Board hope that Collectors will endeavour to collect as much of this important information as may be possible."

Nothing, however, seems so far to have been done.

The Conservator observes that particulars cannot be accurately ascertained until the forest survey is complete, and in the heaviest forests, such as the Wynaad, Anamallay, and the Mudumallay, until they are marked into blocks, as recommended in his letter of 1st April 1876 (G.O., 26th June 1876, No. 857).

The Government are of opinion that these investigations may well be deferred until a Forest Act has been passed, when such inquiries may be conducted in a legal and systematic manner.

3. The Conservator's suggestion regarding the plantation statement, referred to in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, is approved. The Conservator, however, should open a column after area for the number of trees.

4. It is observed that the Kurnool Plantations have been abandoned under the orders of the Board. The large expenditure on such plantations, in so many cases to a great extent unproductive, has [illegible] the attention of Government. They resolve to direct that experimental plantations shall, in no case, be begun without the express orders of Government, and that sanction shall not be accorded unless the scheme is accompanied by a careful estimate, in detail, of the cost and probable yield, and a full statement of the conditions, natural or artificial, which may militate for or against the success of the venture.

5. The Government approve the Board's and Conservator's remarks regarding auction sales, but they decline to sanction the Conservator's proposal for the establishment of a timber depôt at Madras.

6. The Government concur in the Board's view regarding the method of exhibiting quantities of timber, but the per-ce[illegible] for supervision should be shown separately. In the case of red sanders post[illegible]y does there appear to be a difficulty. This wood will be shown in cubic feet or weight.

7. In the matter of valuation of timber, the Conservator's and Board's method appears correct so far as it goes, b[illegible]s not get over the difficulty that timber may not be worth what it has cost the department, and, in such cases, stock valuation would manifestly be more or less fictitious. The only way to meet this difficulty seems to be an annual, or at the furthest, a biennial re-valuation of stock, when its probable worth in the market should be taken into account, and a deduction, equivalent to the difference between the forest valuation and the probable market value, debited in the accounts. Unless such frequent valuations are made, losses are lost sight of and the responsible parties are no longer traceable.

8. The conservancy of the western side of the chain of hills running from Tripatty to Cuddapah is approved experimentally for two years—without interference with the practice of allowing villag[illegible] graze and obtain wood for their own use, not for sale—provided no extra cos[illegible]curred during the current year. The Conservator can provide for the necessary establishment in his budget for 1877-78; the continuance of the establishment after the lapse of two years will depend on the yield of the forests concerned, which will be duly reported at the expiration of that period.

9. The Government await the report from the Collector called for regarding the boundary disputes of shrotriem villages in Cuddapah.

10. The Government note the Board's remarks regarding the Kalastri Zemindar's forests. With regard to the seigniorage on timber in Kurnool, they await the receipt of a statement from the Conservator showing the Kurnool rates compared with those prevailing in the neighbouring districts.

11. The Conservator's attention is called to the Board's remarks regarding the South Arcot boundary dispute, and he is instructed to issue definite orders in the matter, and thus put an end to a departmental dispute which Mr. Wooldridge speaks of as a "question affecting the forest revenue of this range materially." The conservancy, he states, has been steadily and carefully carried out by the South Arcot establishment.

12. The subject of the plantations in padugai lands in the Trichinopoly District has been recently before Government. They await the reports called for in their order, 14th August 1876, No. 1,100.

13. The Conservator is now directly responsible for the management of the Bolumpatty forests. He should use his discretion [illegible] best mode of working them.

14. As the Nilambur forest has now passe[illegible] to the hands of the Conservator, the Government direct that this officer, and not the Collector, submit the report called for in G.O., 24th April 1874, No. 503, paragraph 17, though as this forest had the especial care of the Collector when under his charge, his notes on the Conservator's report will be valuable.

The Government desire a full and early report on the contention in the bamboo market at Salem between the local traders and Government officers.

15. The remarks of the Board in paragraph 19 are quite in accord with the views of Government, who have recently, in their Proceedings, 6th July 1876, No. 1,721, Public Works Departme[illegible] pointed out the course to be followed by officers of the Public Works Department i[illegible] regard to the purchase of timber.

(True [illegible]

([illegible] D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1876 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 29th.

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 357-358.

Forest Administration Report for 1872-73.—Passing certain orders on Board's submitting opinion on several points noticed in review of —

Vide file 488/17 [illegible]

1380/1

FOREST, No. 59.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th July 1876, No. 1,715A.

Read the following papers :—

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 12th May 1876, No. 669.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th March 1876, No. 677, together with the replies (herewith returned) of the several Collectors in charge of Forest Districts to Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd September 1874, No. 152-2,478, on the subject of the management of Forests and preparation of accounts which were transferred to me for disposal.

2. Regarding the area of the reserved forests, and the number or value of the timber or other valuable trees contained in them, I have to report that these particulars cannot, at present, be accurately ascertained until such time as the forest survey, which is now being carried out in several districts, is completed; in the meanwhile every effort should be made by Range Officers to obtain as much reliable information as possible on the points in question. Little, however, can be done with such forests as the Wynaad Teak tracts, Mudumallay, the Anamallays, &c., until they are marked out into blocks, such as recommended in my report on the Wynaad Teak forests, dated 1st April 1876, No. 456.

3. As regards the form of return for fuel reserves prescribed by the Board in paragraph 2 of their Proceedings noted above, I think that a similar form should be submitted by Range Officers for plantations, as thinnings are supplied as firewood to the Railway Company from the latter.

4. General instructions respecting planting operations having already been given in Circular, No. 34, dated 26th March 1874, no further remarks appear here requisite beyond drawing the particular attention of Divisional Officers to the information contained therein.

5. I quite agree with the Collector that the experimental plantations in Kurnool should be given up; the distance from any line of Railway is too great, and the natural forest too extensive, to render them in any way necessary, at least for the present.

6. With reference to the subject of periodical auction sales of timber, it will be observed that Collectors disagree, but the fact is that no general rules can be laid down on the subject, as entirely different conditions obtain in different divisions; in some, auctions must be chiefly looked to; in others, daily or weekly sales from depôt; in others again, almost all the timber is prepared for Government Departments; arrangements of this nature, therefore, must be left to the Deputy Conservator of the Division, who will, of course, act in communication with the Collector and the Conservator of Forests. !

7. With a view to obtaining better financial results in future, I would suggest the advisability of establishing an experimental Government Depôt at Madras, with a temporary establishment attached to it, which should contain a small consignment of all valuable timber both for housebuilding and for furniture, Lawki-

as well as the different kinds of minor forest produce. In the event of the scheme proving successful, it could be permanently maintained with a fixed establishment.

8. Regarding the valuation of timber, I am of opinion that the best plan is that laid down in Circular, No. 29, of the 6th July 1872, from this office and sanctioned by Government; but to the cost of felling and conveyance, *plus* the seigniorage value, a small percentage should be added, in the first instance, to cover Superintendence; this will vary in different years in the same district, as it will depend much upon the outturn of the year, but it should, I think, never exceed three annas the cubic foot. Government, in their Proceedings dated 29th April 1874, No. 503, paragraph 3, refer to the method proposed by the Collector of Malabar. I cannot agree with the Collector in his objections; he says that "*two logs side by side may appear in the accounts as of widely different values owing to the accident of one having been felled by a deep river and the other on a steep hill difficult of access.*" It has never been proposed to show the actual cost of each log with reference to the position of the tree it happened to be cut from, nor would such an intricate system be practicable or of any value; the cost of felling and transport is a general average on the whole outturn for the consignment in question or of the season's felling. Again, the Collector says, "*A more serious objection is, that, suppose timber is being worked at a loss, the stock account being fictitious and false conceals the fact as the timber is all along shown as worth what it has cost.*" This is the very reverse of what is really the case. When the timber is only valued in our accounts at its actual cost to the department, it cannot be a fictitious or false valuation, and instead of concealing the fact that it is being worked at a loss (if such is the case) our profit or loss on the transaction is seen at a glance. The Collector then goes on to propose that the valuation should be the *probable market value*. This was our old system prior to the method proposed by me in 1872, which led to the circular above alluded to, and was given up because it was proved to be fictitious and false, not enabling our officers to see the profit or loss on the sale of the timber, and, owing to the fluctuating condition of the markets, requiring a constant alteration of our stock accounts.

9. The forest operations noted in the margin being as important as felling departmentally, it is necessary that the cost of the fixed establishment should be distributed to each head, according to the relative magnitude of the work during each quarter.

1. Working under the License system.
2. Plantations.
3. Fuel Reserves.
4. Forest Surveys—Demarcation.
5. Works of utility for the development and improvement of Forests (only such as are done by the Department).

10. The method proposed by the Board for exhibiting the quantities of timber, &c., felled and sold in the accounts is generally approved by the Collectors.

11. The Collector of North Arcot reports that timber removed on license by the bandy-load cannot be shown in cubic feet, as it is difficult to find out the cubical contents of a bandy-load, which generally varies according to the size of the bullocks used, and the nature of the timber carted. He further states that Redwood posts must be shown in cubic feet and firewood and bamboos removed on license by the bandy load. The Collector of Coimbatore observes that bamboos are calculated by the bandy-load, which is equal to eight bullock-loads or eighteen head-loads. He points out that fuel cannot be measured by the ton, as there are no possibilities of weighing it. It is generally taken on an average that a full cart is 750 lbs., or about one-third of a ton. When fuel is stocked for sale 58 cubic feet are taken as a ton, the weight varying according as the fuel is dry or wet.

12. With reference to the difficulties noticed above, I beg to propose the following method:—

Description of Timber, &c.	If felled or sold by Departmental Agency.	If removed on License.
Teak, Ebony, Blackwood, Vengai, and all the more valuable timber of the division as may be settled by the Forest Officer in communication, if necessary, with the Collector and the Conservator.	In cubic feet.	
Junglewood.	In cubic feet or tons.	In (2 bullock) bandy-loads calculated at 1,000 lbs.
Saplings.	In numbers by classes.	
Sandalwood.	In maunds.	
Red Sanders Posts.	In cubic feet.	In bandy-loads.
Red Sanders Stumps and Roots.	In maunds.	Do.
Bamboos.	In numbers or bandy-loads.	Do.
Forest Produce or Fruits.	In maunds or lbs.	
Fuel.	In bandy-loads or tons (58 cubic feet when stocked).	In bandy-loads or tons.

13. As it is common in certain Rangers to remove firewood, bamboos, &c., by head* or donkey† load, &c., Forest Officers should be requested to take the bandy-load consisting of 40 maunds, or 1,000 lbs., as the standard measure for exhibiting all such articles in the statements accompanying the Annual Administration Report of their respective ranges.

14. Respecting the remark made by the Collector of South Canara, I think Forest Officers should be allowed to use their discretion in separating valuable timber from being classed under junglewood.

15. Touching paragraph 11, regarding the extension of conservancy to the western side of the chain of mountains running from Tripatty to Cuddapah, the Collector appears doubtful whether it will be remunerative, but recommends that the operations of the Forest Department be extended to that side; there are large tracts of Red Sanders on the western or Royachoty side of these mountains which should certainly be conserved by Government, even if they cannot be worked to a profit just at present; and the Collector, on a former occasion, fully agreed in this, and I trust that no time will be lost in placing them under this department.

16. The question of obtaining the lease of the Kalastri Zemindari has been disposed of in the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st August 1874, No. 147-2,448.

17. As stated by the Collector, the reduction in the rates of seigniorage is not advisable in Kurnool as they are already low.

18. The departmental disputes pointed out by Mr. Wooldridge will be settled as soon as the demarcation of the boundaries of the North Arcot, South Arcot, and Salem Forests is completed agreeably to G.O., dated 14th April 1875, No. 592.

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* Containing 50 lbs. or 2 maunds.
† Do. 200 ,, or 8 ,,

19. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Board's Proceedings, the Collector reports that he thinks it very desirable that the firewood plantations should be extended to meet the wants of the railway and the public; this department will be ready to plant all the pudugay land that can be handed over, and I believe that there are thousands of acres that might be most profitably planted with Casuarina, Babul, and Sissoo; but, on the other hand, there are constant objections about grazing rights, river encroachments, and other matters which must be first settled by the Revenue Department and the Department of Public Works.

20. The Collector of Coimbatore states that he will work the Bolumpatty Forests departmentally, by which I suppose he means departmental felling as opposed to voucher and license. I think the matter of management may be left to the Forest Officer, who will, of course, consult the Collector and Conservator.

21. The subject of timber supply to the Department of Public Works in Ganjam has been separately disposed of in the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th May 1875, No. 1,267. The Collector of South Canara reports that arrangements have been made for supplying the Department of Public Works with seasoned timber at the coast depôt. He thinks that six market depôts, *viz.*, at Mangalore, Kalianpore, Kunapur, Upperangudy, Hospett, and Jalsoor are sufficient. I think that Government must insist on the Department of Public Works getting their supply of timber as far as practicable from the Forest Department in all districts, even if the rates are somewhat in excess of those ruling in private forests (worked without Conservancy establishments); in fact Government will often find that conservancy will not pay otherwise.

From the same Officer, dated Ootacamund, 31st May 1876, No. 739.

WITH reference to the Board's Official Memorandum, No. 41, dated 13th January last, and to their Proceedings, F. Miscellaneous No. 44-1,987, dated 6th March 1876, I have the honor to forward a letter from the Deputy Conservator of the Cuddapah Division on the subject of extending conservancy of the western slopes of the Palkonda hills. I have strongly advocated this in former years, and the Board will note that I have lately recommended it in paragraph 15 of my letter, No. 669, of the 12th instant. The Collector also in his docket on the Deputy Conservator's letter strongly recommends it, stating that there is much valuable timber now uncared for, and that the revenue under Jungle Conservancy by no means represents what it ought to be.

2. Mr. Yarde proposes an establishment amounting to Rupees 226 per mensem, which I approve of as a beginning; against this proposed annual expenditure of Rupees 2,712, the receipts may be calculated at Rupees 4,500, the actuals for last year under Jungle Conservancy being Rupees 1,451, and our experience from other tracts transferred from Jungle Conservancy to this department in this district and North Arcot proving that the revenue is trebled by only checking smuggling. Our chief care at first, however, must be conservancy and the care of the Red Sanders which abounds, so that this estimate may possibly be over sanguine for the commencement.

1380/9

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. H. YARDE, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Cuddapah Forests, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, dated Codoor, 11th May 1876, No. 62.—Through the Collector of Cuddapah.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter, No. 344, dated 14th March 1876, and its accompaniments (herewith returned as therein requested) with reference to taking charge of the western slopes of the Palkonda and Cuddapah Hills. I beg therefore to report that it was the intention of Mr. Horsley to transfer to the special department for conservancy purposes those slopes in question attached to the Voilpaud and Royachoty Taluqs, besides the opposite slopes of the Goovalcheroovoo Hills in the Cuddapah Taluq, together with the table-land on and along these ranges.

2. The objection to the handing over to us of the slopes does not now seem to exist, which was the reason for its not being made a portion of the Imperial forests under our control since 1869, fully recorded in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 6,443, dated 27th August 1869, and my letter of objection to you, No. 250, dated 18th September 1869, in connection therewith.

3. On assuming charge of these tracts, I do not propose shutting up these forests completely by the formation of reserves and thus entirely excluding the grazing, &c., privileges of the agricultural and other population surrounding these hills, but hope with increased and judicious conservancy to recover the past ravages committed by reckless felling hitherto almost unnoticed from want of establishment, and with no advantage to the public exchequer; though I purpose enhancing my forest revenue with this additional charge to my division, yet I am confident of being able to do so without in any way impoverishing these forests, and towards this end would suggest that this portion of my district be styled the western range, while the distribution and cost involving will be as follows:—

Three taluqs, Voilpaud, Royachoty, and Cuddapah—Head-quarters, Sonepoy.

		RS.
1 Forest Ranger, 3rd Class … … … … … … … …		75
1 Gumastah … … … … … … … … … … …		15
1 Peon … … … … … … … … … … … …		6
2 Foresters, at Rs. 30 and 20 … … … … … … …		50
Voilpaud.		
1 Forest Guard … … … … … … … … …	8	
2 Do. at Rs. 7 each… … … … … … …	14	
	—	22
Royachoty.		
1 Forest Guard … … … … … … … … …	8	
2 Do. at Rs. 7 each … … … … … …	14	
	—	22
Cuddapah.		
1 Forest Guard … … … … … … … … …	8	
4 Do. at Rs. 7 each … … … … … …	28	
	—	36
	Total …	226 × 2712

The Rupees-30 Forester will have charge of the Royachoty and Cuddapah side of the same range, while the Rupees-20 Forester will look after the Voilpaud Taluq.

The collection under Jungle Conservancy for the official year 1875-76 has been as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Cuddapah Taluq … … … … … … … … …	1,120	5	5
Royachoty „ … … … … … … … … …	19	0	0
Voilpaud… … … … … … … … … …	312	4	6
Total …	1,451	9	11

Though the above sum appears inadequate to cover the expenses attendant on the entertainment of the foregoing establishment, as I have already said, I am sanguine of realizing more than enough to do so, conservancy improved, and in no way circumscribe the privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants of these taluqs.

No. 116.

Forwarded to Conservator (with enclosures).

2. The undersigned is of opinion that the conservancy of these western slopes is highly desirable. There is a quantity of valuable timber which is now uncared for. Whether the establishment now proposed will be sufficient is open to doubt, as the extent of country covered by this forest must be nearly forty miles in length. The revenue hitherto received by no means represents the amount which ought to have been received.

Cuddapah,
13th May 1876.

(Signed) M. RAMASAWMY, Deputy Collector,
for Acting Collector.

The reports received from Collectors in charge of Forests on the several points noticed by the Board and Government in their reviews* of the Forest Administration Report for 1872-73 were transferred to the Conservator of Forests for disposal. The letters read above are in reply, and the subjects will be dealt with in order.

* Board's Procs, 2nd Sep. 1874, No. 2,478.
G.O., 29th April 1874, No. 503, R. D.
Board's Proceedings, 10th Mar. 1876, No. 677.

2. *Endeavors to be made to collect as much information as possible regarding the Area, &c., of Reserved Forests.*—The Collectors and the Conservator think that particulars regarding area, &c., cannot be accurately ascertained until the Forest Survey, which is now being carried out in several districts, is completed. Meanwhile endeavors should be made to collect as much information as possible.

3. *Fuel supply to the Railway should be separately noted.*—The Conservator suggests that, in addition to this information being shown in the statement of fuel reserves, it should also be shown in the statement of plantations, as thinnings from the latter are supplied to the Railway Company. The Board approve of the suggestion, and the Conservator will arrange for the information being exhibited in the plantation statement accordingly.

4. *Whether Plantations in Kurnool cannot be abandoned.*—The plantations have been since abandoned—*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 10th March 1875, No. 568.

5. *Periodical Auctions of Timber.*—The Board agree with the Conservator that no general rule can be laid down on the subject. Auctions are of no use unless they are outright, and such auctions may, in some places, entail loss to Government. The question of the best mode of disposal of forest produce should be left to the discretion of the officers responsible for the profitable working of the forests. The Board concur with the Conservator in the opinion that the establishment of a depôt at Madras for the sale of Government timber as an experiment is worth a trial. It will enable Forest Officers to judge whether they are working at a profit, and show whether Government timber is really cheaper or dearer than that which is procurable in the open market, on which point there is at present much uncertainty and doubt. The Board recommend that sanction be accorded for the entertainment of a small temporary establishment as requested.

1380/60

6. *Method of exhibiting quantities of Timber, &c., in the Accounts.*—The Conservator proposes different denominations for forest produce sold by Departmental Agency and that removed on license. The Board think it desirable that both should be shown in the accounts under the same denomination. It is true that timber removed by license cannot be weighed or measured, but there cannot be much difficulty in estimating the weight or measurement. With this exception, the Board have no objection to the Conservator's proposals.

G.O., dated 22nd June 1872, No. 962.

7. *Valuation of Timber.*—The ruling at present is, that actual cost, *plus* the seigniorage value of timber standing in the forest, should be taken as the value. Exception is taken to this by the Collector of Malabar, who considers that timber which has reached the depôt ought to be valued at the probable selling price. The Conservator is in favor of the existing rule, subject to the modification that to the actual cost a small percentage not exceeding three annas the cubic foot should be added to represent the cost of supervision, and points out that the system proposed by Mr. Macgregor was in force prior to the adoption of the present method, and was deliberately abandoned on good grounds. The Board agree with the Conservator in thinking that the actual cost, including a percentage for supervision *plus* the seigniorage, should be entered as the value of stock on hand. Of course, the cost of supervision should be distributed under each of the heads noted by the Conservator in paragraph 9 of his letter in proportion to the extent of the operations in each branch; the apportionment must be left to the Conservator, as it is difficult to lay down a rule applicable to all cases.

8. *Necessity for Conserving the western side of the chain of Mountains running from Tripatty to Cuddapah.*—Mr. Horsley, the Collector of Cuddapah, in which district the above tract is situated, considered that the conservancy could not be undertaken without an increase of establishment, and that it was doubtful whether such a measure would prove remunerative. He thought that the demand for timber on the western side of the hills being slight, no protective measure was called for, and that the natural growth would keep up the supply. He, however, recommended that the operations of the Forest Department be extended to that side also as an experiment which could be given up should experience demonstrate its inutility. The Conservator thinks that the forest should be conserved, even if it cannot be worked at a profit at present. He accordingly recommends, at the suggestion of the present Acting Collector, the entertainment of an establishment costing Rupees 226 per mensem, or 2,712 Rupees per annum. The receipts *per contra* are estimated at Rupees 4,500, while the amount actually realized in 1875-76 under the Jungle Conservancy Rules was only Rupees 1,451. The Board recommend that the establishment proposed be sanctioned experimentally for two years. It is hoped that the cost during the current year can be met from savings in the budget grant.

9. *Boundary disputes of Shrotriem Villages in Cuddapah.*—Some of the disputes are reported to have been satisfactorily disposed of. The Collector does not say what was the nature of the settlement, or how many claims remain for disposal. He should report on the point.

10. *Whether the Forests of Kalastri Zemindar in Kurnool cannot be obtained on lease.*—The forests have been already sublet up to the end of Fasli 1287 by the

Contractor who leased them from the Zemindar ; nothing can therefore be done at present—Board's Proceedings, dated 31st August 1874, No. 2,448.

11. *Reduction of Seigniorage on Timber in Kurnool.*—The Collector and the Conservator consider that no reduction in the rates of seigniorage is called for. A statement of the existing rates compared with those in force in the neighbouring districts should have been forwarded.

12. *Explanation of the South Arcot Forest Officer's statement that fear of Departmental disputes has prevented profitable felling of Sandalwood.*—It is explained that one and the same tract is claimed by the Forest Officers of Salem and South Arcot as belonging to their respective ranges, and that the matter will be disposed of as soon as the demarcation of the boundaries of the districts of North and South Arcot and Salem is completed with reference to G.O., dated 14th April 1875, No. 592. The Board presume that the tract in question is being worked to the best advantage by the Salem Forest Officer pending settlement of the boundary, and that no loss is being incurred through a dispute which the Conservator is competent to settle at once. So long as the tract is conserved and worked to the best advantage for Government, it is immaterial whether it is included in the Salem or South Arcot range.

13. *Necessity of extending Plantations in Trichinopoly.*—The subject has been disposed of in G.O., dated 25th March 1875, No. 839, Public Works Department, communicated to the Collector of Trichinoply with Board's Proceedings, dated 10th April 1875, No. 2,811. The District Engineer has been called upon to exhibit on a map the pudugay lands required for river conservancy and those which may be safely devoted to cultivation or plantation, respectively.

14. *Extensions of Plantations in Pulny.*—The Collector thinks that the plantation should be extended, but the Conservator offers no opinion on the point. The latter will dispose of the matter.

15. *Division of pay of Overseers between Imperial and Local Funds in Tinnevelly.*—It is reported that the Overseer, whose services the Collector proposed to utilize for Jungle Conservancy, has been removed from the district and that the division of the salary is not required.

16. *Whether it is desirable to work the Bolumpatty Forests on the License and Voucher system.*—The Collector says that he has arranged to work the forests departmentally, and the Conservator thinks that the question of management may be left to the local authorities. The Board concur.

17. *Map and report on Nelambur Plantations called for by Government from Malabar.*—The map and report have not yet been received. The Collector should state what progress has been made in compiling the account.

18. *Results of the Bamboo Depôts in Salem.*—No special report appears to have been received from the Collector, but in the Administration Report for 1874-75, the Forest Officer states that the Bamboo Depôts were closed for a time owing to the combination of Town traders to undersell Government, but that the combination having been broken up subsequently, they were re-opened. The subject should be more fully noticed in the Administration Report for 1875-76.

19. *Supply of Timber to Public Works Department in Ganjam and South Canara.*—The subject of supply in Ganjam has been disposed of in Board's Proceedings*, dated 13th May 1875, No. 1,267. In South Canara, arrangements have been made for supplying timber to the Public Works Department and for the provision of suitable sites for depôts. The Conservator, with reference to this subject, gives it as his opinion that the Government should insist on the Public Works Department getting their supply from Government Forests as far as practicable, even if the rates charged are somewhat in excess of those ruling in private forests, and that otherwise conservancy will not pay. The Board have already in their Proceedings of the 13th May 1876, No. 1,254, stated that they do not approve the proposal that the Public Works Department should be precluded from purchasing timber in the open market. The reason why the Forest Department cannot supply timber at the low rates frequently prevailing in the market, is that private forests are being sacrificed for a temporary gain. This cannot last, and eventually the Forest Department will have to meet the demand and will realize their price; meanwhile the Government Forests are saved. The fact that the Forest Department cannot compete with the timber merchant on equal terms is no reason why the cost of Public Works should be unnecessarily enhanced to enable the Forest Department to show a profit, gained at the expense of the Public Works Department. The preference should undoubtedly be given to the Forest Department when they are prepared to supply timber of the same quality and at the same price as that to be procured in the open market. If the Forest Department cannot compete, however, departmental felling must be restricted for the present, and if conservancy entails a temporary loss, it must be borne by the Forest Department, the main object being the preservation of an adequate supply rather than the realization of a profit.

20. These Proceedin[illegible] submitted for the information and orders of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with seventeen original reports from Collectors and
their enclosures, to be returned.
,, the Conservator of Forests.

Copy to all Collectors of Forest Districts.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

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* G.O., dated 31st May 1875, No. 851.

Revenue Dept. No. 2319

1876.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH JULY 1876, No. 1,715A.

Dept 7 Augt/76

Encl.

Received 14 Aug 1876

Sdl. 1380 of September 18

JULY.

Forest No. 59.

Forest Administration Report—for 1872-73.—Submitting to Government opinion of Board and Conservator of Forests on several points noticed in review of—, and recommending entertainment of temporary establishments for proposed Timber Depôt at Madras and for conserving western side of mountains running from Tripatty to Cuddapah.

No. 35

Sent to the Bd. 13 Sept Recd.

24 Aug/76 R 31 Aug

Rev Dept.

1380/12

Memo for Orders

Proceedings Bd. of Revenue 5 July 1876 No. 1715 A

With the above Proceedings, the Board submit letters from the Conservator of Forests and certain Collectors, called for in connection with their instructions on the orders of Govt. reviewing the annual Report of the Forest Dept. for 1872.73. The Board have dealt with the points raised in their

Proceedings in order. This arrangement has been followed in the following remarks

2. The area, and other particulars, regarding Reserved Forests.

This information was called two years and a half ago by the Board, who remarked that, it was "no doubt extremely difficult to make an accurate estimate in forest where trees are generally unequally distributed, but the Board hope that Collectors will endeavour to collect as much of this important information as may be possible." Nothing however seems so far to have been done. The Conservator observes that particulars cannot be

be accurately ascertained until the Forest Survey is complete, and in the heaviest forests, such as the Wynaad, Anamallay, and the Indumallay, until they are marked out into blocks, as recommended in his letter of 1st April 1876 (G.O. 26: June 1876 N. 857)

It is however submitted that, though no very accurate information may be procurable until these arrangements have been completed, yet Forest Officers conversant with the tracts under their charge ought to be able, in most cases, to supply statistics and other information which would be of great service to Govt, though allowably imperfect.

The

x

The 3d [illegible] of [illegible] Act then [illegible] may well be deferred until the Forest Act has been passed, when such [illegible] may be [illegible] in a legal & systematic manner [illegible]

I hold that such inaccurate records — where no proper or official investigation has taken place are apt to prove mischievous — especially where local & mere prescriptive rights are concerned — and we need not ask for them — The Forest Law will dispose of this matter in a legal & systematic manner.

I agree there is no hurry. RL

The preparation of such preliminary report would be of great service when the completion of the Surveys and blocking, will admit of accurate and complete information being given.

It will also necessitate a careful inquiry into the history of these ranges, (Natural & revenue) HP by Forest Officers, which will be an unmixed benefit to the Officers concerned. The Conservator, who seems to approve of such a course, may be instructed to require his subordinates to make a beginning, and to report progress at close of the official year.

3. The Conservator's suggestion regarding the Plantation

Plantation statement may be approved [1380]

V

[illegible] means any [illegible] [illegible] be useless until [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] principles HM

Yes.

~~The Govt. should require a careful statem. of this grave position~~

Say The attention of Gov. has been attracted to the Pro of 10 March which sanctions the abandonment after an expenditure of Rs 5700 of planting operations which were evidently injudicious from the first — these ill judged ~~[illegible]~~ operations are discreditable to all concerned & with a view to avoid failures the Gov. direct

I do not [illegible] any one the Govt are responsible & we may leave above to ourselves & to others — HM

Shall in no case

The Conservator however should open a column after area for number of trees.

4. It is observed that the Kurnool Plantations have been abandoned under the orders of the Board, & the large expenditure in such plantations, in so many cases to a great extent unproductive, has attracted the attention of Govt. It is admitted that, in no case, should experimental plantations be begun without the express orders of Govt., and that sanction

should not be accorded unless the scheme is accompanied by a careful estimate, in detail, of the cost and probable yield, and a full statement of the conditions, natural or artificial, which may militate for or against the success of the venture.

5. It is submitted that the Board and Conservator are right in their remarks about auction sales but the Govt. do not approve of "daily & weekly sales from depôt" & traffic in "timber for house building" & "furniture" & "different kinds of minor forest produce" as suggested by the Conservator — the Govt. do not desire to enter on a quasi-retail trade —

I wd. not say this – there was no proposal for retail trade but to afford information regarding Timber in a profitable market – but I wd. disallow [illegible]

Wd. entered upon the proposal

As to the establishment of a Madras Depôt, the Conservator should submit a detailed scheme, showing cost of establishment, proposed site, character of timber he proposes to sell, from what forests; whether market rates prevailing show fair chance of profit.

Competition would be so strong in Madras, that it is doubtful whether the experiment would succeed, and the Forest Budget is not so satisfactory as to warrant expenditure unless success is reasonably certain.

The percentage for supervision should be shown separately.

6. The Board's view, regarding method of exhibiting quantities of timber, seems correct. In the case of red Sanders posts, only, does there appear to be a difficulty. In this case it might be shown in cubic feet or quantity.

7. In the matter

of valuation of timber, the Conservator's and Board's method appears correct as far as it goes, but it does not get over the difficulty that timber may not be worth what it has cost the Department, and in such cases, stock valuation would manifestly be more or less fictitious. The only way to meet this difficulty seems to be a biennial or quinquennial re-valuation of stock, when its probable worth in the market should be taken into account, and a deduction, equivalent to the difference, between the forest valuation & the probable market value. debited in the accounts.

Stock valuation sh'd be annual or at furthest biennial — or losses are lost sight of & the responsible parties are not longer traceable —

8 The conservancy

of the western side of the chain of hills running from Tripatty to Cuddapah, it is submitted, may be experimentally for two years approved, provided no extra cost is incurred during the current year, the Conservator can provide for the necessary establishment in his budget for 1877-78, the continuance of the establishments after the lapse of two years to be dependent on the yield of the forests concerned.

& and that communal rights are carefully observed. The Govt. observe that Mr Yardie writes of not "completely" shutting up the forest or "entirely excluding para 23". The Govt. desire that no infringement of popular rights be permitted.

We have not yet settled what communal rights are. I would say — without interference in the ~~customary~~ practice of allowing villagers to ~~their~~ graze & obtaining wood for their own use, not for sale —

that will be duly reported at the expiration of that period.

9. The Govt. await the report, from the Collector, called for regarding the boundary disputes of Christian villages

in Cuddapah

10. The Govt. note the Board's remarks regarding the Kalastri Zemindar's forests. With regard to the seigniorage on timber in Kurnool, they await the receipt of a statement from the Conservator showing the Kurnool rates compared with those prevailing in the neighbouring Districts.

11. The Conservator's attention may be called to the Board's remarks regarding the South Arcot boundary dispute. The Conservator may be instructed to issue definite orders in the matter, which will put an end to a departmental dispute which Mr. Wooldridge speaks of as a "question affecting the forest Revenue of this Range materially". The conservancy, he states, has been steadily and carefully carried out by the South Arcot establishment.

The subject of the Plantations in Paranjai lands in the Trichinopoly District has been recently before Govt. They await the reports called for in their order 15th Aug/76 No. 1100.

12. The Conservator may perhaps be asked to report on ~~the~~ the propriety of proceeding with the Teak Plantations experiment in the Palni Hills. He has omitted to notice Mr. Dubois's remarks.

Govt. not support expenditure this year – silence means probably unable to recommend

13. The Conservator is now directly responsible

for the management of the Bolumpatty Forests – He should use his discretion as to the best mode of working them

14. As the Nelambur Forest has now passed into the hands of the Conservator, it is submitted that this Officer, and not the Collector, should submit the report called for in G.O. 29th April 1874 No. 503. para 17, though as this Forest had the special care of the Collector when under his charge, his notes on the Conservator's report would be valuable

Yes.

The Govt. desire a full & early report on the contention ~~between the~~ in the Bamboo market at Salem between the local traders & Govt. Officers –

15. The remarks of the Board seem to be quite in accord with the views of Govt. who have recently, in their Pro: 6th July 1876 No. 1721 D.P.W., pointed out the course to be followed by Officers of the D.P.W. in regard to the purchase of timber.

Yes

W.
Dn-24/7/76

Memo for orders

Points noticed in review of Forest Admn: Report 1872-73

3019

Circ.

Sent to His Grace 13: Sep. R 22nd Sep.
C. 24: Aug/76. R 31: Aug

Forest 21

1380/19

Revenue Dept.

No 1380

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 29 Sep: 1876
Read Pro: Board of
Revenue 5: July 1876 No 1715A

With the above Proceedings, the Board submit letters from the Conservator of Forests and certain Collectors, called for in connection with their instructions on the orders of Govt: reviewing the Annual Report of the Forest Dept. for 1872-73.

2. The information regarding area &c of Reserved Forests, was called for two years and a half ago by the Board

who remarked that it was "no doubt extremely difficult to make an accurate estimate in forests where trees are generally unequally distributed, but the Board hope that Collectors will endeavour to collect as much of this important information as may be possible."

Nothing however seems so far to have been done.

The Conservator states that particulars cannot be accurately ascertained until the Forest Survey is complete, and in the heaviest forests, such as the Wynaad, Anamallay, and the Nundimallay,

until they are marked into blocks, as recommended in his letter of 1st April 1896 (G.O. 26: June 1896 N. 857)

The Govt. are of opinion ~~that~~ these investigations may well be deferred until a Forest Act has been passed, when such inquiries may be conducted in a legal and systematic manner.

3. The Conservator's suggestion regarding the Plantation statements, referred to in para 3 of the Board's Proceedings, is approved. The Conservator, however, should open a column, after area, for the number of trees

It-

4. It is observed that the Kurnool Plantations have been abandoned under the orders of the Board. The large expenditure on such plantations, in so many cases to a great extent un-productive, has attracted the attention of Government. They resolve to direct that experimental plantations shall, in no case, be begun without the express orders of Govt., and that sanction shall not be accorded unless the scheme is accompanied by a careful estimate, in detail, of the cost and probable yield, and a full statement of the conditions, natural or

artificial, which may militate for or against the success of the venture.

5. The Govt. approve the Board's and Conservator's remarks regarding auction sales, but they decline to sanction the Conservator's proposal for the establishment of a timber depôt at Madras.

6. The Govt. concur in the Board's view regarding the method of exhibiting quantities of timber, but the percentage for supervision should be shown separately. In the case of red sanders posts only does there appear to be

a

a difficulty. This wood will be shown in cubic feet or weight.

7 In the matter of valuation of timber, the Conservator's and Board's method appears correct so far as it goes, but it does not get over the difficulty that timber may not be worth what it has cost the Department, and, in such cases, stock valuation would manifestly be more or less fictitious. The only way to meet this difficulty seems to be an annual, or at the furthest, a biennial re-valuation of stock, when its probable

worth

worth in the market should be taken into account, and a deduction, equivalent to the difference between the first valuation and the probable market value, debited in the accounts. Unless such frequent valuations are made, losses are lost sight of and the responsible parties are no longer traceable.

8 The conservancy of the western side of the chain of hills running from Tripatty to Cuddapah is approved experimentally for two years — without interference with the practice of allowing villagers to graze and obtaining wood for their own use not for sale — provid

no extra cost is incurred during the current year. The Conservator can provide for the necessary establishment in his Budget for 1877-78; the continuance of the establishment after the lapse of two years will depend on the yield of the forests concerned, which will be duly reported at the expiration of that period

9. The Govt. await the report, from the Collector, called for, regarding the boundary disputes of Shrotriem villages in Cuddapah.

10. The Govt. note the Board's remarks regarding the Kalastri Zemindar's forests. With regard to the seignorage on timber in Kurnool, they

they await the receipt of a statement from the Conservator showing the Kurnool rates compared with those prevailing in the neighbouring Districts

11. The Conservator's attention is called to the Board's remarks regarding the South Arcot boundary dispute, and he is instructed to issue definite orders in the matter, ~~which~~ and thus will put an end to a departmental dispute which Mr Woodrow speaks of as a "question affecting the forest revenue of this Range materially."

The Conservancy, he states, has been steadily and carefully carried out by the South Arcot Establishment.

12. The subject of the Plantations in Padugai lands in the Trichinopoly District has been recently before Govt. They await the report called for in their order 14th Augt 1876 No. 1100.

13. The Conservator is now directly responsible for the management of the Bolumpatty Forests. He should use his discretion as to the best mode of working them.

14. As the Nilambur Forest has now passed into the hands of the Conservator, the Govt. direct that this Officer, and not the Collector, submit the report called for in G.O. 24th April 1876 No. 503 para 17, though as this Forest had the special care of the Collector when under his charge, his notes on the Conservator's report will be valuable.

The Govt. desire a full and early report on the contention in the Bamboo market at Salem, between the local traders and Govt. Officers.

15. The remarks of the Board in para 19 are quite in accord with the views of Govt. who have recently, in their Pro: 6th July 1876 No. 1721 D.P.W., pointed out the course to be followed by Officers of the D.P.W. in regard to the purchase of timber.

1/ To the Board of Revenue
2/ " the Conservator of Forests
2/ " the P.W. Dept.

[illegible]

Books noted in review of
Forest Admin Report 1877

[illegible]