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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

RECORDS DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1709  
B.P. No.

Press  
Mis.

Dated

17-11-1966

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1703

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
17th November 1876.*

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Read the following :-

5. 301. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd July 1876, No. 1,703-A,  
Forest No. 57-A.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 6th June 1876, No. 252.

I WAS considerably surprised on receiving the Proceedings of the Board, dated 23rd ultimo, Forest No. 49-1,352, to find that Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome, Conservator of Forests, should have thought proper to address Government direct and advocate the transfer of the whole of the forests of the Chendragherri and Gudiatham Taluqs from Local to Imperial Conservancy without any reference to the Board, and without consulting me in the matter in any way.

2. In his letter to Government, Colonel Beddome states that Captain Walker and I were agreed as to the transfer of these jungles. Far from agreeing or consenting to such a step, I was always of opinion that the transfer was undesirable, inasmuch as it would deprive the Revenue Department of the most important source of income to which the several plantations in the district looked for their maintenance.

3. So far back as the 18th November 1874, the Treasury Deputy Collector submitting the Budget Estimate of the Jungle Conservancy Fund for 1875-76 brought to my notice that the present reduced rates of seigniorage on fuel, &c., which forms the chief item of Jungle Conservancy Fund Revenues, had very much depleted the resources of that fund, as would be seen from the fact that the total annual net receipts, exclusive of the balance which varies yearly, amounted to rupees 10,000, whilst Rupees 11,350 was the least amount that was required for expenditure according to the scale of establishments then in existence, without any allotment for "New Works" and with Rupees 1,987 less under "Repairs" than in the previous year 1874-75. The Deputy Collector further observed that in adverting to the general rule that the expenditure in any official year should not exceed the assets of that year, he very much doubted the power of the Jungle Conservancy Fund to bear the charge that might be thrown on it in the course of the year 1876-77 and thereafter, unless the annual expenditure on the present scale was reduced with reference to the actual receipts.

4. Such being the gloomy picture drawn when the proceeds of the jungles in the Chendragherri and Gudiatham Taluqs were credited to the Jungle Conservancy Fund, and, I fail to see how, or from what source, the several plantations and village topes in the district are to be maintained, improved, and extended, when those jungles have been transferred to Imperial Conservancy, as the revenue from the Palmanair and Chittoor Jungles, which Colonel Beddome considers will be ample for local conservancy purposes, is, even in a year in which it has reached its maximum, found to be scarcely sufficient for the simple upkeep of the existing topes.

and plantations, letting alone the creation of new ones. The average revenue derived

|            | Chittoor.   |    |    | Palmanair. |    |    |
|------------|-------------|----|----|------------|----|----|
|            | RS.         | A. | P. | RS.        | A. | P. |
| 1871-72... | 377         | 5  | 6  | 2,564      | 12 | 9  |
| 1872-73... | 235         | 4  | 9  | 2,665      | 8  | 0  |
| 1873-74... | 368         | 4  | 6  | 2,169      | 5  | 0  |
| 1874-75... | 283         | 6  | 3  | 2,762      | 3  | 2  |
| 1875-76... | 1,173       | 13 | 9  | 10,133     | 11 | 5  |
| 5)         | 2,438       | 2  | 9  | 21,895     | 8  | 4  |
|            | 487         | 10 | 2  | 4,379      | 1  | 8  |
|            | 4,866 11 10 |    |    |            |    |    |

from the jungles of these two taluqs during the last five years is, as shown in the following table—

5. The large increase of revenue yielded by the jungles during the past year is mainly ascribable to the fact that the season of 1874-75 was most favorable to agricultural enterprise, and that, owing to this circumstance, sugar-cane was very extensively planted in

the district, and in consequence there was an unusually large demand for firewood, for the conversion of the juice of the cane into jaggery in the following year 1875-76 when the cane came to maturity. This last-mentioned year was marked by an extremely bad season; there was an enormous decrease in cultivation, and I am well aware that we shall not this year be by any means so fortunate as we were in the last as regards the jungle revenues of the district.

6. I must acknowledge that the increase of revenue under this head is due, in a great measure, to the careful and vigilant management of the jungles by Mr. Sheffield, the Forest Officer of the district: but I am at the same time

Palmanair and Chittoor Taluqs will ever produce the amount of revenue required to meet the yearly increasing expenditure appertaining to the maintenance and formation of topes and plantations in the district; and now that the heads of villages have been specially authorized to grant licenses for wood required for agricultural, building, and fuel purposes, (*vide* Board's Proceedings, 19th February 1876, Forest No. 19-500,) we must expect a considerable falling off in the jungle revenues, a circumstance to which I particularly adverted in my letter to the Board of the 9th August last, No. 434.

7. When Captain Walker spoke to me on the subject of the transfer of the jungles of the Chendragherri and Gudiatham Taluqs to Imperial Conservancy, I expressed very great doubt whether the Jungle Conservancy Fund could spare the revenue, and I said that I could not consent to the transfer until I was assured that this would not be the case. I never agreed to the transfer as asserted by Colonel Biddome in his letter above quoted, and I am not a little surprised to find that he should have made his application for the transfer of these valuable jungles without previously communicating with me on the subject, and without having received from me any letter consenting to the new arrangement. The Board will observe that he bases this letter of his on a demi-official note of Mr. Sheffield written in January last, and of the writing of which I was entirely unaware; but since then in my letter to Mr. Sheffield, No. 249, dated 15th March last, I distinctly declined to agree to the proposed transfer, at any rate until the Forest Act has become law, and we can calculate with some degree of accuracy what its effect will be on the Jungle Conservancy Fund. I submit that, in a matter of so great an importance, it was Colonel Biddome's duty to have satisfied himself by direct reference to me that I was really prepared to accede to the

proposed transfer of the jungles, instead of adopting the somewhat unusual course of quoting in support of his argument a demi-official note from his subordinate. The Board of Revenue may perhaps think it singular that this demi-official correspondence should have been made use of at all, seeing that some weeks after it was written I had clearly shown in an official letter to Mr. Sheffield that he was in error in supposing I had ever agreed to the change.

8. Under these circumstances, I beg that the Board will be pleased to reconsider the opinion they have now expressed as regards the transfer of the Gudiatham and Chendragherri jungles, and to move Government at an early date to pass orders that these jungles shall remain under local conservancy as heretofore.

SUBMITTED for the Orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd May 1876, No. 1,352.

2. In the foregoing letter, the Collector of North Arcot states that he does not consent to the transfer of the Gudiatham and Chendragherri Jungles to the Forest Department; that he was always of opinion that the transfer was undesirable; and that the Jungle Conservancy Fund cannot afford to lose the revenue derived from those jungles.

3. The question of the transfer of the jungles in question has formed the subject of voluminous correspondence extending over the last eight years. The

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| G.O. | 20th Nov. | 1868, | No. 2,909. |
| "    | 25th Jan. | 1869, | " 212.     |
| "    | 12th Feb. | " "   | 361.       |
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| "    | 3rd May   | 1871, | " 769.     |
| "    | 12th Nov. | 1874, | " 1,440.   |
| "    | 2nd Dec.  | " "   | 1,485.     |
| "    | 15th Mar. | 1875, | " 423.     |

Discussion of this subject will be found in the marginally-noted papers, but up to this date the settlement of the matter has been postponed from time to time for various reasons. On the suggestion of Colonel Biddome in 1868 the transfer of the Gudiatham Jungles to the Forest Department was approved by the Board and Government, and the entertainment of the requisite establish-

ment was actually sanctioned. The transfer of the forest in the Chendragherri Taluq was then recommended by the Conservator. Thereupon Mr. J. D. Robinson, the then Collector, objected strongly to the proposed transfers of both jungles on the grounds that their retention by the Revenue Department was necessary both for the security of the communal rights of the villagers and for the solvency of the Jungle Conservancy Fund. The Board supported these views in their Proceedings, dated 19th May 1869, No. 3,467, but the question was ordered to lie over pending the consideration of the general question of the advisability of entrusting the duty of conservancy to Collectors of districts. Meanwhile, the Government of India had declined to sanction the entertainment of an establishment for the Gudiatham Forests pending explanation of the necessity for the

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|----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Board's Proceedings, | 7th Feb. 1873, | No. 171. |
| Do.                  | 23rd Apl.      | " 626.   |
| Do.                  | 2th Mar. 1874  | " 661.   |

outlay. In 1873, Mr. Whiteside again brought the matter to notice and advocated the transfer of the jungles in question, and on further information being called for suggested that the Gudiatham

Forest should be absolutely transferred to Imperial Conservancy, and that whilst the other jungles should be managed by the Forest Officers their proceeds should continue to be credited to Jungle Conservancy. In G.O., of the 15th March 1875, No. 423, it was decided that the revenue of the jungles placed under the management of the Forest Officers might be retained as local as proposed by the Board, provided no portion of the charges was debited to Imperial. The consideration of the permanent transfer of the Gudiatham Jungles was deferred to enable the Board to consult Captain Walker, but the matter was lost sight of until Government Board's Procs., dated 6th April 1876, No. 937. called for a report; whereupon the Board at first stated that they saw no necessity for any change, but subsequently, on the Conservator's representation that the Collector favored the transfer and that the improved condition of Jungle Conservancy Funds rendered the retention of the Gudiatham and Chendragherri Jungles by the Revenue Department unnecessary on financial grounds, the Board Board's Procs., dated 23rd May 1876, No. 1,352. stated that they had no objection to the proposal.

4. Such is briefly the history of the subject, and the Board consider that, looking to the fact that Mr. Whiteside has throughout advocated the management of the tracts in question by the Forest Department, Colonel Beddome was justified in assuming that the statement of the District Forest Officer was correct. Mr. Whiteside now urges the retention of the jungles by the Revenue Department solely on the ground that the Jungle Conservancy Fund derives its receipts from them, and it does not appear that he objects to the transfer on any other grounds. In his letter of the 26th February 1874, No. 107, he stated his belief that the jungles would be better conserved by the Professional Department and that communal rights would in no way be invaded. As these points are not alluded to on the present occasion, it is presumed that Mr. Whiteside has seen no reason to modify the views then expressed.

5. Whether retained under the Collector's management or transferred to the Forest Department, the management of the jungles will still devolve on the District Forest Officer, as the Government have declared that the District Forest Officers and Rangers are available for the supervision of Village Jungle Conservancy Establishments when required, without prejudice to their other duties—*vide* G.O., dated 11th January 1876, No. 39. The question resolves itself therefore into one, as to who should have the direction of management and to what head the receipts should be credited. In the case of the South Arcot fuel reserves and plantations, the Board decided that the purpose for which they were intended, *i.e.*, whether for the supply of the wants of the villagers or for the supply of the Railway, Department of Public Works, &c., should regulate their classification, the former being registered as belonging to Jungle Conservancy and the latter as belonging to the Forest Department, and that jungles intended for both local and other purposes should be maintained partly from Imperial and partly from Local Funds. On this principle the classification of the Gudiatham and Chendragherri Jungles depends on the extent to which they are utilized for Local and Imperial purposes, and the proportions in which the receipts are derived from wood supplied for those purposes respectively. The division of the cost and

receipts between Imperial and Local, however, has already been found inconvenient and is likely to lead to complications. From Captain Walker's letter Paragraph 4, Board's Proceedings, recorded in G.O., dated 21st December 1874, No. 1,604. recorded in G.O., dated 2nd December 1874, No. 1,485, it would appear that that officer was in favor of the permanent transfer of the Gudiatham Jungles to the Forest Department, but proposed to leave all the other jungles throughout the district under the management of the Collector with the assistance of the District Forest Officer, the receipts being credited to the Jungle Conservancy Fund; subsequently, however, he must have contemplated the transfer of the Chendragherri Jungles also to Imperial, as provision was made in the newly-sanctioned scale of establishments for both these tracts.

6. The Board are not in a position to say what will be the financial effect on the special fund referred to of the transfer of the Gudiatham or Chendragherri Jungles or both to the Forest Department, and information on this point seems necessary before a satisfactory decision can be arrived at. The Board would herefore suggest that the Collector and Conservator should be called upon to report in communication the extent to which the jungles in question are utilized for Imperial and Local purposes respectively, the receipts at present derived from them and which may be anticipated hereafter, and what arrangements they propose with a view to securing an adequate income for local purposes. It may be possible to meet the desired object by the transfer of a portion only of the tracts referred, the remainder being retained as local.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th July 1876, No. 1,720, Forest No. 60.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 14th June 1876, No. 794, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Gudiattum and Chendragherri Forests in North Arcot District.*—Approving the transfer of—from Local to Imperial, and directing to respect forest rights.

COMMUNICATED to the Collector of North Arcot.

2. The Collector having subsequently raised objections to the transfer, the decision of Government on the Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd July 1876, No. 1,720, submitting the matter for orders, will be awaited before the transfer is carried into effect.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 301A. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

I HAVE carefully examined these papers, and anxiously reconsidered the matter disposed of in G.O., dated 14th June 1876, No. 794.

2. The Collector of North Arcot now prefers his objections to the transfer of the woodlands in question to the Imperial Conservator, because the transfer would deprive him of money to spend on plantations and topes in the district and imperil their future up-keep. The Conservator considers that their departmental utilizations are desirable, because they are of importance for the supply of fuel to guaranteed railways and for the employment of a State establishment sanctioned in anticipation of the transfer. In short, he seeks to have the administration of these woodlands for State objects with, I fear, the usual obstruction to popular interests and purposes. The Collector wants the income.

3. The Board of Revenue seem to hold that what they call the "principle of classification" of the woodlands of the country should depend on whether they are wanted for State purposes or for the supply of the villagers.

4. I submit that the Collector pointed out in 1869 the correct principle of classification and the true objection to assumption and imperialisation of jungles within the recognised limits of villages. It is that they are not the unencumbered property of Government, and that communal rights and property, which are inherent in the ancient prescriptive titles and usages of the country, require to be recognised and secured, I may perhaps add, against State aggression. Until this is done in due course of law (yet to be enacted), I hold that no village forests can properly be transferred to the Imperial Forest Department, and practically assumed as State property, and their produce applied to State objects,—with perhaps a kind of left-handed and niggardly admission of greatly-restricted "privileges" in place of rights and property. The ascertainment and due settlement of popular rights has not occurred in respect to the woodlands referred to, and I would ratify the instructions of the Board of Revenue, under date 3rd July, and suspend the operation of G.O., 14th June 1876.

5. Without impugning the administration of the Forest Department or giving preference to the Collector's administration, as now too often managed, there can be no doubt that the words of Sir Thomas Munro in respect to Malabar and Canara in 1822 are not wholly out of date at this day throughout the country:—"The severity of the forest system increased every day, and no wonder, for it was so undefined" \* \* \* "in such a state of things it was quite natural that the system, from one of mere preservation become one of oppressive monopoly" \* \* \*. "It is inseparable from the very nature of such an establishment (Conservator) having interests and objects at variance with the prosperity of the people, that it should perpetually encroach." And recalling the freedom of the ryots of the West Coast and recognition of property and its advantages "under the native Princes and under our own Government before the appointment of a Conservator," he adds: "But what is the situation now? He cannot cut down or sell a bit of wood on his own property for the most ordinary purposes" \* \* \* though "he cannot himself cut down his own trees, the Conservator cuts them down at pleasure on both his hills and in his fields and gardens and makes him pay duty for his wood, and he not only levies duties but confiscates property" \* \* \* "Independent of what is due to justice, sound policy should lead us to be cautious in tampering with the feelings of the people, often turbulent, and who now submit reluctantly to our monopoly, and we should recollect that no paltry profit in timber can compensate for the loss of their good will. It is mockery to talk of the protection of private property under our Government when we maintain a Conservator's establishment whose chief business it is to invade every man's property, to harass him in his own fields, in his barn, in his house, and in his temple. The system is one founded in the direct violation of private property, and sets every man—the landholder, the mechanic and the merchant—against Government." It is true that the earnest statesman was reviewing a system of conservancy which had degenerated into confiscation and monopoly and in relation to a state of property peculiar—probably in character only as respects woodlands in village limits and communal property—but universal on the West Coast—but every word of that wisdom, every fact of the cruel history—

from 1807 to 1822 (and again more recently)—of conservancy in Malabar and Canara which led to its enunciation, warns the Government that the action of departments never need more jealous watching than when their motives are fair-seeming, when the sphere of their action is undefined and their powers subject to little effective check; and when the interests of the want are at the disposal of the strong and their rights dependent on good will and judgment, which are difficult to exercise under financial pressure.

Practically, perhaps, there is little to choose between a Foresting Collector of the present day who is in want of money for planting speculations and local projects and devices and an Imperial Forester in whose eyes popular rights and usages are nuisances to be abated in the interest of his craft. But in public esteem the continued care of the Collector may seem the less compulsory condition, while change attracts attention to the tightening of the pressure and on the whole the Collector and Board of Revenue are the more usual and perhaps safer custodians and guides.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

2nd September 1876.

No. 302. ORDER THEREON, 17th November 1876, No. 1,709.

Forests, No. 11.

THE Government approve the proposals made by the Board in paragraph 6 of their Proceedings, dated 3rd July.

The Collector and the Conservator will in communication, furnish through the Board, information on the points noted by the Board. The reports should be sub-

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

FOREST No. 57A.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd July 1876, No. 1,703A.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 6th June 1876, No. 252:—

I was considerably surprised on receiving the Proceedings of the Board, dated 23rd ultimo, Forest No. 49-1,352, to find that Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome, Conservator of Forests, should have thought proper to address Government direct and advocate the transfer of the whole of the forests of the Chendragherri and Gudlatham Taluqs from Local to Imperial Conservancy without any reference to the Board, and without consulting me in the matter in any way.

2. In his letter to Government, Colonel Beddome states that Captain Walker and I were agreed as to the transfer of these jungles. Far from agreeing or consenting to such a step, I was always of opinion that the transfer was undesirable, inasmuch as it would deprive the Revenue Department of the most important source of income to which the several plantations in the district looked for their maintenance and extension.

3. So far back as the 18th November 1874, the Treasury Deputy Collector in submitting the Budget Estimate of the Jungle Conservancy Fund for 1875-76 brought to my notice that the present reduced rates of seigniorage on fuel, &c., which forms the chief item of Jungle Conservancy Fund Revenues, had very much crippled the resources of that fund, as would be seen from the fact that the total annual net receipts, exclusive of the balance which varies yearly, amounted to Rupees 10,000, whilst Rupees 11,350 was the least amount that was required for expenditure according to the scale of establishments then in existence, without any allotment for "New Works" and with Rupees 1,987 loss under "Repairs" than in the previous year 1874-75. The Deputy Collector further observed that adverting to the general rule that the expenditure in any official year should not exceed the assets of that year, he very much doubted the power of the Jungle Conservancy Fund to bear the charge that might be thrown on it in the course of the year 1876-77 and thereafter, unless the annual expenditure on the present scale was reduced with reference to the actual receipts.

4. Such being the gloomy picture drawn when the proceeds of the jungles in the Chendragherri and Gudlatham Taluqs were credited to the Jungle Conservancy Fund, I fail to see how, or from what source, the several plantations and village topes in the district are to be maintained, improved, and extended, when these jungles have been transferred to Imperial Conservancy, as the revenue from the Palmanair and Chittoor Jungles, which Colonel Beddome considers will be ample for local conservancy purposes, is, even in a year in which it has reached its climax, found to be scarcely sufficient for the simple upkeep of the existing topes and plantations, let alone the creation of new ones. The average revenue derived

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from the jungles of these two taluqs during the last five years is, as shown in the margin, only Rupees 4,866-11-10.

5. The large increase of revenue yielded by the jungles during the past year is mainly ascribable to the fact that the season of 1874-75 was most favorable to agricultural enterprise, and that, owing to this circumstance, sugar cane was very extensively planted in

the district, and in consequence there was an unusually large demand for firewood, for the conversion of the juice of the cane into jaggery in the following year 1875-76 when the cane came to maturity. This last-mentioned year was marked by an extremely bad season; there was an enormous decrease in cultivation, and I am well aware that we shall not this year be by any means so fortunate as we were in the last as regards the jungle revenues of the district.

6. I must acknowledge that the increase of revenue under this head is due, in a great measure, to the careful and vigilant management of the jungles by Mr. Sheffield, the Forest Officer of the district; but I am at the same time decidedly of opinion that no amount of skilful working of the jungles of the Palmanair and Chittoor Taluqs will ever produce the amount of revenue required to meet the yearly increasing expenditure appertaining to the maintenance and formation of topes and plantations in the district; and now that the heads of villages have been specially authorized to grant licenses for wood required for agricultural, building, and fuel purposes, (see Board's Proceedings, 19th February 1876, Forest No. 19-500,) we must expect a considerable falling off in the jungle revenues, a circumstance to which I particularly adverted in my letter to the Board of the 9th August last, No. 434.

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of quoting in support of his argument a demi-official note from his subordinate. The Board of Revenue may perhaps think it singular that this demi-official correspondence should have been made use of at all, seeing that some weeks after it was written I had clearly shown in an official letter to Mr. Sheffield that he was in error in supposing I had ever agreed to the change.

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Forest should be absolutely transferred to Imperial Conservancy, and that whilst the other jungles should be managed by the Forest Officers their proceeds should continue to be credited to Jungle Conservancy. In G.O. of the 15th March 1875, No. 423, it was decided that the revenue of the jungles placed under the management of the Forest Officers might be retained as local as proposed by the Board, provided no portion of the charges was debited to Imperial. The consideration of the permanent transfer of the Gudiatham Jungles was deferred to enable the Board to consult Captain Walker, but the matter was lost sight of until Government Board's Proc., dated 6th April 1876, No. 931.

Board at first stated that they saw no necessity for any change, but subsequently, on the Conservator's representation that the Collector favored the transfer and that the improved condition of Jungle Conservancy Funds rendered the retention of the Gudiatham and Chendragherri Jungles by the Revenue Department unnecessary on financial grounds, the Board stated that they had no objection to the proposal.

4. Such is briefly the history of the subject, and the Board consider that, looking to the fact that Mr. Whiteside has throughout advocated the management of the tracts in question by the Forest Department, Colonel Biddome was justified in assuming that the statement of the District Forest Officer was correct. Mr. Whiteside now urges the retention of the jungles by the Revenue Department solely on the ground that the Jungle Conservancy Funds cannot afford to lose the receipts derived from them, and it does not appear that he objects to the transfer on any other grounds. In his letter of the 26th February 1874, No. 107, he stated his belief that the jungles would be better managed by the Forest Department and that communal rights would in no way be invaded. As these points are not alluded to on the present occasion, it is presumed that Mr. Whiteside has seen no reason to modify the views then expressed.

5. Whether retained under the Collector's management or transferred to the Forest Department, the management of the jungles will still devolve on the District Forest Officer, as the Government have declared that the District Forest Officers and Rangers are available for the supervision of Village Jungle Conservancy Establishments when required, without prejudice to their other duties—vide G.O., dated 11th January 1876, No. 39. The question resolves itself therefore into one, as to who should have the direction of management and to what head the receipts should be credited. In the case of the South Arcot fuel reserves and plantations, the Board decided that the purpose for which they were intended, i.e., whether for the supply of the wants of the villagers or for the supply of the Railway, Department of Public Works, &c., should regulate their classification, the former being registered as belonging to Jungle Conservancy and the latter as belonging to the Forest Department, and that jungles intended for both local and other purposes should be maintained partly from Imperial and partly from Local Funds. On this principle the classification of the Gudiatham and Chendragherri Jungles depends on the extent to which they are utilized for Local and Imperial purposes, and the proportions in which the receipts are derived from wood supplied for those purposes respectively. The division of the cost and

receipts between Imperial and Local, however, has already been found inconvenient and is likely to lead to complications. From Captain Walker's letter Paragraph 4, Board's Proceedings, recorded in G.O., dated 21st December 1874, No. 1,604, recorded in G.O., dated 2nd December

1874, No. 1,485, it would appear that that officer was in favor of the permanent transfer of the Gudiatham Jungles to the Forest Department, but proposed to leave all the other jungles throughout the district under the management of the Collector with the assistance of the District Forest Officer, the receipts being credited to the Jungle Conservancy Fund; subsequently, however, he must have contemplated the transfer of the Chendragherri Jungles also to Imperial, as provision was made in the newly-sanctioned scale of establishments for both these tracts.

6. The Board are not in a position to say what will be the financial effect on the special fund referred to of the transfer of the Gudiatham or Chendragherri Jungles or both to the Forest Department, and information on this point seems necessary before a satisfactory decision can be arrived at. The Board would therefore suggest that the Collector and Conservator should be called upon to report in communication the extent to which the jungles in question are utilized for Imperial and Local purposes respectively, the receipts at present derived from them and which may be anticipated hereafter, and what arrangements they propose with a view to securing an adequate income for local purposes. It may be possible to meet the desired object by the transfer of a portion only of the tracts referred, the remainder being retained as local.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.  
" to the Conservator of Forests.

Ed. W. J. Lewis.

FOREST No. 5.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th February 1873, No. 171.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 22nd January 1873, No. 41:—

THERE are, as the Board are aware, many jungles in this district which are under the conservancy of the Revenue Department. As I think the prosperity and well-being of these jungles would be greatly promoted by the transfer of their management and conservancy to the Forest Officer of the district, I have the honour, under the tenor of the Order of Government, dated 8th November last, No. 1,526, communicated with the Board's Proceedings, dated 14th idem, Miscellaneous No. 30-7,535, to request that the orders of Government may be obtained to such a transfer. If this transfer is sanctioned, I am sanguine of being able to establish, ere long, a much improved system of conservancy of our jungles throughout the district, and also efficiently check the smuggling of wood and fuel which I am well aware now goes on to an enormous extent.

REFERRED for the opinion of the Inspector of Forests.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Inspector of Forests.

Copy to the Acting Collector of North Arcot.

Ed. G. A. Tutton.

1876.  
Board of Revenue,  
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD JULY 1876, No. 1,703A.

*Done 13th July 1876*

Encl.

Received

JULY.  
Forest No. 57A.

*Godatham and Oendragheri Jungles—*  
in North Arcot District.—Submitting to Gov-  
ernment Collector's letter on subject of proposed  
transfer of — to Forest Department, and sug-  
gesting that this officer and Conservator be called  
upon to furnish in communication certain  
information in connection therewith.

90-1709

FOREST No. 19.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th February 1876, No. 500.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 9th August 1875, No. 434 :—

In paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of the Board, dated 13th ultimo, Forest No. 137-1,936, Collectors of Forest Districts are requested to publish the revised forest rule sanctioned in paragraph 6 of G.O., dated 26th February and 24th March 1875, Nos. 313 and 476, in substitution of No. 10 of the rules sanctioned in G.O., dated 22nd June 1863, No. 1,099. Clause 3 of the revised rule authorizes the heads of villages to give free permits. I beg respectfully to represent that this authority will, so far as this district is concerned, be certainly abused.

2. On discovering, some time ago, when heads of villages were permitted to issue free permits, that there was an enormous indiscriminate felling of wood going on throughout the district, I considered it expedient to put a stop to the then existing practice and to direct that all free licenses to cut wood in the jungles should be issued by the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, and I have, with that object, caused a large number of blank forms of such licenses to be supplied to the several Tahsildars bearing the seal and signature of the Forest Officer of the district. Every time a license was issued a duplicate was at once sent to the Forest Officer, who was thereby kept informed of the quantity of wood that was being felled in the district, and also to arrange for proper supervision of the cutting and removal of the wood from the jungles.

3. Of course, at first, people objected to this, and there was, and very likely still is, a good deal of illicit felling going on, but there can be no doubt that, if we ever hope thoroughly to check the smuggling of wood that has for years prevailed in this district, we must adopt some measure of this kind. The village officers themselves connive at, and take part in, the illicit trade, and the Forest Officer, who is a person of sound and wary character, is almost powerless to resist the combination of ryots and village officers if the latter are allowed to continue, as heretofore, to issue licenses.

4. Only a few weeks ago Mr. Sheffield brought to my notice that in the Palmanair and Gudiattam Taluqs several thousand loads of wood had been lately felled and removed from the jungles for which no licenses or permits had been obtained, and inquiry has shown that this was done with the connivance of the village officers. If we are now to revert to the old style of things and once more to place ourselves in their hands, I must give up hope of maintaining any check or supervision worthy of the name on the felling in our forests.

5. It is notorious that, just as he is most extravagant in his consumption of water for his paddy-crop, the ryot of the present day is wasteful in his consumption of fuel for the supply of his indigo and sugar vats. I am now having experiments made which, I hope, will lead to valuable information on this point. But in the mean time the ryots generally are demanding double as much wood as they really want. By issuing the licenses from the Tahsildar's and Deputy Tahsildar's Offices we are able to maintain some check on them, for in doubtful cases a reference is made to me before the order for cutting is granted, but the village officers are quite beyond my reach. It is impossible to know what they are doing, or how much of the wood they order to be cut is *bona fide* for use by the ryots, or how much goes to the rich contractors, who have made advances and bought up their crops while on the ground.

6. The going or sending to the Tahsildar for the license will in reality be no serious inconvenience. A ryot's indigo or sugar crop takes months to come to maturity. He knows beforehand, almost to a day, when it will be ready to boil down, and nothing is easier for him than to get his pass from the Tahsildar's Office in readiness for that time.

7. The ryots are beginning to acquiesce, and are now sending for their license to the Tahsildars; and, as under this arrangement we have the chance of protecting ourselves from many of the evils of the old system, I beg respectfully to deprecate a return to it in this important particular, and I accordingly suggest that in this district free licenses be given by Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars.

Before republishing the revised forest rules, I await the Board's instructions on this letter.

1873.

Board of Revenue,  
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH FEBRUARY 1873, No. 171.

Encl.

FEBRUARY.  
Forest No. 5.

Received  
No. 17-11-76 No. 1709.

Jungles—in North Arcot District, which are under conservancy of Revenue Department.—  
—to Forest Officers of the district, referred to Inspector of Forests for his opinion.

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

I HAVE carefully examined these papers, and anxiously reconsidered the matter disposed of in G.O., dated 14th June 1876, No. 794.

2. The Collector of North Arcot now prefers his objections to the transfer of the woodlands in question to the Imperial Conservator, because the transfer would deprive him of money to spend on plantations and topes in the district and imperil their future up-keep. The Conservator considers that their departmentalizations are desirable, because they are of importance for the supply of fuel to guaranteed railways and for the employment of a State establishment sanctioned in anticipation of the transfer. In short, he seeks to have the administration of these woodlands for State objects with, I fear, the usual obstruction to popular interests and purposes. The Collector wants the income.

3. The Board of Revenue seem to hold that what they call the "principle of classification" of the woodlands of the country should depend on whether they are wanted for State purposes or for the supply of the villagers.

4. I submit that the Collector pointed out in 1869 the correct principle of classification and the true objection to assumption and imperialism of jungles within the recognised limits of villages. It is that they are not the unencumbered property of Government, and that communal rights and property, which are inherent in the ancient prescriptive titles and usages of the country, require to be recognised and secured, I may perhaps add, against State aggression. Until this is done in due course of law (yet to be enacted), I hold that no village forests can properly be transferred to the Imperial Forest Department, and practically assumed as State property, and their produce applied to State objects,—with perhaps a kind of left-handed and niggardly admission of greatly-restricted "privileges" in place of rights and property. The ascertainment and due settlement of popular rights has not occurred in respect to the woodlands referred to, and I would ratify the instructions of the Board of Revenue, under date 3rd July, and suspend the operation of G.O., 14th June 1876.

5. Without impugning the administration of the Forest Department or giving preference to the Collector's administration, as now too often managed, there can be no doubt that the words of Sir Thomas Munro in respect to Malabar and Canara in 1822 are not wholly out of date day throughout the country:—"The severity of the forest system increased every day, and no wonder, for it was so undefined" \* \* \* "in such a state of things it was quite natural that the system, from one of mere preservation become one of oppressive monopoly" \* \* \*. "It is inseparable from the very nature of such an establishment (Conservator) having interests and objects at variance with the prosperity of the people, that it should perpetually encroach." And recalling the freedom of the ryots of the West Coast and recognition of property and its advantages "under the native Princes and under our own Government before the appointment of a Conservator," he adds: "But what is the situation now? He cannot cut down or sell a bit of wood on his own property for the most ordinary purposes" \* \* \* though "he cannot himself cut down his own trees, the Conservator cuts them down at pleasure on both his hills and in his fields and gardens and makes him pay duty for his wood, and he not only levies duties but confiscates property" \* \* \* "Independent of what is due to justice, sound policy should lead us to be cautious in tampering with the feelings of the people, often turbulent, and who now submit reluctantly to our monopoly, and we should recollect that no paltry profit in timber can compensate for the loss of their good will. It is mockery to talk of the protection of private property under our Government when we maintain a Conservator's establishment whose chief business it is to invade every man's property, to harass him in his own fields, in his barn, in his house, and in his temple. The system is one founded on the direct violation of private property, and sets every man—the landholder, the mechanic and the merchant—against Government." It is true that the earnest statesman was reviewing a system of conservancy which had degenerated into confiscation and monopoly and in relation to a state of property peculiar—probably in character only as respects woodlands in village limits and communal property—but universal on the West Coast—but every word of that wisdom, every fact of the cruel history—from 1807 to 1822 (and again more recently)—of conservancy in Malabar and Canara which led to its enunciation, warns the Government that the action of departments never need more jealous watching than when their motives are fair-seeming, when the sphere of their action

The Board, whilst appreciating the Collector's difficulties, do not consider the restriction advocated by him desirable. To require every applicant for wood for agricultural purposes, e.g., ploughs, rafters, &c., to go to the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar for a pass would entail great hardship, and probably result in an increase of illicit felling. For the purposes specified in the revised rule 10, heads of villages must be authorized to give permits, but they should be required to send copies of, or extracts from, the registers which they are bound to keep to the Tahsildar, which will afford some check.

2. The convenience of the village community renders it imperative that permits for their wants should be easily obtained; and, though smuggling will, no doubt, prevail, village officers will be more likely to help to check it, if they have the power to issue permits, than if they are deprived of this authority.

3. The only real remedy, however, for the difficulties noticed is specific allotment and demarcation of tracts for free felling, and every effort should be made to expedite it.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of North Arcot.  
Copy to the Conservator of Forests.

1876.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Proceedings, 19th FEBRUARY 1876, No. 500.

FEBRUARY.  
Forest No. 19.

Received  
1876/19  
C. A. Galton & Co.

Permit to fell wood for agricultural purposes.—Informing Collector of North Arcot that it is not desirable to restrict the issue of—  
to Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars as advised by him.

is undefined and their powers subject to little effective check; and when the interests of the weak are at the disposal of the strong, and their rights dependent on good will and judgment, which are difficult to exercise under financial pressure.

Practically, perhaps, there is little to choose between a Foresting Collector of the present day who is in want of money for planting speculations and local projects and devices, and an Imperial Forester in whose eyes popular rights and usages are nuisances to be abated in the interest of his craft. But in public esteem the continued care of the Collector may seem the less satisfactory condition, while change attracts attention to the tightening of the pressure, and on the whole the Collector and Board of Revenue are the more usual and perhaps safer custodians and guides.

2nd September 1876.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,

Revenue Depository

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1876

Read the following

N<sup>o</sup> 252

From W. S. Whiteside Esq  
Collector of North Arcot  
To C. St. Galton Esq  
Acting Secretary to the  
Board of Revenue. Madras.

Sir,  
I was considerably surprised on receiving the Proceedings of the Board dated 23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo, Forest & N<sup>o</sup>  $\frac{49}{1352}$  to find that Lieutenant Colonel Beddome, Conservator of Forests, should have thought proper to address Government direct and advocate the transfer of the whole of the Forests of

the Chendraghevi and Gudi-  
attam Taluqs from Local to  
Imperial Conservancy without  
any reference to the Board, and  
without consulting me in the  
matter in any way.

2. In his letter to Govern-  
ment, Colonel Beddome states  
that Captain Walker and I  
were agreed as to the transfer  
of these jungles. Far from  
agreeing or consenting to such  
a step, I was always of opinion  
that the transfer was undesirable  
inasmuch as it would deprive  
the Revenue Department of the  
most important source of  
income to which the several  
plantations in the District

looked for their maintenance  
and extension.

3. So far back as the 18<sup>th</sup>  
November 1874, the Treasury  
Deputy Collector in submitting  
the Budget Estimate of the  
Jungle Conservancy Fund  
for 1875-76 brought forward  
that the present reduced  
rates of Siquorap on fuel  
8<sup>rs</sup> which forms the chief item  
of Jungle Conservancy Fund  
Revenue had very much cri-  
pled the resources of that Fund  
as would be seen from the  
fact that the total annual  
net Receipts, exclusive of  
the balance which varies  
yearly, amounted to Rs. 10,000 only.

whiled Receipts 11,350 was the  
least amount that was required  
for expenditure according to the  
scale of establishments then  
in existence, without any  
allowment for "New Works," and  
with Receipts 19,000 less under  
"Repairs" than in the previous  
year 1874-75. The Deputy Ch.  
= ceptor further observed that  
adversely to the General rule  
that the expenditure in any  
official year should not ex-  
ceed the assets of that year,  
he very much doubted the  
power of the Jungle Conservancy  
Fund to bear the charge that  
would come on it in the

thereafter, unless the annual  
expenditure on the present  
scale was reduced with reference  
to the actual Receipts

4. Such being the gloomy  
picture drawn when the pro-  
ceeds of the jungles in the  
Behndraghery and Gudiatum  
Talugs were credited to the  
Jungle Conservancy Fund, I  
fail to see how, or from what  
source, the several plantations  
and Village Lops in the Dis-  
trict are to be maintained,  
improved, and extended, when  
those Jungles have been trans-  
ferred to Imperial Conservancy,  
as the Revenue from the Talus  
= war and Chittoor Jungles, <sup>where</sup>

which Colonel Beddome considers will be ample for local consumption purposes, is, even in a year in which it has reached its climax, found to be scarcely sufficient for the supply up-keep of the existing crops and plantations letting alone the creation of new ones: The average Revenue

|                                   |           |                        |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| b.f new over: The average Revenue | Chittore. | Channarayn.            |
| derived from                      | 1841-42.  | 277-5-6. 2564-12-9     |
| the Jungles                       | 1842-43.  | 235-4-9. 2665-8-0      |
| of these two                      | 1843-44.  | 368-4-6. 2769-5-0      |
| Talugs during                     | 1844-45.  | 283-6-3. 2762-3-2      |
| the last 5 years                  | 1845-46.  | 1173-13-9. 10133-11-5. |
| is as shown                       | 5         | 2438-2-9; 21895-8-4    |
| in the margin                     |           | 1,87-10-2; 4379-1-8.   |
| Only Rs. 4866-11-10.              |           | Rs. As. P.             |
|                                   |           | 4866- 11 10            |
|                                   |           | 1 Re.                  |

The large increase of Re.

during the past year is mainly ascribable to the fact that the season of 1844-45 was most favorable to agricultural enterprise, and that, owing to this circumstance, sugar cane was very extensively planted in the District, and in consequence, there was an unusually large demand for fire-wood, for the conversion of the juice of the cane into jag-gery in the following year 1845-46, when the cane came to maturity. This last mentioned year was marked by an extremely bad season; there was an enormous decrease in cultivation, and I am well aware that

we shall not this year be by any means so fortunate as <sup>we</sup> were in the last as regards the Jungle Revenues of the District.

6. I must acknowledge that the increase of Revenue under this head is due in a great measure to the careful and vigilant management of the Jungles by Mr. Sheffield, the Forest Officer of the District; but I am at the same time decidedly of opinion that no amount of skilful working of the Jungles of the Palmanair and Chitboor Taluqs will ever produce the amount of Revenue required to meet the yearly increasing expenditure appertaining to the maintenance and formation of <sup>plantations</sup> topes and

plantations in the District, and now that the Heads of villages have been specially authorized to grant Licenses for wood required for agricultural, building and fuel purposes, (vide Board's Circulars 19 February 1846 Forest No. 30), we must expect a considerable falling off in the Jungle Revenue, a circumstance to which I particularly adverted in my letter to the Board of the 9<sup>th</sup> August last C. N. 434.

7. When Captain Walker spoke to me on the subject of the transfer of the Jungles of the Chandraghera and Gudiatum Taluqs to Imperial Quarrany,

I expressed very great doubt whether the Jungle Conservancy Fund could spare the Revenue, and I said that I could not consent to the transfer until I was assured that this would not be the case. I never agreed to the transfer as asserted by Colonel Beddome in his letter above quoted, and I am not a little surprised to find that he should have made his application for the transfer of these valuable Jungles without previously communicating with me on the subject, and without having received from me any letter consenting to the new arrangement. The Board will observe

that he bases this letter of his on a Demi-official note of Mr. Sheffield written in January last, and of the writing of which I was entirely unaware; but since then, in my letter to Mr. Sheffield No. 249 dated 15<sup>th</sup> March last, I distinctly declined to agree to the proposed transfer, at any rate until the Forest Act has become law, and we can calculate with some degree of accuracy what its effect will be on the Jungle Conservancy Fund. I submit that in a matter of so great an importance it was Col. Beddome's duty to have satisfied himself by direct reference to me that I was really prepared

to accede to the proposed transfer of the jungles, instead of adopting the somewhat unusual course of quoting in support of his argument a Denei official note from his subordinate. The Board of Revenue may perhaps think it singular that this Denei official correspondence should have been made use of at all seeing that, some weeks after it was written,

I had clearly shown in an official letter to Mr. Sheffield that he was in error in supposing I had ever agreed to the change.

5. Under these circumstances, I beg that the Board will be pleased to consider the opinion they have

now expressed as regards the transfer of the Gudiatnam and Chendraghiri jungles; and to move Government at an early date to pass orders that these jungles shall remain under local conservancy as heretofore.

North Arcot Collrs Office } I have the  
Palmanair } E. W. J. Whitaker  
15 June 1876 - } Collector

Submitted for the orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceeding dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1876, No 1352.

2. In the foregoing letter the Collector of North Arcot states that he does not consent to the transfer of the Gudiatnam and Chendragheri jungles to the

Forest Department that he was  
always of opinion that the transfer  
was undesirable and that the Jungle  
Conservancy Fund cannot afford  
to lose the revenue derived from  
those jungles.

3. The question of the transfer of  
the jungles in question has formed the  
subject of a voluminous correspondence  
extending over the last eight years. The  
discussion of the subject will be found  
in the marginally noted papers, but  
up to this date the settlement of  
the matter has been postponed  
from time to time for various reasons.

On the suggestion of Col. Beddome  
in 1868 the transfer of the Gudriattam  
jungles to the Forest Department was  
approved by the Board and Govern-  
ment and the entertainment of the  
requisite

G.O. 20<sup>th</sup> Novr/68 n<sup>o</sup> 2909  
" 25<sup>th</sup> Janr/69 n<sup>o</sup> 213  
" 12<sup>th</sup> Feb/69 n<sup>o</sup> 361  
" 10<sup>th</sup> June/69 n<sup>o</sup> 1647  
" 20<sup>th</sup> Oct/69 n<sup>o</sup> 2817  
" 10<sup>th</sup> Novr/69 n<sup>o</sup> 2915  
" 10<sup>th</sup> Feb/70 n<sup>o</sup> 184  
" 4<sup>th</sup> April/70 n<sup>o</sup> 441  
" 3<sup>rd</sup> May/71 n<sup>o</sup> 769  
" 12<sup>th</sup> Novr/74 n<sup>o</sup> 1440  
" 2<sup>nd</sup> Decr/74 n<sup>o</sup> 1485  
" 15<sup>th</sup> March/75 n<sup>o</sup> 1423

requisite establishment was ac-  
tually sanctioned. The transfer of  
the forests in the Chendragherry Taluk  
was then recommended by the Con-  
servator. Thereupon Mr. J. D. Robinson  
the then collector objected strongly to the  
proposed transfers of both jungles on  
the ground that their retention by the  
Revenue Department was necessary  
both for the security of the communal  
rights of the villagers and for the sol-  
vency of the Jungle Conservancy Fund. The  
Board supported these views in their Pro-  
ceedings dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 1869, n<sup>o</sup> 346, but the  
question was ordered to lie over pending  
the consideration of the general question  
of the advisability of entrusting the duty  
of Conservancy to Collectors of Districts. Mean-  
while the Government of India had de-  
to sanction the entertainment of an establish-

for the Gudiatnam Forests pending explanation  
of the necessity for the outlay. In 1873 Mr. Whiteside again brought the matter to notice and advocated the transfer of the jungles in question and on further information being called for suggested that the Gudiatnam Forests should be absolutely transferred to Imperial Conservancy and that whilst the other jungles should be managed by the Forest Officers their proceeds should continue to be credited to Jungle Conservancy. In G.O. of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1875, N<sup>o</sup> 423 it was decided that the revenue of the jungles placed under the management of the Forest Officers might be retained as local as proposed by the Board provided no portion of the charges was debited to Imperial. The consideration of the permanent transfer of the Gudiatnam jungles was deferred to enable the Board to consult Capt Walker the matter was lost sight of until Government called

Board's Proceedings for a report, whereupon the Board at first dated 6 April 1876, stated that they saw no necessity for any change, but subsequently on the Conservator's representation that the Collector favored the transfer and that the improved condition of jungle Conservancy rendered the retention of the Gudiatnam and Chendragherry jungles by the Revenue Department unnecessary on financial grounds the Board stated that they had no objection to the proposal.

Board's Proceedings dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1876, N<sup>o</sup> 1352.

4. Such is briefly the history of the subject and the Board consider that looking to the fact that Mr. Whiteside has throughout advocated the management of the tracts in question by the Forest Department Colonel Beddome was justified in affirming that the statement of the District Forest Officer was correct.

Whiteside

Whiteside now urges the retention of the jungles by the Revenue Department solely on the ground that the jungle conservancy funds cannot afford to lose the receipts derived from them and it does not appear that he objects to the transfer on any other grounds.

In his letter of the 26 February 1874, No. 107, he stated his belief that the jungles would be better conserved by the professional Department and that communal rights would in no way be invaded. As these points are not alluded to on the present occasion it is presumed that Mr. Whiteside has seen no reason to modify the views then expressed.

5. Whether retained under the collector's management or transferred to the Forest Department, the management of the jungles will still devolve on the District Forest Officer, as the Government have declared that the District Forest officers and Rangers are available

available for the supervision of village jungle conservancy Establishments when required, without prejudice to their other duties, vide G.O. 11 Jan'y 1876, No. 39. The question resolves itself therefore in to one as to who should have the direction of management and to what head the receipts should be credited.

In the case of the South West Forest reserves and plantations the Board decided that the purpose for which they were intended, viz. for the supply of the wants of the villagers or for the supply of the Railway Department Public Works &c. should regulate their classification, the former being registered as belonging to jungle conservancy and the latter as belonging to the Forest Department, and that jungles intended for both local and other purposes should be maintained partly from Imperial and partly from local funds. On this principle

the classification of the Gudiatum and Chendragherry jungles depends on the extent to which they are utilized for local and Imperial purposes and the proportions in which the receipts are derived from wood supplies for those purposes respectively.

The division of the post and receipts between Imperial and local, however, has already been found inconvenient, and is likely to lead to complications. <sup>from</sup> Captain Walker's letter 1804.

Para 4. Bd. Pro.  
recorded in G.O. 214  
December 1874, p. 4.

Recorded in Government Order, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> Decem-  
ber 1874, N. 1485, it would appear that that  
officer was in favor of the permanent trans-  
fer of the Gudiatum jungles to the Forest  
Department, but proposed to leave all  
the other jungles throughout the District  
under the management of the collector with  
the assistance of the District Forest officer;  
the receipts being credited to the jungle con-  
servancy fund, subsequently however he  
must have contemplated the transfer of  
the Chendragherry jungles also to Imperial

as

as provision was made in the newly sanctioned  
scale of establishments for both these tracts.

6. The Board are not in a position  
to say what will be the financial effects  
on the special fund referred to if the jungle  
of the Gudiatum or Chendragherry jungles or  
both to the Forest Department and infor-  
mation on this point seems necessary before  
a satisfactory decision can be arrived at.

The Board would therefore suggest that  
the Collector and the Conservator should be  
called upon to report in communication the  
extent to which the jungles in question are  
utilized for Imperial and local purposes  
respectively; the receipts at present derived  
from them and which may be anticipated  
hereafter; and what arrangements they  
propose with a view to securing an  
adequate income for local purposes. It  
may be possible to meet the desired  
object by the transfer of a portion of

of the tracts referred, the remainder being  
retained as local.

(True Copy & Extract)

*C. L. P. [Signature]*  
Acting Secretary

To The Secretary to Government  
Revenue Department

*J. L. [Signature]*  
the [Signature]

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue  
Dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 1876.

Read Order in the Revenue Department  
Dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 1876. No. 794, approving  
the transfer of Gudiatthum and Chen-  
-draghery Forests in North Arcot Dis-  
-trict from Local to Imperial; and  
directing to respect forest rights.

Communicated to the Collector  
of North Arcot.

2. The Collector having subsequently  
raised objections to the transfer the des-  
-sion of Government on the Board's Pro-  
-ceedings dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1876. No. —  
submitting the matter for orders with

g. O. 14 June 1876 No 146-148

No 2740 of 1876.

Ch. 2707  
Proceedings of the  
Board of Revenue  
Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1876.  
No 323

Submitting to Govt for  
letter on subject of proposed  
transfer of Gudiatthum and  
Chendraghery Forests to  
Imperial Forests  
that this of Govt's Honours  
be called upon to furnish  
certain information the  
comes from the Revenue

order

Subd. H. 13:44  
196. O. 14

awaited before the transfer is carried  
into effect.

(True Extract)

Es.

Chas. C. Latham  
Asst. Secretary

The Secretary to Government  
Revenue Department

B. H.

170  
61

Seem to hold that what  
is the principle

Minute

I have carefully  
examined these papers  
and am anxious to resolve  
the matter disposed  
of in G.O. of 14 June  
1876 & 1877.

The Collector of North  
Arcot now prefers his  
objections to the transfer  
of the woodlands in  
question to the Imperial  
Conservator because  
the transfer would  
deprive him of money  
to spend on plantations  
and slopes in the District  
and impair their future

G.O. 14 June 1876 and 1877.

Proceedings of the  
Board of Revenue

Notes 5 July 1876  
Notes 5 July 1876  
Notes 5 July 1876

Returned June  
1876  
29/12/80.

Communications to the  
Collector of North Arcot  
G.O. 14 June 1876 dated 14 June  
1876 on the transfer of  
Kudalattam and Chendur  
grazing lands from Forest &  
Confidential; and awaiting the  
decision of Govt. at Benid  
Pore. Also dated 31 July 1876  
with reference to the official  
minutes of the Committee

Returned 29/12/80.

Not 4/13 June 1876  
G.O. 15 July 1876. A.S. 1876.

upkeep. The Conservator  
Considers that the ~~the~~  
departmentalizations <sup>are</sup>  
desirable, because  
they are of importance  
for the supply of fuel  
to guaranteed railways  
and for the employment  
of a State Establishment  
sanctioned in anticipation  
of the transfers. In short  
he seeks to have the  
administration of these  
woodlands for State  
objects with, I fear, the  
usual obstruction  
to popular interests  
and purposes. He collected  
the income  
The Board of Revenue  
Surrey

unauthorized fees

1707  
23  
seem to hold that what  
they call the "principles  
of classification" of their  
woodlands of the country  
should depend on whether  
they are wanted for  
State purposes or for  
the supply of the villages  
... Sabina that the  
Collector pointed out  
in 1869 the correction  
principle of classification  
and the true objection  
to assumption and  
imperialization of forests  
within the recognized  
limits of villages. It  
is that they are not  
the unincumbered property  
of Government and  
that Communal rights  
and

and property which  
are inherent in the  
ancient prescriptive  
titles and usages of the  
Country require to be  
recognized & secured.

- I may perhaps add,  
against State aggression.  
Until this is done in  
due course of Law  
(yet to be enacted?) I

hold that no village  
forests can properly  
be transferred to the  
Imperial Forest Depart-  
ment and practically  
assumed as State  
property and their produce  
applied to State objects  
with perhaps a kind of  
left-handed and niggardly  
admission

The answer is -  
the Forest Bill under  
discussion the better  
or if we pass Disentlement  
orders on them not at  
all means to get admitted  
by State revenue measures  
may follow - But

1709  
24

admission of great by  
restricted privileges  
in place of rights & property.  
The ascertainment of  
popular rights has not  
occurred in respect to the  
woodlands referred to and  
I would willingly ratify  
the instructions of the  
Board of Revenue under  
date 5<sup>th</sup> July and suspend  
the operation of G.O. 14<sup>th</sup> June  
1876.

Without impugning  
the administration of  
the Forest Department  
or giving preference to  
the Collector's administration  
as now too often managed,  
there can be no doubt  
that

that the words of  
Sir Thomas Munro  
in respect to Malabar  
Hauara in 1822 are  
robustly out of date  
at this day throughout  
the country: "The severity  
of the Forest System  
increased every day and  
no wonder for it was  
so undefined & & in  
such a state of things it  
was quite natural  
that the system, from  
one of mere preservation,  
became one of oppressive  
"monopoly" & & It is  
inseparable from the  
"very nature of such  
an establishment" (Conservator) "having

This Presbytery  
was all this  
unopposed Malabar  
Forest

1709  
little all of which  
it is all the same  
interests & objects at  
variance with the  
prosperity of the people,  
that it should perpetually  
"encroach". And in  
recalling the freedom  
of the Ryots of the West  
Coast & recognition  
of property & its advantages  
under the Native Princes  
and under our own  
Govt. before the appoint-  
ment of a Conservator,  
he adds "but what is  
the situation now? He  
cannot cut down or  
sell a bit of wood on  
his own property for  
the most ordinary  
"purposes" & & though  
he cannot himself  
cut

that the words of  
Sir Thomas Munro  
"cut down his own trees  
the Conservator cuts  
them down at pleasure  
on his hills and  
in his fields & gardens  
and makes him pay  
duty for his wood and  
he not only levies duties  
but confiscates property"  
\* \* \* Independent  
of what is due to justice,  
Sound policy should  
lead us to be cautious  
in tampering with the  
feelings of the people  
often turbulent and  
who now submit reluctantly  
to our monopoly and  
we should reflect that  
no paltry profit in timber  
can compensate for  
the

to little effective check  
on the interests

1729  
26

The loss of their good will  
It is mockery to talk  
of the protection of  
private property under  
our present system when  
we maintain a Conservator's Establishment  
whose chief business  
it is to invade every  
man's property, to  
harass him in his  
fields, in his barn  
in his house or in his  
temple. The system is  
one founded in the  
direct violation of  
private property and  
lets every man, the  
landholder, the artisan  
and the merchant against  
the Government. It is



public Estium the  
Continued care of the  
Collector may seem the  
less compensatory condition,  
which change attracts  
attention to the tightening  
of the process on the  
whole the Collector & P. of O.  
are the more useful in perhaps  
saper castorians & guards

2/2 ~~W. J. J.~~ son  
large question. To criticise  
-slantly of communal rights  
without them being defined  
is confusing - to blame the  
Officers of Govt for not adopting  
a theory which has never  
been affirmed by Govt is  
hardly equitable. The sooner  
the question is discussed &  
settled the better. Till then  
we had better postpone stating  
any policy. P. H. 4/4

GO of November 76 No 1709

I think the views proposed  
by the Board in their  
Proceedings of 3<sup>rd</sup> July  
should be approved.

With reference to the minutes  
of my ninth colleague I  
would suggest that before  
imputing the conduct  
of Revenue Officers and the  
Forest Dept. it will be  
convenient to bring forward  
for deliberation the theories  
he advanced: it would delay  
the forest throughout the  
Presidency the property of  
the adjacent villages - This  
has never been admitted  
by the Govt & is a very

No 1709-

Tumacacore,  
Sonoma Co.  
29 July

My dear Carmichael.

Re Board Prop 1703. A  
dated 3 July - I do hope Govt will not  
again allow the Gadiashan & Chin  
- Nigging people to go back to jungle  
Crescent, they are certainly behind  
forests, on their removal chiefly from  
the Railway, but they have been fairly  
mismanaged this a series of years  
as I have often pointed out, & the  
revenue a much of it lost to Govt  
You will see by what is written  
that the Dept has raised the

revenue in cotton & Palmar oil  
to 5 times what it was in former  
years when under just enormous  
what does Whiteside do with all  
this money? It would I think be  
much better if all the profits were  
under us at a certain percentage  
on profits. I am for the upkeep  
of Lord's plantation - this is  
what it must come to. Cottons  
cannot appropriate forest funds  
otherwise in this way. I shall  
write officially -

I am very sorry about Goss  
he is undoubtedly the ~~man~~ <sup>man</sup> again  
for the place & worth 10 f

1709-

30

Sanatorium & Chondraghny

For Orders

The transfer has already  
been approved J.O. 14<sup>th</sup> June 76  
No 134 - The Proceedings of B.  
unanimously have  
indirectly been passed before  
accepting that order -  
W. Whiteside now states  
that he objects strongly  
to the transfer, but as pointed  
out by the Board, in 1734/5  
he strongly advocated the  
absolute transfer -  
Attention is especially called  
to the suggestion of the Board  
in para 6 - that portion  
of the jungle in question,  
the portion to be

Sent to the June 13: 24  
C. 15: July 1906. R 5: 24

to be determined by the Director —  
may be retained as  
Local —

$\frac{1}{1.776}$

With regard to W. Johnston,  
Governor of the  
University of Illinois  
Gov. direct, it is deemed  
that he simply expressed  
his opinion, as B. K.  
8 April 76 — which  
was communicated  
to him by the Board.  
His letter was transmitted  
to the Board for their  
marks etc

1709-

30

Read his Proceedings 33  
3 May 76 No 1703 A  
also 5 July 76 No 1720.

Order

The Gov. approves the  
proposals made by the  
Board in Para  
6 of their Proceedings  
dated 3 July —  
the collector to  
be communicated with  
in communication  
furnish the the  
Board the information  
in the form to which  
of the Board — the  
reports shall be  
submitted with the  
least practicable  
delay

To the Board of 20/11  
Committee of Finance 20/11

$\frac{1}{9.11.76}$

This order cancels  
No. 14? of 1876. No 794