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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

Press
Mis.

Dated

17-11-1876

196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1708

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

Read the following :-

No. 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 and extension.

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 topos 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 topos.

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

	Chittoor.			Palmanair.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
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1872-73...	235	4	9	2,665	8	0
1873-74...	368	4	6	2,769	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, Rs. 4,866-11-10. 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

G.O.	Date	No.	Amount	Remarks
"	20th Nov. 1868	No. 2,909.		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 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 establishment was actually sanctioned.
"	25th Jan. 1869	" 232.		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 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
"	12th Feb. "	" 361.		
"	10th June "	" 1,647.		
"	20th Oct. "	" 2,814.		
"	10th Nov. "	" 2,945.		
"	10th Feb. 1870	" 184.		
"	4th April "	" 44.		
"	3rd May 1871	" 769.		
"	12th Nov. 1874	" 1,440.		
"	2nd Dec. "	" 1,485.		
"	15th Mar. 1875	" 423.		

entertainment of the requisite establishment 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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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 called for a report; whereupon the Board's Proc., dated 6th April 1876, No. 937. 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 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 receives 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 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 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.—*Gudiattam 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 then, departmental plantations 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,—yet 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 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 confiscatory 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.

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.

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X
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 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 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 less 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 Gudiatham 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 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 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, 15th 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 ~~reconsider the transfer of the jungles~~ ^{to leave the jungles} ~~to leave the jungles~~ ^{shall remain under local conservancy as} heretofore.

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B.K.

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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 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 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 conserved 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.

Paragraph 4, Board's Proceedings, recorded in G.O., dated 21st December 1874, No. 1,604.

From Captain Walker's letter 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.

Erd. 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.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

1876.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

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

Don't forget to send to the Board

Encl.

Received

JULY.

Forest No. 57A.

Gudiahnam and Ohendragherri Jungles—
in North Arcot District.—Submitting to Government Collector's letter on subject of proposed transfer of — to Forest Department, and suggesting 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 village officers, who are 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 Gudiatam 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.

Received

No. 17-11-76 No. 179.

FEBRUARY.
Forest No. 5.

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

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 abstraction 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 to-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.

Permits 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 advocated by him.

FEBRUARY.
Forest No. 19.

Received
20th Feb 1876
J. P. L. L. L.

RECORDED, 19TH FEBRUARY 1876, No. 500.

1876.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Encl.

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 confiscatory 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 Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

dated 3rd July 1876

Read the following

N^o 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 23rd ultimo, Forest & N^o $\frac{49}{1352}$ 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 Schendragheri and Gudi-
abum 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 Walter 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 1894, the Treasury
Deputy Collector in submitting
the Budget Estimate of the
Jungle Conservancy Funds
for 1895-96 brought forward
that the present reduced
rates of Seigniorage on fuel
8th which forms the chief item
of Jungle Conservancy Funds
Revenues had very much cripp-
led 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.

while Rs. 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 Rs. 19,000 less under
"Repairs" than in the previous
year 1894-95. The Deputy Ch.
= lectr further observed that
adverting to the General rule
that the expenditure in any
official year should not ex-
ceed the appts 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 1896-97 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 pro-
ceeds of the jungles in the
Lhendraghery and Gudiahuna
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 Talu-
= war and Chittoor Jungles,

when

which Colonel Beddome considers will be ample for local consumption purposes, is, even in a year in which it has reached its climate, found to be scarcely sufficient for the simple upkeep of the existing crops and plantations letting alone the creation of new ones. The average Revenue

derived from the Jingles of these two Taluqs during the last 5 years is as shown in the margin only Rs. 4866-11-10.

		Chittore.	Chimmarai
1841-42.	377-5-6.	2564-12-9	
1842-43.	235-4-9.	2665-8-0	
1843-44.	368-4-6.	2469-5-0	
1844-45.	283-6-3.	2462-3-2	
1845-46.	1173-13-9.	10,133-11-5.	
5	2438-2-9;	21,895-8-4	
	1,87-10-2;	4379-1-8.	
	Rs.	As.	P.
	4866-	11	10

The large increase of Revenue yielded by the Jingles during

during the past year is mainly attributable 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 firewood, for the conversion of the juice of the cane into Jaggery 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 ^{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 Palamanair and Chittoor Taluqs will ever produce the amount of Revenue required to meet the yearly increasing expenditure appertaining to the maintenance and formation of roads 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 1896 Forest No. 19) 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 C.N. 434.

7. When Captain Walker spoke to me on the subject of the transfer of the Jungles of the Chudraghery and Gudiatkum Taluqs to Imperial Quarantary

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 suggested 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

25
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 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 Domic official note from his subordinate. The Board of Revenue may perhaps think it singular that this Domic 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 reconsider the opinion they have

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

I have the honor to be, Sir,
North Arcot Collrs Office } E. W. P. Whitaker
Palmanair } Collector
15 June 1876 -

Submitted for the orders of Government in continuation of Board's Proceeding dated 23rd 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 Gudiattham 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 Government and the entertainment of the requisite

- G.O. 20th Novr/68 n^o 2909
- " 25th Janr/69 n^o 213
- " 12th Feb/69 n^o 361
- " 10th June/69 n^o 1647
- " 20th Oct/69 n^o 2284
- " 10th Novr/69 n^o 2945
- " 10th Feb/70 n^o 184
- " 4th April/70 n^o 441
- " 3rd May/71 n^o 769
- " 12th Novr/74 n^o 1440
- " 2nd Decr/74 n^o 1485
- " 15th March/75 n^o 423

requisite establishment was actually sanctioned. The transfer of the Forests in the Chendragherry Taluk 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, n^o 3467 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 to sanction the entertainment of an establish-

for the Gudiattham Forests pending explanation
of the necessity for the outlay. In 1873 Mr.

Board's Proceedings
dated 6 April 1876
1937.

Whiteside again brought the matter to notice and advocated the transfer of

23 April 1873, 626

24 March 1874, 661

the jungles in question and on further
information being called for suggested

that the Gudiattham Forests should be
absolutely transferred to Imperial Con-

servancy 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, N^o 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 Gudiattham jungles was deferred to

enable the Board to consult Capt. Walker

at 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
1937.

change, but subsequently on the Conser-

vator's representation that the Collector

favoured the transfer and that the im-

proved condition of jungle Conservancy there

rendered the retention of the Gudiattham

and Ghendragherry jungles by the Revenue

Department unnecessary on financial

Board's Proceedings grounds the Board stated that they had
dated 23rd May 1876, N^o 1352.

no objection to the proposal.

4. Such is briefly the history of the

subject and the Board consider that look-

ing to the fact that Mr. Whiteside has

throughout advocated the management of

the tracts in question by the Forest De-

partment. Colonel Beddome was justified

in assuming that the statement of the

District Forest Officer was correct. Mr. 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.

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 Arcot Forest 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 Public Works Co. 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 posts and receipts between
Imperial and local, however, has already ^{Para 4. B. Pro.}
been found inconvenient, and is likely to lead ^{recorded in G.O. 21/10}
to complications. ^{From} Captain Walker's letter ^{December 1874, p. 1.}
1874.

Recorded in Government Order, dated 2nd 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 of the transfer
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 Jarviswa 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. Peterson
Acting Secretary

To the Secretary to Government
of Revenue Department

Wm. Lockman
the T. O. D.

1709
19

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 5th July 1876.

Read Order in the Revenue Department
Dated 14th June 1876. No. 794, approving
the transfer of Kudiatthum 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 3rd July 1876. No. —
submitting the matter for orders with

3. 6. 14 June 1876 No. 148-148

Order No. 2740 of 1876.

2704
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 3rd July 1876.
No. 323

2. 7. 1876

Submitting to Board of Revenue

Letter on subject of proposed

transfer of Kudiatthum and

Chendraghery Forests to the

Imperial Government

that this is in accordance with

the order of the Government

containing information in

connection therewith

order

Sub-Office 13. 6. 76. A. 5. 11

awaited before the transfer is carried
into effect.

(True Extract)

To, *Ch. C. C.*
Ag. Secretary.
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

C. C. C.

1708
21

seem to hold that what
is the principle

Minute

I have carefully
examined these papers
and anxiously reconsidered
the matter disposed
of in G.O. of 14 June
1876 to 794.

The Collector of North
Arist 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 Lops in the District
and imperil their future

G.O. 14 June 1876 No. 794.

to 794.
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Atto 5 July 1876
Aug 5 July 1876
and so

Returned from
the P.M. House on
29/12/80.
Post to H. P. 1876

Communicating to the
Collector of North West
G.O. of 14 June 1876
on the transfer of
Woodlands and Lops.
giving facts from dated 8
January; and awaiting the
decision of Govt. on Board
Revenue dated 3rd July 1876
with reference to the objection
raised by the Collector.

Received 29/12/80.
sent to H. P. 13:44
2:15 July 1876. O.S. 44.

upkeep. The Conservator
Considers that the ~~the~~
departmentalizations ^{are} ~~is~~
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 collects
wants the income
The Board of Revenue
Serves

1709
23
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 villages.
I submit 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 unnumbered 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 Deptt

and practically

assumed as State

property and their produce

applied to State objects

with perhaps a kind of

left-handed and niggardly

admission

The sooner we get

the Forest bill under

discussion the better

or if we pass an interim

order on the way not at

all events just advised

by forest revenue mischief

may follow - Mr

1709
24

admission of great
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 July and suspend

the operation of G.O 14 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
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 defined x x x in
such a state of things it
was quite natural
that the system, from
one of mere preservation,
became one of oppression
"monopoly" x x x. It is
inseparable from the
very nature of such
an establishment
(Conservator) having

This Pandemonium
is not all. This
wretched Malabar
temperature



1709
25

+ Little all in check.

"It is all in the

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 to its advantage
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" x x x 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 to 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
it interests

1709
26

"The loss of their land 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 own
fields, in his barn,
in his house & in his
temple. The system is
one founded in the
direct violation of
private property and
lets every man, the
landholder, the mechanic
and the merchant against
the Government." It is

that the words of

true that the Eastern
Statesman was reviving
a System of Conservancy
which had degenerated
into Confiscation ^{and monopoly} and
in relation to a State

of property peculiar but
universal on the West
Coast - but Every word
of that wisdom, Every
fact of the cruel history
from 1807 to 1822 - of

Conceivance, which led

to its Emancipation, -
warns the Government

that the action of deposit

ments never need more
the less watching than

when their motives are

fair-seeming, when the

Sphere of their action

is undefined and
the subject

menor, povera e curta 6

— probably in character only
as respects woodlands in village
groves & common property—

(again more recent)

to little effective check,
and when the interests
of the weak are at the
disposal of the strong
and their right dependence
on good will & judgment
which are difficult to
exercise under financial
pressure.

Practically perhaps
there is little to choose
between ~~the~~ ^{Forgetting} Collectors
of the present day, who
is in want of money for
planting Speculations and
local projects & devices,
and an Imperial Turk,
in whose eyes popular
rights and usages
are nuisances to be
abolished in the interest
of his craft. But in
public

public Estium the
continued care of the
Collector may seem the
less confiscatory condition,
which change attracts
attention to the tightening
of the ~~foreman~~ ^{on the}
whole the Collector & M. of Rev
are the more usual in perhaps
safer Castorians & guards

2/2 ~~W. H. H. H.~~ son
large question. To incite con-
-stantly 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 discussing
any policy - ~~W. H. H. H.~~ 4/4

GO of November 76 No 1709

I think the ~~arrangement~~
by the Board in their
Proceedings of 3rd July
should be approved.

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

No 1709-

Tumacacore
Monday
29 July

D. J.

My dear Carmichael.

Re Board Prop 1703. A
dated 3 July - I do hope Govt will not
again allow the Gadiam & Ch.
Rajpoots to go back to jungle
Carravans, they are certainly behind
Govt in their demand chiefly from
the Railway, but they have been perfectly
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 Govt's letter
that no Dept has raised the

The

revenue in cotton & palm oil
to 5 times what it was in former
years when under English Company
what does Whiteside do with all
this money? It would I think be
much better if all the profits were
used as a certain percentage
on profits. Allment for the upkeep
of Lord's plantation - this is
what it must come to, collectors
cannot appropriate part funds
otherwise in this way. I shall
write officially -

I am very sorry about Goss
he is undoubtedly the ~~right man~~
for the place & worth 10 of

1709-

30

7

Sadriatun & Chundraghany

For Orders

31

The transfer has already
been approved J.O. 14th June 76
No 34 - The Proceedings of B.
corporation have
recently been passed before
acceptance of that order -
W. Whiteside now states
that he objects strongly
to the transfer, but, as pointed
out by the Board, in 1734/75
he strongly advocated the
absolute transfer -
Attention is especially called
to the suggestion of the Board
in para 6 - that portion
of the profits in question,
the portion to be

Sent to the Finance 13:24
C. 15: July 76. R 5: Sep:

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

R
1.7.76

With regard to W. Johnston,
Governance to the
Curator is desired
Govt. direct, it is desired
that he simply express
his opinion on B. K.
5 April 76. — which
was communicated
to him by the Board.
His letter was transmitted
to the Board for their
marks etc

No 1709-
1709/30

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

Order

The Govt. approve the
proposals made by the
Board in para
6 of their Proceedings
dated 3 July —
the collector &
the Curator with
in communication
furnish the
Board the information
on the points asked
of the Board — the
reports shall be
submitted with the
least practicable
delay

1/2
9.11.76

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

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