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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	1953	Press Misc
Dated	8.12.1876	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3th December 1876.

No. 159. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated
November 1876, No. 2,813, Forest No. 99:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator
Forests, to the Honorable P. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 14th October 1876, No. 1,188.

With reference to the G.O. No. 1,345, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor
to inform you that in the interior of the Annamallays and in parts of Malabar,
Coimbatore, and Madura there are tracts with a plentiful supply of bamboo and an
insufficient market for their disposal; but these are all most unhealthy localities, where
labor could scarcely be procured, and where there are no roads. I know of no place
that I could recommend as suitable for the establishment of a factory as proposed.
Given the conditions required in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Government of
India to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and the supply is scarcely equal
to the demand, and the market consequently good, and I feel sure that any attempt to
carry out the scheme in unhealthy forests like the Annamallays would prove a failure.

Some bamboo localities on the banks of rivers in the plains are tolerably
healthy, but in such places there is always a large demand for the article and it is
regretted that the supply is not sufficient to meet the demand. I am, however, of opinion
that all bamboo forests in the interior are more or less feverish, but much more favorable
conditions, both as to climate and abundance of the article required, can be met
with in the forests of the Travancore States than in any tracts under this Government.

When in England lately I had much correspondence with Mr. Rentidge on
this subject. He was under the impression that bamboo plantations could be easily and
rapidly formed, and that the culms could be cut over annually. He is quite mistaken
on these points, and I tried to persuade him against the scheme, as I did not consider it
practicable or ever likely to succeed financially. Plantations are out of the question,
and I am very sure he can have little idea of what he would have to contend against in
our mountain forests, as that I strongly recommend that before embarking in the
venture he should (as advised by the Government of India) visit India himself, or send
an experienced person on his behalf.

From what Mr. Rentidge told me I am under the impression that he has
never seen a large bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*) culm, and that the Elephant Mountain or the
Elephant Mountain at the Vinnarey and Travancore States would answer the
purpose. We could then give him many secure spots of the Elephant Mountain
since the climate is healthy, and the soil is not difficult, and labor easily obtainable.

No. 1,188.

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the
Board of Revenue with reference to G.O. No. 1,345, dated 26th September 1876,
Revenue Department.

14th October 1876.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Conservator of Forests.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government Revenue Department,
8th December 1876.

Secretary to Government.

2. The Board concur with the Conservator. If plantations are to be formed, probably some of the putugay lands along the Coovor would give the best chance of success.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STORES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 160.

ORDER IN COUNCIL, 8th December 1876, No. 1,063.

Forests, No. 7.

These Proceedings will be communicated to the Government of India with reference to the letter from the

Secretary to Government, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, 14th September 1876, No. 25,861-000.

2. The Government are not prepared to undertake the assertion of the Conservator in the latter part of paragraph 4 of his letter without further enquiry.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue,
the Conservator of Forests.

H. E. STORES.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th November 1876, No. 2,812.
Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of
Forests, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, dated Ottumund, 14th October 1876, No. 1,188.

With reference to the G.O. No. 1,346, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honor
to inform you that in the interior of the Anamallays and in particular Nishapur,
Coimbatore, and Madura there are tracts with a plentiful supply of bamboos and an
insufficient market for their disposal, but these are all most unhealthy localities, where
labor could scarcely be procured, and where there are no roads. I know of no place
that I could recommend as suitable for the establishment of a factory or proposed.
Given the conditions required in paragraph 3 of the letter from the Government of
India to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and the supply is scarcely equal
to the demand, and the market consequently good, and I feel sure that any attempt to
carry out the scheme in unhealthy forests like the Anamallays would prove a failure.

2. Some bamboo localities on the banks of rivers in the plains are tolerably
healthy, but in such places there is always a large demand for the article, and it is
required for floating timber, &c., so that the mountains must be resorted to, and I fear
that all bamboo forests in the latter are more or less feverish, but much more favorable
conditions, both as to climate and abundance of the article required, can be met
with in the forests of the Travancore Surkar than in any tracts under this Government.

3. When in England lately I had much correspondence with Mr. Routledge on
this subject. He was under the impression that bamboo plantations could be easily and
rapidly formed, and that the culms could be cut over annually. He is quite mistaken
on these points, and I tried to persuade him against the scheme, as I did not consider
it practicable or even likely to succeed frequently. Plantations are not the question,
and I am very sure he can have little idea of what he would have to contend against in
our mountain forests, so that I strongly recommend that before embarking in the
venture he should (as advised by the Government of India) visit India himself, or send
out a practical person on his behalf.

4. From what Mr. Routledge told me I am under the impression that he must
have our large bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*) only; if the Elephant bamboo or Teak
(*Besha Travancorica*) of the Tinnevely and Travancore Ghats would answer the
purpose, we could easily give him many square miles on the Tinnevely mountains
where the climate is healthy, communications not difficult, and labor easily obtainable.

No. 1,189.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the
Board of Revenue, with reference to G.O. No. 1,346, dated 26th September 1876,
Revenue Department.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut. Colonel,
Conservator of Forests.

14th October 1876.

Submitted to Government.

2. The Board concurs with the Conservator. If plantations are to be formed
probably some of the palugay lands along the Covert would give the best chance of
success.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Conservator of Forests.
Lieut. L. D. Ryan.

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MAIL ROOMS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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References

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