M.R.O. 1—20,002—

(1) Number of Pages 64

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(3) Initials of the Referencer 18/4/69

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. ~~B.P. No.~~	581	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	6-5-1876	~~196~~ .

Not to be folded [illegible] oughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, *6th May* 1876.

No. 47. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 17th April 1876, No. 523:—

Mr. Morgan's letter to the Conservator of Forests, dated 4th February 1876, No. 795, with 17 enclosures.
Mr. Morgan's letter to the Collector of his Division, dated 7th April 1876, No. 20, with one enclosure.
The Collector of Coimbatore's letter to the Conservator of Forests, dated 12th April 1876, No. 59.

I HAVE the honor to forward the correspondence as per margin for the orders of Government.

2. It appears that a ryot, by name Soory Siddagounden, obtained a putta for a piece of Forest land at Modully in the North Coimbatore Division, in which was situated a Government fenced-in sandalwood plantation containing some 600 sandalwood plants worth about Rupees 3,000; that he felled and burnt the same and converted it into a plantain garden; that the putta was granted by the Tahsildar without any reference to the Collector; and that the applicant kept back the fact that the land in question contained a Government plantation (fenced in) and valuable timber trees, and that the mischief had all occurred before the Forest Department knew anything about it.

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1876, No. 581.

Forests, No. 3.

THE Governor in Council observes that, assuming the occupation of the land by the Forest Department to have been proved, all action on their part is barred by the land having been lawfully made over to the present occupant. The officers of the Forest Department are much to blame for neglecting to record and watch over the plantation, in view to preventing encroachment or improper appropriation.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Conservator of Forests.

Ex. J. W. Fischer.

Forest Dy No. 81
7-2-76

No: 796

Dy. Conservator's office
Coimbatore
4th February/76
5th Dept.

13

From

The Dy: Conservator of Forests.
N. Coimbatore Range

To

The Conservator of Forests
Madras

Through

The Collector of Coimbatore

Enclosures. 17.

1. Tahsildar's Inqr dt 14th June 1875 to the Dy. Conr
with 13 enclosures (to be returned)
2. Dy. Conr's letter No 180 dt 27th Nov 75 to the Collector
3. Collector's Offl Memo No 564 dt 29th Decr/75 to the Dy Conr
4. Overseer's letter No 59 dt 12th Jany 875 to the — do. —

Sir,

With reference to the remarks of the Collector in paras 2 to 5 of his offl: memo: No: 564 dt 29th Decr/75 (Copy enclosed), I have the honour to forward copy of my overseer's letter, where you will observe that he himself went and examined the Plantation personally on receipt of the Duffadar's Report and that he strongly asserts that he will fully prove that Soory Siddagounden has destroyed the Sandal-wood Plantation and turned it into a Plantain garden

On perusal of the whole Correspondence as per margin, I beg that the necessary orders for prosecution of the party will be issued at an early date.

Best thing they
what happened to the
plantation had fail
after [illegible] June 1
620, [illegible] (rest [illegible])

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

R. S. Morgan

Dy: Conservator of Forests

Enclosure to Forest Off. No 93/17-2-76.

Forest Dept

1875-76

From

The Dy. Cons. of Forests

N. Coimbatore Range

To

The Conservator of Forests

Madras

Thro'

The Collector of Coimbatore

Dated 4th }
Despd 5th } Feby /76.
Recd }

No. 775

Enclosures 17.

Subject

Requesting permission to prosecute some Soliga and for burning Collegal Sandalwood Plantation

---

No. 209

Office of Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund 14th February 1876

From,

Lieut. Col. R. H. Beddome,
Conservator of Forests.

To.

A. Wedderburn Esquire,
Collector of Coimbatore

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have received the enclosed documents from your office without any remarks from yourself, the matter seems one of great importance and I request that you will return the papers with a Memo stating what you propose doing or if anything has been done already in the matter.

2. It appears that the tract was actually a plantation made by the Forest Department, if so it must have been great carelessness on the part of the Forest Officer and his Establishment that anything of this sort could have happened, as some Duffadar or Peon should certainly be in

charge of all tracts actually planted.

I have the honor &c:

sd/ R. H. Beddome, Lt. Col:
Conservator of Forests.

(A true copy)

Consr of Forests

Forest Dy/ 122 8.1.7

No: 20.

Coimbatore
7th: April 1875.

From

The Dy: Conservator of Forests
N. Coimbatore Range

To

The Collector of
Coimbatore

Enclosure. 1.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No: 28 of 21st February 1875. I have the honour to inform you that I was mistaken in informing you that the owner said we had a puttah for the land, on which we planted Sandalwood. It was the ryot who resigned the land who had a puttah for it. The land having reverted to Forest, my predecessor does not appear to have considered it necessary to have applied for a puttah, as this patch is in the Modully Combay surrounded by Forest. The charges connected with this Plantation were included in those of the Bylore Plantation after the above ryots resignation, it was covered with brushwood and grass grown to the height of about 4 feet

2. Before I left Collegall for Anamullay in 1873, I cleared the grass, brushwood, &c. and opened a nursery (which was flourishing well) and gave it in charge of Mr. Taylor my predecessor who opened pits and planted sandalwood plantn. I believe Mr. Taylor after 3 or 4 months trial left the same as failure, when I came back from Anamullay I did not take charge of this plantation

The trees bey
5 ft ht

3. It was never the custom to obtain puttah, nor inform the Tahsildar for any land in the Forests taken for planting purposes. There is neither puttah nor permission asked for the Bylore and Salamullay Sandalwood plantation. The land being directly under us and covered with forest.

I beg to remain
Sir,
your obedient servant
Sd/. Appavoo Moodr Overr.
Collegall Forests

(True copy).

R. [illegible]
Dy: Consr. of Fts.

Coimbatore
7th April 1876}

Eg 6 Aug/76 No 125

No. 59

Coimbatore Collector's office,
12th April 1876.

6 ~~7~~

From,

A. Wedderburn Esqre,
Collector of Coimbatore –

To,

Lieut. Colonel R. H. Beddome,
Conservator of Forests –

Enclosures, 20.

1 Mr. Morgan's letter No. 795 of 5/2/76 with 17 Enclosures —

1 Mr. Morgan's letter No. 20 of 7th April/76 to the Collr. with enclosure. —

Sir

I have the honor to return the papers which were forwarded in your letter of the 1st February last –

2 – It will rest with you to direct prosecution, or not; the case was not reported to me, in sufficient detail, to admit of my giving orders as Conservator – during the past year, nor was I officially cognisant of the existence of such a plantation –

3 – My impression is that if sandal wood plantations are formed, they should be reported by Deputy Conservators; appear by name in the accounts, with the establishment needed

for their protection; and should have
formed the subject of delivery of
harge and monthly report on state-

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obed.t Serv.t

Jm Walker
for Collector.

61
From,
The Collector of
Coimbatore.
To,
The Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund.
Dated 19th
Recd } April 1876
Encl. 20,

No. 59
Rec 1580/76

Returning the papers received regarding the destruction of a Sandalwood plantation at Kollegal with his views

Pros: 6th May /76 [illegible]

Letter from the Conservator
of Forests dy 17 April 1876.
No 523.

An attentive perusal of the enclosures received with this letter shews, (1) that the existence of the sandalwood plantation on the land, now admittedly in possession of Soori Sidda Goundan who has come by it in the most regular & [illegible] way, was not known to any but the Forest servants (a [illegible] of two [illegible]); the overseer himself stating that his predecessor, Mr Taylor, after some years' trial, abandoned the plantation as a failure, & that he himself never took charge of it, & the village officers denying in toto all knowledge of it; (2) that even admitting the evidence

A translation of the Tahsildar's report to the Forest Depart Conservator [illegible] the [illegible] which will be found among the papers herewith submitted.

The facts of this case, as drawn from the inquiry made, do not justify the Conservator's letter.

A piece of old Pattah land in the Budalty village which had been relinquished by of the plantation at one time to have been [illegible]; the Forest department do not appear to have acquired the land in the regular way through the Revl. Dept. & the Revl. Dept. were never made cognizant of the establishment of the plantation; & those who have acquired lawful title through the Revl. Dept., although it may be adverse to the interest of the Forest Dept., cannot be ousted legally or made amenable to losses which the Forest Dept. may have sustained. The Conservator of Forests has submitted the case without making any specific recommendation & the matter appears to have been [illegible] correspondence between the Forest officers

by the former holder has been applied for by, and conferred on, one Siddah Gowder a respectable ryot of the village, in the regular way. He has cleared it & prepared it for a Plantain garden. A Forest Duffadar and two Peons come forward at a long interval apparently and allege that at some previous period an Experimental Sandal wood plantation had been made there by the Forest Departt. If so, the Puttah land was appropriated without notice to the Revenue Authorities &c. The people of the village deny the

the fact absolutely and point out the site of the alleged plantation still untouched, deserted, and gone to ruin - and there is not the smallest evidence that their statement is false.

Be this as it may; the so-called plantation appears no where in the accounts, is admitted to have been a failure and to have been abandoned. The Conservator's statement as to the number of fully the trees & their value is baseless. Neither he nor Mr. Morgan has visited the place or made local inquiry.

My own belief is ~~I have not the slightest~~ that ~~doubt~~ that the Statement of the Villagers and the result of the inquiry are true and that the

25.4.96.

the Collector for upwards of a year.

3. Without a clear right on the part of the Forest Department to the land in question & without any reliable proof of the existence of the plantation before the land was given [illegible] there does not seem to be any way open to [illegible] for the loss alleged to have been sustained, even if ascertained to be real. The Forest officers of Coimbatore are much to blame for not exercising strict supervision over the plantation which was under their control & for not promptly taking steps preventing infringement of rights of which they alone can be cognizant. The actual cost to Govt. of the plantation is not stated any

where - The sum of Rs 3000 the estimated value of the trees said to have been destroyed & does not appear ... [illegible] ... in the [illegible] -

the charge has been got up with intent to extort & bully.

I would tell Colonel Beddome so and desire him to be more careful in his inquiry before writing a sensational letter.

24/3 [illegible]

I agree

I cannot ... that Col. B. is open to blame in the letter ... [illegible] ... little ... information although ... office - [illegible] ... the expenses connected with the plantation were ... of the Bylore Plantation - Morgan the Dep. Cons. states that the overseer went & personally examined .... - the letter of the overseer stating that just is enclosed -

I should say - that nothing can now be done towards prosecuting or ~~...~~ ... the case alleged to be fully proved. as the ~~...~~ land has been lawfully handed over to the present occupant -

that the officers of the Forest Dept are much to blame for not taking care to ~~...~~ record & watch over all the ground & planted ground to prevent encroachment or improper appropriation -

B.H. 4/5

... 29 April R 5: May

29. April /76 R 29: Apl

No. 523.

Office of Conser. of Forests.
Ootacamund 17th April 1876.

From,
Lieut. Col. R. H. Beddome,
Conservator of Forests

To
The Honble D. F. Carmichael,
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the correspondence as per margin for the orders of Govt.

Mr. Morgan's letter to the Consr. of Forests dated ..th Feby: 76 No. 795 with 17 enclosures.

... 's letter to the Collector ... dated 7th April 76, No. 20 ... enclosure.

The Collector of Coimbatore's letter to the Consr. of Forests dated 12th April 76 No. 59

2. It appears that a Ryot by name Soory Siddagoundan obtained a puttah for a piece of Forest land at Modully in the North Coimbatore Division, in which was situated a Government fenced in Sandal Wood plantation containing some 600 Sandal wood plants worth about 3000 Rupees that he felled and burnt the same and converted it into a Plantain Garden, that the puttah was granted by the

Tahsildar without any reference to the Collector, and that the applicant Kept back the fact that the land in question Contained a Government plantation (fenced in) and Valuable timber trees, and that the mischief had all occurred before the Forest Department Knew any thing about it.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servt.
R.H. Beddome Lt. Colonel,
Conservator of Forests.

No. 1580
Revenue 1876. Department
Revenue – Forests
1876.

From
The Conservator of Forests

To the Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Dept.

Dated 17th }
Recd. 22nd } April 1876.

No: 523. Dt.
(Enclosures 21st)

Forwarding for orders certain correspondence relating to Sidda Goundan, a Ryot at Modully in the North Coimbatore Division.

No. 581 – 6th May 1876

Forwarded No. 3

No 581

The G. in C. observes that, assuming the occupation of the land by the Forest Dept. to have been proved, all action on their part is barred by the land having been lawfully made over to the present occupant – The officers of the Forest Dept. are much to blame for neglecting to exercise watch over ~~the~~ plantation, in view to preventing encroachment or improper appropriation.

D.S.C. 5/5/76.

21 Folios Conservator of Forests
Dn 13 May

6 May 187

3/194
Rd. 19-4-76

C. 27: April/76 R 29: Apl.

Enclosures Twenty one (21)
In a letter No. 523 dated 17th April 1876
to the Secry to Govt. Rev. Dept. from the
Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund.

C. 6 May 76

1580/96

13

The Inventor [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
personally that
by creating [illegible]
in an adjoining
land [illegible]
it takes [illegible]
templating to
plant sandal
wood trees; but
that [illegible]
were about
to cultivate
[illegible] land

On inquiry
into this matter
it appears [illegible]
the late [illegible]
to [illegible]
who are preparing
the ground for
planting plantain
trees &c; that
there are trees
of various des[illegible]
on the land
which [illegible]
[illegible] kanam
as [illegible] fee; [illegible]
[illegible] did not
[illegible] at first

[illegible] 85 [illegible]

[illegible] 4½ [illegible]

[illegible]

fully prove by the coolies who work

[illegible]

I would [illegible] inspected the land of Sow[illegible] Seth[illegible] & have reported on its condition & the facts elicited by my enquiry to the Dy [illegible] officer.

Similar [illegible] depositions taken during the enquiry

No: 597 Enc to D.F. By No 81 / 7-2-76

Collegall
14th January 18

To

R. W. [illegible] Esqre
Dy: Conr: of Forests
Northn Coimbatore

Sir

With [illegible] case of [illegible] [illegible] Iverdah of [illegible] for burning and destroying the Government Sandalwood Plantation at Modelly, I beg most respectf[illegible] to inform you that the cas[illegible] is still pending in the Taheildar's Cour[illegible] and no final [illegible] decision has been given up to date. When I went and examined the Plantation personally after I received the [illegible] from the Duffadar, and previous to my informing you, requesting for prosecution I found the whole sandalwood plants to the number of 600 burnt and the [illegible] hedges and fences erected for protection from stray cows and Bullocks also [illegible] and burnt. I would have brought the circumstance to [illegible] immediately, but I was exemp[illegible] [illegible] doing a circular from your office, ordering [illegible] all the Forest cases should first be broug[illegible] to the notice of the Dy: conservator for [illegible] for prosecution by the Collector. I can [illegible] fully prove by the coolies who work[illegible]

the

this Plantation and also [illegible]
Shamgherry [illegible] of 9a[illegible]
for planted [illegible] to that a
sandalwood Plantation [illegible] was
destroyed by the a[illegible]vidual to convert
it into [illegible] sand[illegible]

I ha[illegible] remain
Sir &c
Sd/ Appavoo Moodly
Overseer Collegal Forests

No 680
Enc to F. Dy No 81 / 7-2-76

Deputy Conservator's off
Coimbatore 27th November
1876

From

Encl: 14 to be returned.

The Deputy Conservator of Fore
North Coimbatore

To,

A Wedderburn Esquire
Collector & Conservator
Coimbatore.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I wrote to the Tahsildar to report upon the burning of the Government Sandalwood Plantation at Basuvanathum near Modelly, I enclose his report with its enclosures being the Tamil and Canarese depositions taken from the parties concerned.

2. It is worthy of note that in no less than three of the Depositions, it is stated that when the land was applied for, the applicants forgot to note that several valuable timber trees, stood on the land besides the sandalwood; the timber trees and sandalwood being m[illegible] trifles the ryot's eyes that they were easily overlooked.

They don't admit the existence of Sandalwood trees on this land, but on the adjoining one. J.D.

[illegible] not correct

3. As the sandalwood trees were from two to three feet in height, and well established, they were worth at least 5 each; and there being 600 trees on the la

of Sandalwood saplings

4. I therefore request your leave and advice, as to their prosecution.

I have &c

W. Morgan

Consr: of Forests.

No: 564.

Recd. to F. Dr. No. 81
22-1-76

Official memo:

Enclo: 14. Read Lr. from the Deputy Conservator, North Coimbatore, dd 27th November 1875, No. 600 on the destruction of a Sandalwood plantation.

The land in question was granted by the former Tahsildar Naraniah, since transferred on promotion to the Oodumulpettah Taluq, who is desired instantly to afford such explanation of his conduct in disobeying the Collector's express orders by re-granting forest land for cultivation, without the Collector's sanction.

2. It is to be noted that the forest Overseer did not personally inspect the land, which if it contained 600 Sandalwood plants valued at Rs 3,000, was of the highest value to Government, but deputed a Duffadar to do so.

3. If such mischief was really committed, information should have been laid before the Police.

4. The question as to prosecution is a difficult one.

5. The land in question though called in one place "immemorial waste" seems to have been in puttah before and relinquished

in 1871, and probably planted in 1873; if the mischief can be certainly proved, then on such evidence being placed before the Collector, orders will be pass[ed]

Coimbatore,
27th December 1875}

Sd/ A W J Martindale
For Collector

To,

The Deputy Conservator,
North Coimbatore

[illegible]

1876 [illegible]

[illegible]

1285 [illegible]

[illegible]

27 [illegible] 1285 [illegible]

[illegible]

No 84
7-2-76

[illegible]

[illegible] 358 [illegible]

[illegible] 18 - 12 - [illegible]

[illegible]

10

[illegible]

[illegible] 358 [illegible]

[illegible] 18 – 19 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] -2- [illegible]

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[illegible] Encl. No. 1281 / 7296

[illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible] 1875 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1 [illegible]

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2 [illegible] 1885

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[illegible] 220 [illegible]

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1875 [illegible]

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7-2-76

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[illegible]

[illegible]

1875 [illegible] 12 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 1885 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] - 2 - [illegible] - 1 -

[illegible] - 1 - [illegible] - 2 - [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

J R[illegible]

[illegible]
Collector
of [illegible]

Report of the [illegible]
Collector to
Ramachendra [illegible]

I have
received your
petition 19th [illegible]
ultimo.

When [illegible]
your memorial
was in circuit
to Yanakuppam
& other places around
to the Collector and
on my return I
instituted enquiry
on the subject of
your letter & was
informed by the
Forest Supply[?]
that on [illegible] the [illegible]
— 12 — [illegible] in the
village [illegible]
there was a sandal
wood plantation
& that it was all
burning by Sevar[?]
Sethu [illegible]
who has dug pits
for planting plantain
trees on the
ground; ~~which~~
these said [illegible]
have seen
with their own eyes [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1825 [illegible]

[illegible]

... planted ...

... in ...

plantain ...

be ...

pits —

The village ... past the Kumar... say that ... no sandal... there at all ... an adjoining ... ground, two years ago, some sandal wood saplings ... been planted; but as no proper fence was erected for protection, cattle destroyed the plants which ... that ... on late ... granted ... phast.

[illegible] Recd 15 [illegible] 1276

[illegible]

1825 [illegible] -12 [illegible]

[illegible]

1825 [illegible] 1½ [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]	8
[illegible]	2
[illegible]	1
[illegible]	

[illegible] - 300 [illegible]

of Kumbai forming [illegible]

[illegible] — 2

[illegible] — 1

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] 18 - 12 - 06 -

[illegible] 35 [illegible]

1285 [illegible] /

[illegible] ———

[illegible] — 2

[illegible] ——— 1

3 [illegible] 4 [illegible] — 2

3 [illegible] 4 [illegible]

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[illegible] ——— 1

4 [illegible] ——— 1

5 [illegible] 4 [illegible] 2

3 [illegible] 4 [illegible]

[illegible] 1½ [illegible]

[illegible]

Encl to P.D., No. 81
7-2-76

[illegible]

1875 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1875 ௵ —

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