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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1034 Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 12-3-1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 369. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st February 1877, No. 761:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Waltair, 30th December 1876, No. 1,570 :—

In returning the enclosed letter from the Collector of Malabar, received with the Proceedings of the Board, No. 10,825, dated 8th December 1876, I have the honor to remark that the escheat in question runs, I believe, up the Peria ghat slopes, and I think that the heavy forest on the slopes might with advantage be placed under the Forest Department in order that it may be strictly conserved, otherwise it will, in all probability, rapidly disappear before Kumeri cultivation, and the result will be detriment to the streams and the frequent occurrence of landslips such as we now constantly have on the Coonoor ghat since the late clearings above it.

2. With reference to the teak planting in lower portions of the escheat, I think that this and all the lower portion of the tract which lies in the Kottayam taluq of the sub-division should remain under the Collector; it is more easily visited from Tellicherry, and the idea of planting originated with Mr. Logan, and there can be no doubt that this department would not have the same control over the jungle tribes employed, or be able to carry out the experiment as cheaply.

Enclosure No. 1.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 16th November 1876, No. 303.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of G.O., Revenue Department, No. 1,065, dated 9th August 1876, communicated with the Board's Forest Miscellaneous No. 83-7,036, dated 18th August 1876, and to inform you that, after mature consideration, I think the best way of managing the block of escheat land at Kanoth will be for the Revenue Department to make over from time to time suitable portions thereof to the Forest Department for teak or other plantations, and to retain the rest of the block under the *exclusive* management of the Revenue Department under the Jungle Conservancy rules and the rules for the disposal of waste lands. And I would propose to *try* Colonel Beddome's suggestion of managing the plantations, viz., that my plans of utilising the jungle tribe should be carried out by Mr. Peet, acting directly under my orders. I will now proceed to set forth my reasons for recommending the above course.

2. A perusal of the early papers* will show you that I have, from the very beginning, kept in view the fact that large areas of the escheated tract are well adapted for other purposes besides plantations of forest trees, and I proposed to give every encouragement to settlers to take up and permanently occupy suitable portions of the area. Since writing that report my impression on this point has been confirmed; for I am now submitting in a separate letter a proposal from a European firm to take up two blocks for the purpose of experimental plantations of cocoa, Liberian coffee, pepper, &c. Another application, also from a European, for a similar purpose is now pending before the Sub-Collector, and I have little doubt that others will follow, because the tract is well situated and seems to be well adapted for the growth of such products. The whole of the block is admirably adapted for pepper cultivation; indeed considerable pieces have already been thus appropriated by the jungle folk, and now that the cultivation of ponam by Moplahs and others has been stopped, I have already had, and I anticipate receiving in the future, still more numerous applications for land for permanent occupation as pepper gardens, paddy flats, &c. I have very little doubt that coffee would do well over a large area of the tract if it were grown under shade. For these reasons I think that it must be left to my exclusive discretion what is or what is not to be done with any particular area. Mr. Peet would, of course, be allowed to select blocks for plantations, but I would confine his authority and Colonel Beddome's to the treatment of those blocks, and leave me to grant any other portions for specific purposes.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 2,965, dated 24th July 1875.

3. Moreover, you will also see that hitherto the land has been so ruinously managed that (to quote Mr. Peet's words) there has been left "scarcely a single accessible site with timber worth working at the present date." In fact, as Mr. Peet and I both reported originally, the timber resources of the tract as a remunerative speculation have been completely exhausted. The area is chiefly covered with dense scrub jungle, and it would not pay the Forest Department to entertain an establishment to work the small remaining stock of timber trees. If the Forest Department is prepared to do anything for the tract, it *must* lie in the way of plantations, and this seems to me an additional argument for my proposal to confine the Forest Department operations to certain definite areas to be selected from time to time, and to leave the rest to be managed exclusively by the Revenue Department.

4. Further, it will be seen that the land is already extensively occupied by jungle folk, who numbered in 1870 no less than 1,704 souls, and who cultivated annually on an average in Faslis 1279—1283 acres 553⅛ of ponam. The Board have recently* ruled that ponam assessment is not to be considered an item of forest revenue, so that on that ground also it seems necessary that the greater portion of the area should remain under the exclusive management of the Revenue Department.

* Board's Miscellaneous, No. 8,885, dated 17th October 1876.

5. As regards the plan of working the plantations by means of the jungle tribe, some little experience (and that of a hopeful kind) has already been gained, though the operations to start with were commenced under disadvantageous circumstances.

6. The teak seed which I procured from the Wynaad Forests failed to germinate at the proper time, though it was properly treated in the seed-beds by an experienced duffadar whose services were kindly put at my disposal by the Nilambur Deputy Conservator. When it did not come up the Tahsildar procured a supply of seed from the neighbourhood which germinated at once, and sometime afterwards the Wynaad seed began to appear; the seedlings however with a few exceptions did not do well. I am of opinion that seed procured from elevated situations like the Wynaad or the Anamallays is not so well matured as that obtained from trees grown in warmer regions. I propose therefore to use in future seed obtained from Nilambur.

7. The necessity of obtaining money for the experiment through Mr. Peet, and the delay that ensued because of references having to be made each time to the Conservator, very nearly ended in the total collapse of the experiment; because when the jungle people in spite of repeated promises found that they were not being paid for their labor, they very naturally made themselves scarce. I had, in fact, to advance money from my own pocket for the purpose, and but for that I fancy the experiment for the current year would have been an utter failure. As it was the plants did not get the benefit of the heavy rains in June and July, and though they were all into the ground by the middle of August (the latest date for planting out at Nilambur), the delay in an exceptionally dry season like the present went very much against the success of the experiment. Failures have been numerous, but though unceasing care has been bestowed by the jungle people living in the immediate neighbourhood, to whom the care of the plantation has been made over, I fear that the season has been too dry to admit of successful replacement of failures. We registered only 964, 2·62, and 1·56 inches of rain in the latter half of August, in September, and in October, respectively, against averages of 4·53, 9·58, and 7·20 inches for the same periods in the past five years.

8. When at last the money difficulty was overcome, the jungle people at once set to work willingly. It was found that they came at irregular hours, and it was difficult to settle with them on that account at daily wages. So the Tahsildar proposed that they should do the work on contract, and thereupon (and this is the most hopeful sign for future operations) they took up contracts at once, and in less than five days they had dug 6,700 pits and planted out 6,000 plants at the cheap rate of 3 Annas per 100. This rate seemed to satisfy them thoroughly, as they did the pitting and planting at odd hours when not engaged with their own cultivation. They also in the same way erected a fence to keep cattle from straying off the road into the plantation, and the Tahsildar reports that they willingly undertook the contract for this at Rupees 4-8-0, whereas with ordinary labor well supervised, the fence would, the Tahsildar says, have cost Rupees 15. In short, the plan of giving them the work on contract has proved a great success, and will lighten in a most material way the charges for supervision. I was afraid that they would decline to use the mamoty, but though they made some scruples about it, they yielded the point, and I have now no doubt that I shall be able to get any amount of planting done by them on contract at cheap rates.

9. I enclose a statement of charges up to date of the Tahsildar's report. About 12 acres have been cleared pitted, and planted out even under the disadvantageous circumstances reported above at the rate of about Rupees 11-8-0 per acre, that is for something less than it costs at Nilambur to fell, burn, and clear the site alone. The cost per acre of the planting operations at Nilambur has been about Rupees 36 per acre in the first year, so that even if Rupees 5 per acre has to be paid to the Kurchiars for fire tracing, &c., &c., till next monsoon comes round, the expenditure should not come up to one-half of the Nilambur rate.

10. There is a saving in every way in using the jungle people. We first of all allow them to fell and burn for a ponam crop; this clears the land, and we have when the following monsoon comes round merely to cut down weeds, pit, and plant out. The operations are simple and being taken on contract by the tribe; one duffadar on Rupees 15 per mensem will be able easily to supervise the planting of 100 acres or more. Moreover, as the tribe lives in the immediate vicinity and can work at odd hours while attending to their own occupations, their rates of contract labor are very low. For my own part, I see no reason why the plantations should cost in the first year more than Rupees 12 per acre, even if a duffadar on Rupees 15 per mensem is employed all the year round.

11. In conclusion, I beg to point out a slight misapprehension that has inadvertently crept into the Conservator's letter published in the Government Order under reply. The tract lies not in Wynaad, but in the Kottayam taluq of the Sub-Collector's division, and I should add that I am very much indebted to Mr. Buick for the great personal interest he has taken in this year's experiment.

FORWARDED through the Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund.

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

17th November 1876.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure on account of Kanoth Forest.

	RS.	A.	
Received from Wynaad Deputy Conservator for clearing forest and preparing seed-beds ...	20	0	0
Received from Wynaad Deputy Conservator for planting operations	67	4	0
Duffadar's pay received from Deputy Conservator	45	0	0
Total ...	132	4	0

	RS.	A.	P.
Paid coolies for clearing forest ...	35	8	6
Do. for 6,700 pits, at 3 Annas per 100	12	9	0
Paid coolies for putting up a fence.	4	8	0
Do. Adigari for coir, for marking pits and for other sundries	3	2	10
Paid coolies for preparing nursery beds and for putting a fence around it	16	2	10
Duffadar's pay for three months ...	45	0	0
Total Expenditure ...	116	15	2
Cash balance in hand of Tahsildar.	15	4	10
Total ...	132	4	0

NOTE.—Rupees 21-4-8 is still due on account of the Duffadar's pay.

	RS.	A.	P.
Total expenditure as above	116	15	2
Balance of pay due to duffadar	21	4	8
Total charges ...	138	3	10

CALICUT,
16th November 1876.

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From A. W. PEET, Esq., Deputy Conservator, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests (through the Collector), dated Manantoddy, 13th December 1876, No. 222.

WITH reference to letter, No. 303, of the 16th November 1876, from W. Logan, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, I have the honor to remark that I think that the Forest Department could not hope to carry out the experimental teak plantation at Kanoth, in the Kottayam taluq, at such cheap rates as those mentioned in the above letter.

2. There is no doubt that, even without pressure, a Revenue official can always command labor where none might be obtainable by another department. Moreover, the idea of the experiment originated with Mr. Logan, and it is natural that he should wish to carry it out; and, if the Sub-Collector shares his views, his possession at Tellicherry gives him more opportunity of direct superintendence than could be enjoyed by an officer stationed in Wynaad.

3. No revenue from timber could be obtained for some years, or at most a trifling one; and I would therefore submit that it would be advantageous to carry on the experiment as cheaply as possible; and, as I have before stated, I consider that this end could be accomplished best by the Revenue authorities.

4. I believe that the escheat runs up the Peria ghat, and I think that the heavy forest on the slopes of the ghat might with advantage be placed under the Forest Department, in order that it may be strictly conserved and not given over for raggy cultivation. I would urge this course, not only for the preservation of the heads of streams, but for the prevention of landslips.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board approve Mr. Logan's proposals, and do not think it necessary that Colonel Beddome's suggestion should be adopted. They observe that Mr. Logan, to

whom the experiment owes its origin, is anxious that the entire management of the tract should remain with the Revenue Officers; and from paragraph 17 of his letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 24th July 1875, No. 2,065, it will be observed that *ponam* cultivation by other than Kurchiars is to be stopped, and that the Kurchiars are to be prevented from touching the virgin forest. This no doubt includes the heavy forest above the ghat road, the [illegible] is [illegible] considered important by Colonel Beddome.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 370. ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1877, No. 1,034.

Forest, No. 4.

THE Government concur in the views of the Board.

2. The Board will report what arrangements they propose to make with the Conservator in regard to the provision of funds for the future.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Encl. L. F. Zephi

1034/1

No. 761.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st February 1877.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Waltair, 30th December 1876, No. 1,570 :—

IN returning the enclosed letter from the Collector of Malabar, received with the Proceedings of the Board, No. 10,825, dated 8th December 1876, I have the honor to remark that the escheat in question runs, I believe, up the Peria ghat slopes, and I think that the heavy forest on the slopes might with advantage be placed under the Forest Department in order that it may be strictly conserved, otherwise it will, in all probability, rapidly disappear before Kumeri cultivation, and the result will be detriment to the streams and the frequent occurrence of landslips such as we now constantly have on the Coonoor ghat since the late clearings above it.

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From W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 16th November 1876, No. 393.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of G.O., Revenue Department, No. 1,065, dated 9th August 1876, communicated with the Board's Forest Miscellaneous No. 83-7,035, dated 18th August 1876, and to inform you that, after mature consideration, I think the best way of managing the block of escheat land at Kanoth will be for the Revenue Department to make over from time to time suitable portions thereof to the Forest Department for teak or other plantations, and to retain the rest of the block under the *exclusive* management of the Revenue Department under the Jungle Conservancy rules and the rules for the disposal of waste lands. And I would propose to *try* Colonel Beddome's suggestion of managing the plantations, viz., that my plans of utilising the jungle tribe should be carried out by Mr. Peet, acting directly under my orders. I will now proceed to set forth my reasons for recommending the above course.

2. A perusal of the early papers* will show you that I have, from the very beginning, kept in view the fact that large areas of the escheated tract are well adapted for other purposes besides plantations of forest trees, and I proposed to give every encouragement to settlers to take up and permanently occupy suitable portions of the area. Since writing that report, my impression on this point has been confirmed; for I am now submitting in a separate letter a proposal from a European firm to take up two blocks for the purpose of experimental plantations of cocoa, Liberian coffee, pepper, &c. Another application, also from a European, for a similar purpose is now pending before the Sub-Collector, and I have little doubt that others will follow, because the tract is well situated and seems to be well adapted for the growth of such products. The whole of the block is admirably adapted for pepper cultivation; indeed considerable pieces have already been thus appropriated by the jungle folk, and now that the cultivation of ponam by Moplahs and others has been stopped, I have already had, and I anticipate receiving in the future, still more numerous applications for land for permanent occupation as pepper gardens, paddy flats, &c. I have very little doubt that coffee would do well over a large area of the tract if it were grown under shade. For these reasons I think that it must be left to my exclusive discretion what is or what is not to be done with any particular area. Mr. Peet would, of course, be allowed to select blocks for plantations, but I would confine his authority and Colonel Beddome's to the treatment of those blocks, and leave me to grant any other portions for specific purposes.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 2,065, dated 24th July 1875.

3. Moreover, you will also see that hitherto the land has been so ruinously managed that (to quote Mr. Peet's words) there has been left "scarcely a single accessible site with timber worth working at the present date." In fact, as Mr. Peet and I both reported originally, the timber resources of the tract as a remunerative speculation have been completely exhausted. The area is chiefly covered with dense scrub jungle, and it would not pay the Forest Department to entertain an establishment to work the small remaining stock of timber trees. If the Forest Department is prepared to do anything for the tract, it *must* lie in the way of plantations, and this seems to me an additional argument for my proposal to confine the Forest Department operations to certain definite areas to be selected from time to time, and to leave the rest to be managed exclusively by the Revenue Department.

4. Further, it will be seen that the land is already extensively occupied by jungle folk, who numbered in 1870 no less than 1,704 souls, and who cultivated annually on an average in Faslis 1279—1283 acres 553½ of ponam. The Board have recently* ruled that ponam assessment is not to be considered an item of forest revenue, so that on that ground also it seems necessary that the greater portion of the area should remain under the exclusive management of the Revenue Department.

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5. As regards the plan of working the plantations by means of the jungle tribe, some little experience (and that of a hopeful kind) has already been gained, though the operations to start with were commenced under disadvantageous circumstances.

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(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

17th November 1876.

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				Do. for 6,700 pits, at 3 Annas per 100	12	9	0
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				Duffadar's pay for three months...	45	0	0
				Total Expenditure ...	116	15	2
				Cash balance in hand of Tahsildar.	15	4	10
Total ...	132	4	0	Total ...	132	4	0

NOTE.—Rupees 21.4.3 is still due on account of the Duffadar's pay.

	RS.	A.	P.
Total expenditure as above	116	15	2
Balance of pay due to duffadar	21	4	3
Total charges ...	138	3	10

CALICUT,
16th November 1876.

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From A. W. PEET, Esq., Deputy Conservator, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME Conservator of Forests (through the Collector), dated Manantoddy, 13th December 1876, No. 222.

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SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board approve Mr. Logan's proposals, and do not think it necessary that Colonel Beddome's suggestion should be adopted. They observe that Mr. Logan, to

whom the experiment owes its origin, is anxious that the entire management of the tract should remain with the Revenue Officers; and from paragraph 17 of his letter recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 24th July 1875, No. 2,065, it will be observed that *ponam* cultivation by other than Kurchiars is to be stopped, and that the Kurchiars are to be prevented from touching the virgin forest. This no doubt includes the heavy forest above the ghat road, the conservation of which is justly considered important by Colonel Beddome.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H Eccles
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Malabar.
" to the Conservator of Forests.

1054/7

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 527.

From Board of Revenue

Dated 21st February 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

We certainly entrust the business to Mr Coll. as far as we can succeed - the Pellanchur plantation were [illegible] Mr Coll. Mr Crosby [illegible] Mr Cotty afterwards to be transferred for the present left. Conolly. We propose conserving South [illegible] Malabar Forests [illegible]

Bd 2/3

Bd 1877 Dept

Board of Revenue

MADRAS. 21/2/1877

PROCEEDINGS, 21st FEBRUARY 1877, No.

Copy of Memo dtd 12-2-77 with the

Received & Entered.

FEBRUARY.

No. 761.

Government Extract laid in Kavith Am

Malabar District.—Submitting to Govern

proposals of Collector for management of —

remarks of Conservator of Forests thereon.

For

FOR ORDERS.