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(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1602	Press / Mis.
Dated	1.5.1977	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1602
1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st May 1877.

No. 3. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1877, No. 1,545:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. SCOTT, Retired List, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 23rd February 1877:—

I HAVE the honor to request that you will do me the favor of submitting to the Board of Revenue the enclosed rejected application for land in the Bowany Valley, along with the correspondence connected therewith, hereto attached, with a view to the Board's weighing the objections raised by the junior officer of the Forest Department of the Coimbatore District against entertaining my application, and deciding upon the correctness and validity of their nature or otherwise.

2. In regard to the 3rd paragraph of Mr. Morgan's reply to Mr. Wedderburn of 12th December last, I beg to state, for the Board's information, that the Thaymullay land was given under a report made upon it in 1863, by Captain now Colonel Beddome, who was at the time an officer of the "Imperial Forest Department" and of the Coimbatore District; and, secondly, that there being no forests whatsoever in the Bhowany Valley below Thaymullay, or within twenty miles of it, it is inconceivable how injury of the nature alleged could have accrued to the valley in consequence of that grant.

3. When I first opened at Thaymullay, the stream on which I had to depend was a mere thread in the dry season; before I left, it was sufficiently large to turn a water wheel, as well as to irrigate a portion of the estate; this result was affected by damming the stream at its head, thereby securing a larger and more uniform flow of water in the channel throughout the year. I cannot I consider be justly taxed therefore with having inflicted an "irreparable injury" upon the Bhowany Valley, but on the contrary I may claim to have benefited both it and my neighbourhood.

4. From Thaymullay to its head the valley is exclusively occupied by Irulas or Corrumbers (chiefly the former) classes of people who follow no recognized system of agriculture; nor is the valley itself, owing to the sterility of its soil, the dryness of the climate, and malarious nature of its atmosphere, suited for the operations of husbandry, or the dwelling there of more civilized races than those who now inhabit it. The statement therefore in the letter quoted of the streams being required to fertilize this arid region is a more graphic than correct description of the facts of the case.

5. While numerous large streams descend from the Nilgiri plateaux to feed the Bhowany river on the northern side of the valley, not a single perennial rivulet finds its way down from the Vellingerah Mullah Range on the southern side on which I have applied for land to the bed of that river throughout the dry season.

6. Should the Board be pleased to regard my application favorably, I would stipulate as one of the conditions of the grant to put down 10,000 *C. Succirubra* trees for every 50,000 tea or coffee shrubs planted.

7. The Board would confer upon me a great favor if it would consent to delegate an unprejudiced or disinterested officer of experience to report upon the availability of this land.

P.S.—Since making my application to Mr. Wedderburn, I find the land applied for is situated in the Malabar Collectorate on the confines of the Coimbatore Collectorate.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. SCOTT, Retired List, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 18th November 1876.

I HAVE the honor to apply for the grant on lease of a block of 300 acres of forest land for the cultivation of tea, coffee, and cinchona in the Bhowany Valley, in the Collectorate of Coimbatore, in the north-western slopes of the range of hills known as Vellingerah Mullah, which form the southern boundary of the above-named valley facing the Nilgiri Hills, which form its northern boundary.

2. As the range is entirely uninhabited, and as I am consequently unable to describe accurately the land I wish to obtain in the event of your entertaining my application, I solicit the favor of your delegating some native authority from the nearest village to accompany me to the spot, in order that I may point the same out to him.

3. As the Bhowany Valley itself is inhabited by a wild race of people who occupy no civil position, I would suggest a native official being sent with me from the village of Narasapoorum, which, from its proximity to the spot on this side of the range, would probably be found the most convenient arrangement.

Begging you will address your reply to Ootacamund, I beg, &c.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From R. W. MORGAN, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Mettapolliem, 12th December 1876, No. 548.

WITH reference to Colonel Scott's application, I have the honor to inform you that no sholas, protecting the sources of our mountain streams, are to be denuded.

Vide Board's Proceedings, dated 6th December 1873, No. 2,496.

Vide Board's Proceedings, dated 23rd February 1874, No. 401, paragraphs 2 and 5 of your letter printed therein.

Vide Board's Proceedings, dated 10th August 1874, No. 2,185, especially of Captain Walker's letter printed therein.

Paragraphs 7 and 2 of the Board's Order thereon.

2. The denudation of these streams will affect the rainfall and climate; there will be disastrous floods and land-slips, and the water, which fertilizes such an extent of this arid district, will cease to flow, and Government will lose the handsome revenue they now realize from this source.

3. When the Thaymullay ravine was sold, the Coimbatore Forest Officer was never consulted, and an irreparable injury was done to the Bhowany Valley Forests.

4. Paragraph 7 of Captain Campbell Walker's letter in Board's Proceedings of 10th August 1874, No. 2,185, advises that the greatest care be taken in disposing of such applications.

5. The Conservator has informed me in a very explicit manner that not an acre of land is to be given away.

6. Therefore, an application to the Conservator of Forests will be Colonel Scott's proper course.

No. 15.

FORWARDED to Colonel Scott for information.

COIMBATORE,
26th January 1877.

(Signed) J. C. WINSCOM,
for Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. SCOTT, Retired List, to R. W. MORGAN, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Coimbatore, dated 27th January 1877.

IN your reply of 12th December last to my application of 18th of October 1876, to the Collector of Coimbatore, for a grant of land in the Bhowany Valley, the statement that the sale of the Thaymullay land without the cognizance of the Forest Officer of the Coimbatore District inflicted an irreparable injury upon the valley evincing, as it does, your ignorance of the facts of the case which are quite the contrary, and it being calculated to produce an unfavorable bias on the minds of the Collector and your superior officer in the disposal of the application. I have the honor to request you will correct or obliterate the statement from your letter.

2. I now find that the land I have applied for may be simply described as lying at the base of the hill named Bison Hill from an adventure which befell you in one of your excursions to that favorite sporting locality, and you will now, therefore, know as well as myself that no injury can result to the town or district of Coimbatore from the grant of land, the water-shed of which is into the Bhowany Valley, a region destitute of cultivation and where there is a profusion of rivers and streams running waste, all of which have their origin far distant from the land I have selected.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st May 1877.

1602
2

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From R. W. MORGAN, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, to Lieut.-Colonel S. P. SCOTT, Coimbatore, dated 28th January 1877, No. 663.

WITH reference to paragraph 1 of your letter, I have the honor to inform that I have no intention of obliterating my statement, it being correct. Captain Murray, who inspected the spot, was not a Forest Officer at all, but was Superintendent of Nilgiri sholahs. No officer of the Imperial Forests inspected the land.

2. Your description of the land in question was so vague, that I was under the impression that it was on the Coimbatore slopes; but from your letter to Colonel Beddome, I understand that it is on the Bhowany side of the hills, and I know, and have inspected the exact spot you allude to. The fact of its being on the Bhowany side of the water-shed in no way alters the case; all streams taking their rise in it flow into the Bhowany river which is utilized in the district entirely, and none of it runs to waste as you say.

3. I regret that I am unable to change my opinion on this subject.

TRANSFERRED to the Secretary, Board of Revenue.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
26th February 1877. Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

REFERRED to the Collector, Coimbatore, for report, with request that his letter may be forwarded through the Conservator of Forests.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 1st May 1877, No. 1,602.

Forest, No. 1. RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE.

Dated May, 1st.

Rect.

Read.

G.O., 1st May 1877, No. 1,672.

MAY.

Nos. 3-4.

Land in Bhowany Valley.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, reporting Collector of Coimbatore to report regarding Colonel Scott's application for certain —.

160 1/3

No. 1,545.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th April 1877.

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Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

26th February 1877.

REFERRED to the Collector, Coimbatore, for report, with request that his letter may be forwarded through the Conservator of Forests.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Revenue Department
No 2253

1877.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 6TH APRIL 1877, No. 1,545.

(Desp. 23 April 77)

Encl.

Received 24 April 77

APRIL.

No. 1,545.

Land in Bhowany Valley.—Referring to Collector of Coimbatore for report, through Conservator of Forests, papers regarding application from Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. Scott for certain —.

No. 1602

Recorded

1—6—77 20.4.77

C-27/4/77. R.30-4-77.