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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

12

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 1857

Press / Mis.

Dated 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/1859

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

30th May 1877, No. 1,857.

Read the following paper :—

No. 604. From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 12th May 1877, No. 116.

WITH reference to paragraph 11 of G.O., No. 1,172, of the 21st March 1877, I have the honor to forward a letter* from the officer in charge of the Salem Division. Where private forests dovetail with those of the State, there is always more or less smuggling going on, and until we have a Forest Act, and all forests have been properly demarcated, we can hardly expect to be able to stop it.

* No. 130, dated 7th May 1877.

2. In our railway districts, like Salem and North Arcot, I think that the State should lose no opportunity of purchasing all private tracts of forests. Private holders look, of course, only to immediate profits, and under such treatment forests must gradually disappear or degenerate into scrub, as so many have done, and are doing. And as these tracts where hilly are often not adapted for anything but forest growth, the gradual disappearance of which must be seriously affecting both the climate and water-supply of the country, the date is probably not very distant when it will be imperative on the State to take over their management in the interests of the whole community. The gradual disappearance of our woodlands, particularly in the drier districts, the effect on the temperature, the rain-fall, and the water-supply are very serious questions which do not receive the attention they should. Careful data on these points should be kept year by year in each district by the Revenue Authorities, or perhaps more properly by the Forest Department. It is a subject that almost any forest officer could sit down and write a report upon, but his arguments would seldom gain credence, except with a few, and what is wanted is data collected carefully over a long series of years A Revenue officer joins a district, and he sees a hill covered with scrub forest; he does not realise the fact that it was perhaps once a fine forest, and has only deteriorated under bad management. There is no data handed down to him to prove this or to show that other hills, which he finds only bare rock, have arrived at this condition through a gradual deterioration, or that streams which he sees dry at certain seasons were once perennial. Statistics of this nature are not part of his work, but, should he take an interest in the question, the data is wanting and the changes are scarcely so rapid as to be very noticeable during the brief period he may be in a district. A Forest Act, demarcation of reserves both in Government and private land, and more power in the hands of our officers, may arrest the destruction that, I am certain, is going on; but lacking these there will, during the next century, probably be many climatic changes in the face of railways, increasing population, and extending cultivation. There are, of course, many tracts in which it is proper that cultivation should extend, but there are vast tracts of hill forests which nature has never intended should be denuded, but which nevertheless are rapidly disappearing. I do not think that Government can read the reports that Mr. Turner and I have sent in on the Jeypore country without becoming alive to the fact that a

very vast tract of country is being seriously affected and likely to undergo great climatic changes for the worse under the baneful system of temporary hill cultivation; yet this system can go on unchecked in all hill forests not belonging to the State; and we often lack power to check it even in Government tracts, and as long as the Forest Act and demarcation are delayed, we must expect the alienation of many tracts on our mountains and slopes which properly should be strictly reserved.

3. I have been many times up and down the Coonoor ghaut almost every year during the last twenty years. During the last few years, since indiscriminate clearings of forest on these slopes have been going on, most serious floods and land-slips have occurred; huge boulders of rock, weighing hundreds of tons, and quantities of rees have been washed down, destroying the road and bridges in many places. Nothing of this nature occurred till the forests were cleared. The denudation of soil that must now be going on must, in course of time, lay these slopes bare, and render them unfit for any cultivation; the same may be said of many portions of the hill slopes in Wynaad and Coorg, and apparently the same mischief will now commence on the ghaut slopes in the South Canara and Tinnevelly Districts. The introduction of the Liberian coffee, which will only succeed well at low elevations, now threatens the destruction of the forests towards the base of our mountains. The greatest care will be necessary as to what land should be given up, and to ensure the reservation of the more important ravines.

4. A great many facts have lately been published, proving the ruin effected in other countries, both tropical and temperate, from the destruction of hill forests; and books have been written on the subject, and some Governments are going to vast expense in replanting mountain-sides so denuded; but except the State almost every one has an interest in ignoring and disbelieving these facts: the Revenue officer naturally looks to deriving a large and immediate revenue from the land in his district, the landholder to an immediate revenue from the forest on his ground, the planter to what profit he can make during a short term of years. It is only the State that can be expected to look to the future.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. W. C. STANBROUGH, Esq., Assistant Conservator of Forests, Salem, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated 7th May 1877, No. 130.

WITH reference to paragraph 4 of your letter, No. 69, dated 2nd instant, I have the honor to state that the cause of the smuggling in the Government forests adjoining the Neyamullays, belonging to the Mittadar of Chekadiputty, is due to the fact of the above-named hills being situated between and dovetailing with the Chinna and Peria Kulrayen Hills, the property of Government. The Mittadar is in the habit of issuing licenses for felling timber, &c., from his property; but, as may be supposed, this is very much abused, the parties to whom the license is issued preferring to cut the timber from Government land, in all probability, to save distance of transport and for sundry other reasons of a like nature. It is everywhere the same. Wherever Mittah forests adjoin Government forests, smuggling goes on and, with the limited Forest Establishments, will go on. Now and again parties are detected in the act of felling timber on Government land with a Mittah pass, and the delinquent punished; but, on the other hand, there are a great number of cases never detected. When the parties once remove the timber from the forests it is impossible to affirm that the timber was felled in Government forest, although one may have a strong impression that it was. I am afraid that until a Forest Act is passed, and the Government forests properly surveyed, smuggling will go on in localities situated as the one under notice.

2. The other points brought to my notice in your letter will receive due attention.

No. 605.

ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1877, No. 1,857.

Forest, No. 18.

THE Government acknowledge Colonel Beddome's zealous interest in his department, and note that the subject of legislation has been for some time in hand; but they remark at the same time that "smuggling" may very possibly be alleged by some whose common rights are not recognised against the State, and that the extension of cultivation in many parts is more important than the maintenance of jungle.

7/18

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Offg. Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Legislative Department.
,, the Public Works Dept.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1877 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

The CONSERVATOR of FORESTS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 30th.

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 30th May 1877, No. 1,857.

MAY.

Nos. 604-605.

Smuggling in Government Forests.—Informing Colonel Beddome that the subject of legislation has been for some time in hand, and intimating that — may very possibly be alleged by some whose common rights are not recognised against the State, and that the extension of cultivation in many parts is more important than the maintenance of jungles.

Salem Dy Conservator's Office

No. 130. 3/5 85

7th May 1877

From

The Assistant Conservator
Salem

To,

The Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund

Sir

With reference to para 4 of your letter No. 69 of 2nd Instant, I have the honor to state that the cause of the smuggling in the Government Forests adjoining the Neyamullays belonging to the Mittadar of Chekadipatty is due to the fact of the above named Hills being situated between and dovetailing with the Chinna & Peria Kulroyen Hills, the property of Government, the Mittadar is in the habit of issuing licenses for felling timber &c. from his property, but, as may be supposed this is very much abused, the parties to whom the license is issued preferring to cut the timber from Government land in all probability to save distance of transport and for sundry other reasons of a like nature. It is everywhere the same wherever Mittah forests adjoin Government Forests, Smuggling goes on and with the limited Forest Establishments will go on. Now & again parties are detected in the act of felling timber on Government land with a Mittah pass and the delinquent punished, but on the other hand there are a great number of Cases never detected, when the parties once remove the timber from the forests it is impossible to affirm that the timber was felled in Government Forest, although one may have a strong impression that it was. I am afraid that until a Forest Act is passed and the Government Forests properly surveyed smuggling will go on in localities situated as the one under notice.

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4/1857

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most obdt Servt
AM Stanbrough
Asst Conservator

Enclosure
In a letter No. 116 of 12th May
1877 from the Conservator of forests
to the Secretary to Government RD

Rev: 2584/77

PB 30-5-77 No. 1057.

From
The Asst Conservator
Salem
To
The Conservator of
Forests
Ootacamund

Dated
Despd
Recd } 7 May 1877

No. 130.
Enclosure —
Subject
Reporting the causes
of smuggling in
the Govt Forests
adjoining the [illegible]
[illegible] —

No. 116 5/1857 Office of Conservator of forests
Ootacamund 12th May 1877

No 604

From
Lieutt. Colonel R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests.

To,
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to para 11, of G.O. No. 1172 of the 21st March 1877, I have the honor to forward, a letter[x] from the Officer in charge of the Salem Division, where private forests dovetail with those of the State there is always more or less smuggling going on, and until we have a Forest Act, and all forests have been properly demarcated, we can hardly expect to be able to stop it.

x No. 130 dated 7th May 1877.

2. In our Railway Districts like Salem and North Arcot, I think

that the State should lose no opportunity of purchasing all private tracts of forests, private holders look of course only to immediate profits and under such treatment, forests must gradually disappear or degenerate into scrub as so many have done and are doing, and as these tracts where hilly are often not adapted for anything but forest growth, the gradual disappearance of which must be seriously affecting both the climate and water supply of the country, the date is probably not very distant when it will be imperative on the State to take over their management in the interests of the whole community. The gradual disappearance of our woodlands particularly in the drier districts, the effect on the temperature the rainfall and the water supply are very serious questions which do not receive the attention they should, careful data on these points should be kept year by year in each district by the Revenue Authorities or perhaps more properly by the Forest Department, it is a subject that almost any forest Officer could sit down and write a report upon, but his arguments would seldom gain credence except with a few and what is wanted is data collected carefully over a long series of years, a Revenue Officer joins a District and he sees a hill covered with scrub forest he does not realize the fact that it was perhaps once a fine forest and has only deteriorated under bad management

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probably

probably be many climatic changes in the face of Railways, increasing population and extending cultivation, there are of course many tracts in which it is proper that cultivation should extend, but there are vast tracts of hill forests, which nature has never intended should be denuded, but which nevertheless are rapidly disappearing. I do not think that Government can read the reports that Mr Turner and I have sent in on the Jeypore country without becoming alive to the fact that a very vast tract of country is being seriously affected and likely to undergo great climatic changes, for the worse under the baneful system of temporary hill cultivation, yet this system can go on unchecked in all hill forests not belonging to the State, and we often lack power to check it even in Government tracts, and as long as the Forest Act and demarcation are delayed, we must expect the alienation of many tracts on our mountains and slopes, which properly should be strictly reserved.-

3.- I have been many times up and down the Conoor ghât almost every year during the last 20 years, during the last few years since undiscriminate clearings of forest on these slopes have been going on, most serious floods and land slips have occurred, huge bolders of rock weighing hundreds of tons and quantities of trees have been washed down destroying the road and bridges in many places, nothing of this nature occurred till the forests were cleared, the denudation of

8/1854

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4.- A great many facts have lately been published proving the ruin effected in other countries both tropical and temperate from the destruction of hill forests, and books have been written on the subject and some Governments are going to vast expence in replanting mountain-sides so denuded, but except the State almost every one has an interest in ignoring and disbelieving these facts, the Revenue Officer naturally looks to deriving a large and immediate Revenue from the land in his district, the land holder to an immediate revenue from the forest on his ground, the planter to what profit he can make during a short term of years, it is only the State that can be expected to look to the future.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Most Obedt. Servant

R H Beddome Lt Colonl
Conservator of forests.—

9/1457

wood is stolen from Government Forests. — There is no Smuggling in any of the 3 Conditions. I do not believe that the 3d occurs to any large Extent in ~~any~~ ~~part~~ forest which is really and admittedly Government Forest. but where Forest Officers & Collectors have lawlessly foreclosed on village rights & what is called "reserved" tracts, which for centuries were accessible to the people - the people are against us and ~~our success~~ ~~in~~ the Struggle is hard and often ~~[illegible]~~ unsuccessful. The Villagers very rightly traverse illegal or unsuitable bits by "Smuggling" as it is called. Of course between us, Evil is done; property is wasted and trade is interrupted - but who is at fault? possibly not the "Smuggler" if we called ~~things~~ by their right name.

As regards the dirge about Nature going to ruin, rainfall ceasing, Springs drying up, I personally do not believe there is much in the tears of Foresters - and when Cultivation takes the place of wilds I rejoice in the change - but would say nothing about it in case "almost "every Forest Officer should "sit down & write a report".

be alleged by some whose common rights are not recognised - agst. the State - & ~~that~~ the extension of cultivn. in many parts is more ~~important~~ than maintenance of jungle.

Bl. 2/6

For orders

D

11/

(85)

Revenue 1877
~~Forest~~ Department
No 2537
From
The Conservator of Forests
To
The Secretary to Govt.
C.P. R.D.
Dated 12th } May 1877
Received 17th }
(08-5-77 No 116)
Enclo. No 1
Subject
Submits the report called for in para 11 of G.O. No 1172 of 21st March 1877 on the subject of smuggling in Government forests.
For Orders
D
4 c 17-5-77

10/185

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2557

From The Conservator of Forests

Dated 12th May 1877.

FOR ORDERS.

"Smuggling" is of course a misnomer — What is meant is (1) that boundaries of private Estates are un=defined or unsettled — and false claimants transgress on what the Forest Officers hold to be State Forests; or (2) that Forest Officers prefer claims & try to enforce them when private claimants are not prepared to admit them and quietly (as they can) remove the wood they claim; or (3) that wood

Nor would I deprive Col: Beddome of his flights of fancy about the ~~[illegible]~~ moist past & the intentions of Nature. I am not afraid of realizations as respects with climate & nature — though I am afraid of the alienation of the people's feelings under Forest administration — this last will be of earlier realization than the gloomy bodings of the Effect of Liberian Coffee, Coonnery &c.

I would not purchase largely. Our purchases — Anamallay forests to wit — are not at times remuneratively managed by a far seeing Department.

I would record this letter (with the observation that specific matter x

x matter only can be dealt with & that the subject of Legislation is occupying attention.

23/5

C. 31/5/77. R 28/5/77.

No 2557

FOR ORDERS.

Report on the Subject of Smuggling in Govt. Forests

Order the G.O.

(Sd.) acknowledge Col. B's zealous interest in his Dept. & note that the subject of legislation has been for some time in hand. but remark that they at the same time that "smuggling" may very possibly

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12/185

Revenue Department

No. 1857 of 30-5-77

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the

Read letter from the Conservator of Forests dated 12th May 1877, No. 116, sub=mitting report on smuggling in Government forests.

The Government acknowledge Col. Beddome's zealous interest in his Depart=ment and note that the subject of legislation has been for some time in hand, but they remark at the same time that "smuggling" may very possibly be alleged by some whose common rights are not recognized against the State, and that the extension of Cultivation in many parts is more important than maintenance of Jungle.

W
26-5-77

21 To the Comr. of Forests 28-6-77.
14 " [illegible] of Revenue
5 " Legislative Depot
3 " P. W. Dept 21-6-77.
4

E.E.S.

12
1857

1883
79

Malabar 29. Rainfall average of district 1
decimal 31. Insufficient in some
places for first crop cultivation -
markets well supplied - Imports by
sea and land, Rice 4626, Raggy 50,
Cholum 277 tons - exports rice 1049 -
Raggy 772 tons - prices of rice
stationary in Cherakal, Kotteyam,
and Wynad, and slightly risen elsewhere,
highest seven one-third Indian seers
Wynad - lowest ten one-fourth
Cochin average nine one-twelfth Indian
seers per rupee. Raggy nine Indian
seers per rupee Wynad - Average
elsewhere twelve three-eighths -
Small pox and Cholera all talugs except
Cochin - Deaths from latter 233 -
Cattle healthy, Pasture improving
everywhere - 1610 Coolies on Kolathur
roads.

1856
80

Madras :- 29th - Prices in seers of 80 tolas per rupee. Rice 2d sort 8.76. Ragi 10.64 Cholam 11.90. Imports Rice 6620. Other grains 2156. Expenditure sanctioned Rs 1,53,206. Cholera, small pox, Dysentery & fever prevalent to a small extent. Cattle healthy. Rainfall 0.077.

Madras

Nellore 29 May 77

Report for the week ending 26th May
average prices in the week 2d inst
rice 7·76 against 7·61 seers per
Rupee last week. Cholum 9·57
against 9·66 ragi 11·92 against
11·64 Cumbu 10·18 against 9·53
imports by sea on behalf of Govt.
none; on behalf of ~~Govt.~~ Pt. merchants
rice 189 tons by land into
the town of Nellore rice 30 tons
cholum 2 tons & ragi 10 tons number
on Dt. relief works 26731 against
24445 last week. number on canal
62481 against 60704. number fed

gratuitously 16954. against 11217 expenditure combined 95.2000 Rs civil officers. 12 medical 26. other 39. survey 35. settlement 21. Health of man 57 deaths from cholera reported against 62 last week cholera small pox fever dysentery & diarrhoea prevalent in some Taluqs. Rainfall inches at Atmakur 1.30 Kavali .65. Udayagiri .45. Kanigiri 1.10 Kandukur 1.50 water supply assured for drinking sufficient for agriculture - prospects of cattle better.

1856
82

Nilgiris

29th Average prices four Stations Ooty, Coonoor, Kotagiri and Gudalur rice 7½ seers Cholam & Ragi 9 2/20 Cumbu 8 3/20. Import tonnage week ending 26th May rice 1.84½ Cholam 2 ragi 14, Cumbu 1/5. Fair rain in Ooty and Coonoor. In other parts the fall is slight. Cholera increasing in Coonoor, Gudalur, villages adjacent to Kotagiri and Masinagudi. Small pox is also prevalent. Pasture good; No cattle disease reported. About 95 under gratuitous relief daily.

1856
83

Salem — 30th Prices of grains seers eighty tolas rice seven and three eighths ragi eight and five eighths Cumboo eight Cholum Nine import of all grains one thousand and eighty, Number on relief works ~~sixty~~ fifty five thousand and six hundred Number gratuitously fed fifty eight thousand and eight hundred ditto by private charity one thousand. Expenditure sanctioned five lakhs sixty four thousand and six hundred additional hands higher grade Europeans eight Native fourteen number of Medical Officers and Subordinates additional four on relief rain fall one and one eighths inch health Cholera in all taluqs.

gratuitously 16956.

Value

1856
84

Madura 29th Rice 2d sort 8 1/10, Cholam 9 4/5, ragi 9 9/10, Cumbu 9 4/5. Import rice 2216 tons; other grains 34. Sanctioned expenditure to date Rs 143748. Number on relief works 12354. Gratuitously fed 9106. Rainfall in many villages of Periacolum, Tirumangalam, Madura and Sheraganga, and in a few villages of other Talugs. Cattle generally doing poor; disease in some Talugs. Cholera deaths 347.

1856
85

Tanjore - 29th Prices seers rice $8\frac{1}{8}$ Raggy $12\frac{5}{16}$ Cumboo $10\frac{13}{16}$ Cholum $10\frac{1}{2}$ imports by sea rice tons 2622 - Dry grains tons 25 relief works none rain varying from 1/8 to 1 3/4 inches in different parts of the district on the 22 instant some freshes in rivers deaths from Cholera 210 Small pox in some taluks Cattle disease in Combaconum and Nunnee=lum taluks no loss of life fodder available

Tanjore

Tinnevelly 29th – Slight showers in 5 taluqs – no freshes – no improvement in prospects – 235 deaths to 301 attacks of Cholera – cattle disease continues with slight mortality in 4 taluqs – Prices are stationary – Average prices per Rupee, Second Sort rice 8¼ seers of 80 tolas, Cholum 11½, Cumboo 11¼, and ragi 10¾ – Import of grain, rice 988 tons, and Cumboo 1 ton – Number on Relief works 479 – Number gratuitously fed 738 – expenditure sanctioned Rupees 64,200 – no additional Officers employed – no extra Medical Officers entertained – Decrease in number on Relief works owing to works having been abandoned.

Lumsdy

1886
87

Trichinopoly. 29th. Week ending 26th May second sort rice 7 7/10 seers, Cholum 16 4/5, Raggi 10 1/2, Cumboo 9 3/4. Import of grain during this week 336 Tons. No relief work. Gratuitously fed on 26th instant by public subscription 1671 Rupees 5000, Sanctioned. Rain average decimal eight four inches. Cholera deaths 294, Small-pox 54, Vekkai and diarrhœa among cattle in Udiarpalaiam Taluq. Pasture improving. Commissioned warrant and noncommissioned Medical Officers 8, Civil Medical Officers 2. Subordinates 10. Small hospital camp opened on 22nd at Government expense. Number on Saturday 52.

1856
88

Vizagapatam 29th Average quantity of seer of 80 tolas per Rupee Current and previous week respectively Rice 2nd sort 11, 11 Cholum 17, 17 Cumboo 21, 21. Raggy 19, 19 Imports by sea Rice 179 tons, None, by land Rice 90 tons, None, Rain 4 inches throughout district. Cholera 2 deaths during week; small pox in 2 taluqs. Pasture abundant = other particulars required blank.