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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1857	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated		196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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, *No. 130, dated 7th May 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.

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

Revenue Department, 30th May 1877, No. 1,857.

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 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 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 Wynad and Coorg, and apparently the same mischief will now commence on the ghaut slopes in the South Canara and Tinnevely 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 caution 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 Chikadiputti, is due to the fact of the above-named hills being situated between and dovetailing with the Chinna and Peria Kulliyen 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 sub-

Revenue Department, 30th May 1877, No. 1,857.

ject 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.

(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.

7th May 1877

From

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The Conservator of Forests

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THE CONSTITUTION OF

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Filed May 20th

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1900

Struggling to Develop a Thesis—From the Oxford Movement, the subject of Newman's *Discourses* has been for some time in vogue, and stimulating that way, very possibly increased by some whose conviction it has not proved, against the notes, and that the *Discourses* are a collection in that regard as well in the *Discourses* as in the *Discourses* of Newman.

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4/1857
I am the honor to be
Sir
Yours most obedt. Servt.
Alm. Stanbrough
Creek, New water.

Office of Conservator of forests,
Cotacumind 12th May 1877.

From
Lieut. 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 from the
officer in charge of the Salem Division,
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No 130, dated
7th May 1877.

Enclosure

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

No 130-5-77 in 1877

Rev. 25/4/77

From

The Conservator of
Forests

Salem

The Secretary to
Government

Cotacumind

Rev. 25/4/77
May 1877

No 130.

Conservator of
Forests

Subject

Regarding the same

It smuggling in

the Govt. Forests

allowing the buyers

to smuggle

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6/57 2
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8/1857
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I have the honor to be,
Your Most ^{Sir} Obedt. Servant

W. Seddome Lt Colonel
Conservator of forests.

12/5/77 Revenue Department
No. 185-77 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:
submitting report on smuggling
in Government forests.

The Government
acknowledge Col. Reddome'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

FOR ORDERS.

18/5/77

For would I suppose Col.
Reddome of his Highness
of duty about the
fact of the intention of
nature. I am not afraid
of Reddome's remarks with
climate & nature - they
I am afraid of the
alteration of the people's
feelings under forest -
administration - the
last will be of course
realizing than the
flourishing of the
effect of Revenue Office
coming for.

I should not purchase
largely. The purchase
- Revenue Office
to act - are not at times
reunited by moneyed
by a far being the
should be sent with the
provision that the
C. 21/5/77 185-77.

FOR ORDERS.

No. 2557.

18/5/77 REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From The Conservator of Forests.

Dated 12th May 1877.

Col. Reddome

Madras

Smuggling is a great
a nuisance. What is the
of that kind of
private estates are not
defined or marked - and
false claims to land
on what the Government
hold to be state property;
and that forest officers
may claim to be
them when private claims
are not prepared to
admit them and give
that "smuggling" (so they can remove the
land they claim, and so that
they are finally
lost.

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by some whose common
rights are not recognized
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Cultivation in many
parts is more important
than maintenance of
Jungle.

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all

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

Malabar 29. Rainfall average of district 1
decimal 31. Insufficient in some
places for fish crops cultivation -
markets well supplied. Imports by
sea and land, Rice 4526, Raggy 50,
Cholam 277 tons. Exports Rice 1049 -
Raggy 772 tons. Prices of rice
stationary in Cherakal, Kottayam,
and Wyznad, and slightly risen elsewhere,
Highest seven one-third Indian seers
Wyznad - lowest ten one-fourth
Cochin average. Nine one-twelfth Indian
seers per Rupee. Raggy nine Indian
seers per Rupee Wyznad. Average
elsewhere twelve three-eighths -
Small poj and Cholam all taluqs except
Cochin. Deaths from latter 233 -
cattle healthy, Pasture improving
everywhere - 1610 Cows on Volathur
Roads.

1886
Madras - 29th. Prices in seers of 80 tolas per pice. Price
2^d sort 8.76. Ragi 10.64 Cholam 11.90. Import
Imo Rice 6620. Other grains 2156. Expenditure
sanctioned Rs 1,53,206. Cholera, small pox, dysen-
tery ^{fever} prevalent to a small extent. Cattle
healthy. Rainfall 0.077.

MusPro

Hallme

29 May 1977

1856

Report for the week ending 26 May
average price in the week 22nd
rice 7.76 against 7.61 last per
rice last week: Cholum 9.58
against 9.46 rice 11.92 against
11.64 Cumber 10.18 against 9.53
inputs by sea on behalf of
none, on behalf of merchants
rice 189 tons land into
the town of Hallme rice 30 tons
Cholum 2 tons & rice 10 tons number
on St. relief works 26735 against
24445 last week. number on canal
62481 against 60704 number fed

patently 16954. against 11217
Expenditure sustained 95200 Rs
Civil officers 12 medical 26. 5th
39. Survey 35. Settlement 21.
Health of man & death from cholera
reported against 62 last week cholera
Small pox fever & diphtheria
prevalent in some Taluqs. Rampall
under at Chumakur 130 Kavali 65.
Kadavari 45. Kaniyur 110 Kandakur
1.50 water supply assured for drinking
sufficient for agricultural prospects
of cattle better.

Tilgiri

1854
29th Average prices for Stations Ooty,
Coonoor, Kotagiri and Gudalur rice
7 1/2 cew Cholam & Ragi 9 3/4 Cumbur
8 3/4. Import tonnage week ending 26th
May rice 1.84 1/2 Cholam. 2 paji 14, Cumbur 15.
Fair rain in Ooty and Coonoor. In other parts
the fall is slight. Cholera increasing in Coonoor
Gudalur, villages adjacent to Kotagiri and
Munnagudi. Small pox is also prevalent.
Pasture good. No cattle disease reported.
Mont 95 under gratuitous relief daily.

1886
Salem 30th Prices of grain were eighty tolas rice
seven and three eighths ragi eight
and five eighths Lumbro eight Chohum
the import of all grains one thousand
and eighty. Number of Chief works
~~fifty~~ ^{sixty} five thousand and six hundred
Number gratuitously fed fifty eight
thousand and eight hundred with by
private charity one thousand. Expendi-
ture 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 in Chief rain fall one and
one eighths inch. health Cholera
in all taluqs.

Chilpan

Colm

1856

Madras 29th Rice 2³/₅ at 8 1/10, Cholam 9 4/5, pangi 9 9/10,
Quambu 9 4/5. Import rice 2216 tons; other grains
34. Sanctions & expenditure to date Rs 143748. Sum-
mer on relief works 12354. Gratuitously fed 9106.
Rainfall in many villages of Periacolum, Tiru-
mangalam, Madras and Sheraganga, and in a few
villages of other Taluqs. Cattle generally doing
poor; disease in some Taluqs. Cholera deaths 347.

Musgrave

1856
55
Tanjore. 29th. Prices rice 8 $\frac{1}{8}$ Ragg 12 $\frac{5}{8}$
Lumber 10 $\frac{13}{10}$ Churn 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ imports by sea
rice tons 2622. Dry grain tons 25
Ship works none rain varying from $\frac{1}{8}$
to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in different parts of the
district on the 22 instant some freshes
in rivers deaths from cholera 210.
Small pop. in some talukts cattle
disease in Combaconum and Nurnee-
lur talukts no loss of life fodder
available.

Received

Trinavelly 29th - Slight showers in 5 taluqs - no
fishes - 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 $8\frac{1}{4}$ seers of 80
tolas, Cholum $11\frac{1}{2}$, Cumboo $11\frac{1}{4}$, and
ragi $10\frac{3}{4}$ - Import of grain, rice
988 tons, and Cumboo 1 ton - Number
on Relief works 479 - Number
gratified by Fed 738 - expenditure
sanctioned Rupees 64,200 - no addition
of Officers employed - no extra medical
Officers entertained - Decrease in num-
ber on Relief works owing to works
having been abandoned.

Summerville

125
27

Trichinopoly. 29th. Week ending 26th May. Second sort
rice 7³/₁₀ aurs, Chorum 16⁴/₅, Raggi 10¹/₂, Camboos
9³/₄. Import of grain during this week 336
Tons. No relief work. Gratefully fed on 26th
instant by public subscription 1671 Rupees 5000,
sanctioned. Rain average decimal eight four
inches. Cholera deaths 294, Small-pox 54,
Vekhai and diarrhoea among cattle in
Udiarpaham Taluk. 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.

Viragapatom 29th Average quantity of deer
of 80 total per Puffer current
and previous week respectively
Rice 9@ post 11, 11 Cholera
17, 17 Bumbos 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.