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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	18	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3.1.1877	196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd January 1877.*

No. 31. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOCK, Conservator of Forests, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Vellore, 9th December 1876, No. 1,407:—

REFERRING to the G.O., No. 1,893, of the 4th instant, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. It appears to me from this order that Government are under the impression that the fires are the cause of the present anticipated exhaustion of ripe teak in the forests; this is not the case; the fires that sweep through the forests do not injure the large standing trees, and except here and there a dead or very old tree; no standing trees have been destroyed or much injured by fire; the cause of the exhaustion is simply that nearly all the very large trees have been cut out, and when it is remembered that Government have been working this forest every year for the last 26 or 27 years, and that teak to the value of 10 or 12 lakhs of Rs. has been taken out, it is easy to understand that a period of rest is now shortly necessary unless we are to ruin the seed supply by felling every large tree, or not to regard the future and fell under-sized trees which are annually adding to their cubic content. In the Government forest proper almost all the large teak trees were felled out under the Engineer's Department by Lieutenant (now Colonel) Michael for the Bombay Dockyard between 1850 and 1856 or by Native timber merchants before Colonel Cotton took charge of the forest (sufficient large trees as seeders not even being left), and since this department took charge of the teak forests in 1857 hardly a teak tree has been felled in this portion; many fine trees are coming on but they are too small to fell. In the leased portion we have been felling since 1857, and although there are still a sprinkling of very large ripe or over-ripe trees still to be found, Mr. Douglas thinks that felling of

* We find by experience that the seed of ripe trees is far superior to that of young trees of July 20, 30 years of age.

teak must stop for the present after two more seasons if we are to consider the future by reserving a necessary amount of old trees* as seeders.

3. The fires have occurred almost every year since 1857, and they generally sweep through the whole forest; if there is rain in January, or a very late north-east monsoon (both rare occurrences), the fires are perhaps only partial, but I do not think there has been any year since 1856 in which there have been no fires; the saplings of other trees suffer equally with teak, but the large trees of these now predominate, because lacking a demand they have not been felled.

4. Without forest surveys and demarcation it would be impossible to give the mileage of the rides that would be necessary to render the more valuable portions of the forest safe from fires by the block system; it is also impossible to give the cost per mile of these proposed rides, as the felling and clearing will in some places be heavy and in other parts almost nil, and although the rides must be often 30 or 40 yards in width, there are many places in which, by taking advantage of streams and tracts of the large bamboo (where no grass grows), the width may be much contracted.

5. I have explained in my report that after the present crop a large supply of teak is secured by the many thousands of middle-sized trees now coming on, and which reared themselves some 30 years ago; it is to the distant future and the crop after this that we must now look, and unless we now or shortly shut out fires for a certain number

of years and secure a good growth of young saplings the forest will not be properly treated, and in time it would probably cease to be a teak forest at all; this shows how necessary it is to have regular working plans drawn up in our offices as is now done in Europe, and why it is necessary that our young officers should undergo a careful training in forest schools where these working plans are not only drawn up on paper, explained and taught, but where all the different stages of growth are actually seen and explained in the forests.

6. I am of opinion that the block system should be commenced at once, and that one or two blocks should be formed this year if possible; this will enable us then to estimate correctly for carrying out the scheme in its entirety, and it can be gradually extended year by year; provision has not been made in our budget pending the orders of Government on the question, but the expenditure can easily be met from other sources. It must however be understood that, unless the forest is declared a strict reserve and placed entirely under the control of the forest officer, any expenditure on real conservancy of this nature may at any moment be rendered futile and become money thrown away; in this case it would perhaps be better only to leave the forest to nature and get what profit we can out of it without looking to its future and spending money on conservancy arrangements that will in all probability be of no avail; it is chiefly on considerations of this nature and the want of a Forest Act that so little has been done hitherto.

7. The exclusion of fire for a few years in some forest blocks of good soil in Northern India has I have lately seen stated already produced wonderful results; not only is a fine crop of seedlings reared, but the decaying vegetation annually adds a fine humus to the soil instead of being burnt away year by year, the growth of rank grass is kept down and the danger of fires rendered less and less, streams become perennial which otherwise would not be so, and the climate is rendered cooler and moister.

8. I am far from wishing Government to suppose that these Anamallay Forests are in "a highly unsatisfactory condition;" thanks rather to nature than to any forethought beyond not using the axe except on ripe trees we have a splendid amount of teak trees of middle-size coming on that in a few years will be a supply for another 20 or 25 years, and if we now shut out fires and secure the growth of a lakh or two of young seedling teaks the forest will be in a highly satisfactory state, and we can then at once fell out all the remaining old and ripe trees, as the crop now advancing will be in a condition to give fine seed before it is again required; if however conservancy of the nature pointed out in this letter and my report does not receive attention shortly, we must be prepared to see the forest gradually deteriorate.

9. With regard to the latter portion of paragraph 6 of the same Government Order, I must explain that Captain Walker's scheme included six Probationary Overseers whose salaries were not included under any forest division, but one of whom he arranged to appoint to this division.

10. With regard to paragraph 8, I look anxiously forward to the introduction of the Forest Act, when it is hoped that we may be able to introduce more intensive management over restricted areas, and anticipate more definite instructions for the guidance of our officers.

No. 1,408.

FORWARDED through the Collector of Coimbatore for any remarks he may wish to offer.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel,
Conservator of Forests.

No. 89.

No further remarks—vide my letter to Board of Revenue, dated 25th October 1876,
No. 214.
COIMBATORE,
13th December 1876.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, 3rd January 1877, No. 18.

Forest, No. 1.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Conservator of Forests.

Page 205
11-12-76

Office of Genl. of Forests
Camp, Vellore
9th December 1876

No. 1407

Recd.
11-12-76

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

To The Hon: D. F. Carmichael,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

Referring to the Government
order of 10th 1873 of the 1st instant, I
have the honor to report as follows.
2. It appears to me from this
order that Government are under
the impression that the fires are
the cause of the present antici-
-pated exhaustion of ripe teak
in the Forests, this is not the
case, the fires that sweep through
the Forests do not injure the
large standing trees, and except
here and there a dead or very old
tree, no standing trees have
been destroyed or much injured
by

No. 1407	
REVENUE.	
TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE.	
From	Conservator of Forests
To	
REVENUE.	
No. 1407	

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-tion is simply that nearly all the
very large trees have been cut
out, and when it is remembered
that Government have been work-
-ing this forest every year for
the last 26 or 27 years and that
teak to the value of 10 or 12 lakhs
of Rupees has been taken out, it
is easy to understand that a
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the seed supply by felling every
large tree or not to regard the
future and fell undersized trees
which are annually adding to
their cubic content. In the
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all the large Teak trees were
felled out under the Engineer's
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Yard between 1850 and 1856 or by
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Forest (sufficient large trees as
seeders not even being left), and
since this Department took charge
of the Teak Forests in 1857 hardly
a Teak tree has been felled in
this portion, many fine trees
are coming on, but they are too
small to fell. In the leaved
portion we have been felling
since 1857, and although there
are still a sprinkling of very large
ripe or over ripe trees still to
be found Mr. Douglas thinks
that felling of Teak must stop
for the present after 2 more
seasons if we are to consider the

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-most every year since 1857, and
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whole forest, if there is rain in
January

January or a very late March
Cacti blossoms (both rare oc-
-currences) the fires are per-
-haps only partial, but I do not
think there has been any year since 66
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fires, the saplings of other
trees suffer equally with Teak,
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predominate, because lacking
a demand, they have not
been felled.

11. Without forest surveys
and demarcation it would be
impossible to give the mileage
of the ridges that would be
necessary to render the most
valuable portions of the forest
safe from fires by the Block
system, it is also impossible
to give the cost per mile of
these proposed ridges as the
felling and clearing will vary
some places be heavy and in
other parts a forest cut, and
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there are many places in which by
taking advantage of streams and
banks of the large bamboo (where
no grass grows) ~~that~~ the width
may be much contracted.

5. I have explained in my
report that after the present crop,
a large supply of Teak is secured
by the many thousands of mid-
dle-aged trees now coming on
and which secured themselves some
20 years ago, it is to the distant
future and the crop after this
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derstand, or shortly shut out
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and secure a good growth of
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time it would probably cease to
be a Teak forest at all, this
shows how necessary it is to have
regular working plans drawn up
in our offices as is now done

in Europe and why it is necessary
that our young officers should
undergo a careful training in
Forest Schools where their working
plans are not only drawn up on
paper explained in a long list, but
where all the different stages of
growth are actually seen and ex-
plained in the Forest.

I am of opinion that the
Black system should be com-
menced at once and that one or
two Blacks should be formed
this year if possible, this will
enable us then to estimate cor-
rectly the carrying out the scheme
in its entirety, and it can be
gradually extended year by year.
Provision has not been made
in our Budget providing the
orders of Government on the
execution but the expenditure
can easily be met from other
sources. It must however be
understood that unless the
Forest

Forest is declared a strict for-
-est and placed entirely under the
control of the Forest Officer any ex-
penditure in real conservation of
this nature may at any moment
be rendered futile and become money
thrown away, in this case it would
perhaps be better only to leave the
forest to nature and get what pro-
fit we can out of it without looking
to its future and spending money
on conservation arrangements that
will in all probability be of no
avail, it is chiefly on considera-
tions of this nature and the want
of a Forest Act that so little has
been done hitherto.

The exclusion of fire for a few
years in some Forest Blocks of good
soil in Northern India has, I have
recently seen stated, already produced
wonderful results, not only is a
fine crop of seedlings reared but
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adds a fine humus to the soil
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old and ripe trees, as the crop
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does not receive attention shortly
we must be prepared to see the
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Scheme included 6 Probationary
Overseers whose salaries were
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10. With regard to para 8 I look
anxiously forward to the introduction
of the Forest Act, when it is hoped
that we may be able to introduce
more intensive management over
restricted areas, and anticipate
more definite instructions for
the guidance of our Officers.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt.
Rt Sedone Lt Col.
Conservator of Forests

Forwarded

Forwarded, through the
Collector of Commissioners for any
remarks he may wish to offer.

- Conservator of Forests,

№ 89

no further remarks - he is settled

Board of Revenue dated

25th October 1896 No 214

• *Pambolus*—

Medicine

13 Dec 1876

_____ Colly

Sept 11, 1896

4 County 76 N. 43-44-

1896
Revenue - ~~County~~ ^{Sept}

From N. 5778

The power of street.

to the County of Grant.

Rev: Sept.

(This is the collector's)

Examination)

Paide 29th }
Dec 8. 16 } December 76

John W. C.
Quaker: M. C.
Subject

Submitting this paper as to
on certain points to be
in C. C. to 1893 of

4 December 76 -

With order

Communicated to the Board
of Revenue in their remarks -

N. 18-

11800. County of Dec 9/5-1/77
11 98. County of Dec 9/5-1/77
18. 12. 26
11/17/77