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(2) Date of repair 23.9.70
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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

No. 31. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOE, 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 only 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.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Forwarded by No. 205
11-12-76

Office of Conservator of Forests
Camp, Vellore
9th December 1896

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 1893 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 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

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REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated January, 3rd.

Recd.

Each.

G.O. 3rd January 1897, No. 18.

JANUARY.

No. 81-82.

For Books of the Forestry in the
District - Communicated to the Board of Revenue
for remarks therefrom the Conservator of
Forest reporting on the present anticipated
exhaustion of - and on the other points referred

by fire, the cause of the exhaus-
-tion is simply that nearly all the
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212
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no grass grows) ~~that~~ the width
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report that after the present crop,
a large supply of Teak is secured
by the many thousands of mid-
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20 years ago, it is to the distant
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and secure a good growth of
young saplings the forest will
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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 in paper explained and taught, but where all the different stages of growth are actually seen and explained in the Forest.

6. I am of opinion that the Black system should be commenced at once and that one or two Blackes 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

Forest is declared a strict preserve and placed entirely under the control of the Forest Officer any expenditure in 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.

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 in 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 scrub grass is

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 batch 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

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 para 6 of the same G.O. I must explain that Capt. Walker's scheme included 6 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 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. Seddome Lt. Col.
Conservator of Forests

Forwarded

No. 1408

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

Plt Addm L. Col.

Conservator of Forests.

No. 89

No further remarks to be added

to the Revenue dated

25th Oct 1896 No 214

Combaratore

Alcibulata

13 Dec 1896

Ally

12th December

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St. Louis

1876 ~~Sept~~ ^{Revenue}

From N. 5778

The Jan. of 1876.

To the Secretary of the

Rev. Sept.

(The Collector of

Communication)

Reed 29th December 1876

Subject: Subject

Submitting this memorandum to

on certain points referred

to the C. & O. 1893 of

4 December 76. —

With Over

Communications to the Board
of Revenue in their market

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