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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1962
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No. 712

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th February 1877.

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 3rd January 1877, No. [illegible], Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Teak Forests of the Anamallays in Coimbatore District.*—Communicating to the Board of Revenue for remarks letter from the Conservator of Forests reporting on the present or anticipated exhaustion of — and on the other points noticed.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 10th January 1877, No. 17.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's endorsement* on G.O., 4th December 1876, No. 1,893, requesting me to report on the alleged "deterioration of the Anamallay Teak Forest" reported in Colonel Beddome's letter of the 2nd August 1876, No. 1,067.

2. I have inspected this forest on several occasions since 1871, and am of opinion that beyond the exhaustion caused by the cutting of ripe teak trees in former years, the conservancy of the forest under Mr. Douglas's careful supervision has continuously improved.

3. The first remark I made on visiting and inspecting this forest as Collector, before being constituted Conservator, was that more attention should be given to removing the destructive creepers which strangled the growing teak trees. I saw a strange sight, an open work crate made by a peepul tree round a teak which had died, and left the outer open net-work of the peepul standing in the forest. The next was that teak plantation was a doubtful outlay, when natural reproduction might be looked for, and was taking place to some extent by the seed of the ripe teak scattered over the ground, and which only required fostering care by removal of undergrowth and preservation from forest fires. Another remark I made was regarding the great quantity of teak, which had been felled in former years, exhibited as revenue, but never moved out of the forest. Lastly, regarding the opening of forest roads and the formation of blocks, so necessary both as a security from fire, and to ascertain the number of trees.

4. To my knowledge Mr. Douglas has continuously been engaged in attempting to effect these needful works of conservancy. I saw him working at the roads, and the removal of parasitical growths was attended to so far as the establishment permitted.

5. *Improvements in Conservancy.*—He has employed to some extent, and as far as funds admitted, the jungle tribes in clearing the parasitical growth off the valuable teak trees; blocks were formed (200 acres in 1874-75). No further expenses have been incurred in extending the not very thriving teak plantation, which could not be protected when the establishment returned from the forest, and which is a temptation to forest animals to enter and damage. Opinions, of course, may differ about teak planting, and in the rich plains of Nelambur a

* Without No. dated 22nd December 1876, received on the 25th December.

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plantation may be formed with success, while on the more [illegible] wind blown and less rich rocky surfaces of the Anamallay mountains the natural reproduction seemed to be the cheapest, most sheltered, and best plan.

6. The bringing out of the forest of the timber which had been lying there for so many years was most successfully accomplished by Mr. Douglas [illegible] that he has been favorably noticed for the same (vide G.O., No. 50[illegible], 10 [illegible] 1874, on the annual report for 1872-73), and he has been occupied in the formation of timber roads, and in the general improvement of this Government property.

7. So far from any deterioration having taken place in the last six years, I am of opinion that a steady improvement has been the result of Mr. Douglas's zeal and assiduous attention to duty, even to the sacrifice of his health, and if it were in my province now to do so, I would recommend this officer, who seems to have no other object in life but his duty, who never leaves his work for sport, or any consideration whatever, to the favorable notice of Government.

8. *Former Conservancy and value thereof.*—Having now given my opinion about the progress of conservancy of late years, I may make a few remarks on that of past years; for twenty-five years there has been a continuous denudation of accessible ripe teak trees, the growth of former centuries.

9. The productiveness of the forest was represented by the valuation of the trees cut, as placed against the cost of cutting, and that of the establishment. It was an object to cut trees and show a balance on the right side, but who will say that there was any conservancy in this system. In some years far more timber was cut than could be disposed of to the usual customer, which was the Bombay Dockyard; this is referred to in the 3rd remark in paragraph 3 above when the vast quantity of timber lying in the forest attracted my attention.

10. At last the Bombay market failed, though a futile attempt was made to regain it by a consignment made against my advice* by the late Inspector of Forests, Captain C. Walker, in 1874, which ended in financial loss (Board's Proceedings, No. 55-915, of 14th April 1875, and paragraph 25 of my letter No. 530, of 24th July 1875).

* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 26th October 1874, No. 206-3,099, and No. 2-12, of 4th January 1875.

11. In order to justify the Forest Establishment even though the forest required [illegible], and still further conservancy, and to show a balance instead of a loss, the Department of Public Works were asked to supply their wants from this forest instead of purchasing in other markets, but they declined to purchase, except at market prices, or any other than suitable timber; and if the market price left little margin over seigniorage, felling, and cartage expenses, that was a forest and not a Public Works question.

12. Here we have a forest which has been continuously felled for a quarter of a century until the ripe trees became more and more remote and difficult of access, and with no particular conservancy that I have been able to observe, and it is not to be wondered at that its resources have diminished, teak being a very slow growing tree and not sprouting up to order. In fact, the greater clearance of large trees and consequent aridity of the forest in the dry season from November till May are against the growth of young trees, which love shade and humidity.

But that the absolute cessation of growth of teak should coincide with [illegible] conservancy of the forest [illegible] century ago seemed to me so unex- [illegible] tion that I addressed a letter to the Deputy Conservator requesting [illegible] either from his own register, if he had kept one, or from his intimate [illegible] forest in which he had spent seven years of his life, whether [illegible] were no teak trees in the Tunacadavoo or Government [illegible] than twenty-five years was a fact, and if so, to what [illegible] out of [illegible] buted.

[illegible] was certainly my impression that I had seen trees of different ages [illegible] in the forest; the growing trees that were being strangled by creepers [illegible] attracted most of my attention on my first visit six years ago. I was [illegible] interested then in the conservancy (improvement of the trees) and in the working [illegible] of the timber than in noticing the reproductive growth; but if there [illegible] it could scarcely have escaped my notice. Consequently before [illegible] report from my recollection, I considered it necessary that I should ask [illegible] officer, who of all others is the most fitted to give a decided answer on this important statement of the Conservator.

15. Some explanation of his report by Colonel Beddome was sent in through my office, but as it did not seem to touch the question at issue, I sent it on without further remark (with my endorsement No. 89, of 15th December 1876) to Government.

16. In submitting Mr. Douglas's reply to my inquiry as to the alleged fact of the entire cessation of reproduction of teak since twenty-five years, I have the honor to make the following remarks. Apparently no calculation, or book record of growing, to mature stock has been [illegible]; the block system is yet in its infancy; progress thereto has been hampered, it is said, by a doubt about boundaries; still Mr. Douglas does state that there are growing teak trees in groups of a less age than twenty-five years; he instances trees of eight, twelve, and fifteen years' growth; he admits that the young growing stock is not in proportion to the more mature growth, and that reproduction is not commensurate with the progress of felling. He admits that forest fires are of annual occurrence, but gives reasons for the inference that they were not unfrequent at an earlier date than twenty-five years ago. I will add my personal testimony to this inference. When I was Acting Head Assistant to the Collector of Malabar in March of 1846, I saw most extensive forest fires on the Palghaut Hills in which the Sholakeray teak forest is situated; grass used to be fired then as now for cattle grazing, and in 1845 I saw the tobacco smugglers' paths through the forest. In a period of thirty years the clearance of forest below Sholakeray, and of the formerly extensive Walliar forest, has been most [illegible] the [illegible] these forest fires were of frequent occurrence and were not the [illegible] country clearance.

17. Perhaps the clearance of large teak trees in the progress of felling in the forest itself has intensified the effects of forest fires upon the sapling growth, and yet I have seen [illegible] years ago both saplings and growth from stools in the Cuddapah Hills where grass fires are of annual occurrence; but clearance of mature teak trees does, in my observation, tend to make the reproduction of saplings more

difficult. There is less shelter for the growing [illegible], less humidity [illegible] as the forest shade is annually lessened, a greater check is given [illegible] in [illegible] of time the result of non-conservancy must be extinction. [illegible] grazing, and the more the grass is eaten down and trampled under [illegible] the damage caused by fire [illegible]

On the Bellirungum Hills, in North Coimbatore, I have seen the g[illegible] high and more, and when ignited and fanned by a strong wind I have observed a line of fire which, but for its rapidity and short duration, seemed enough to destroy every tree, and yet the forest remained unconsumed, while scattered trees were greatly scorched. The destruction by fires of old g[illegible] not all evil; the height to which it grows tends to choke other vegetation [illegible] the ashes of the grass fertilizes the soil, and a short herbage succeeds a [illegible] of undergrowth. The longer such clearance is deferred the greater must be t[illegible] undergrowth and consequently the duration and intensity of the fire, and o[illegible] effect upon saplings if not under the shelter of parent trees.

19. May not, therefore, the clearance of the large teak trees have had more to do with the checked reproduction of saplings—grass does not grow well under the shade of a tree—than the annual grass fires. An overgrowth checks an undergrowth; dense jungle is not much affected by fire, whereas open grass is at once cleared. I venture this suggestion founded on my personal observation. Teak trees affect similar soil and situation; thin them out and you have rapid undergrowth of grass, &c.; the action of the sun produces this effect. When a forest is felled for coffee, unless there is a constant expenditure on weeding, the coffee is choked. A large forest cannot be weeded. The expense would be enormous and labor would not be procurable. I cannot suggest any other remedy than more gradual felling, block conservancy, and [illegible] cessation of cutting trees to produce a favorable balance sheet, which seems to have been the practice in former years before Mr. Douglas had charge of the forest.

20. The desire to show a good revenue may have had more to do with the lessened reproduction than the occurrence of annual fires; an annual fire may be less destructive than a biennial one; there is less to burn, and the burning is sooner over. A dense forest is less affected by fire than trees scattered among grass. In North Coimbatore where there is no teak the jungle trees are sparse and [illegible] and [illegible] not appear to be reproduced, probably owing to the climate and soil. Teak requires a better soil and more rainfall than ordinary jungle-wood, but as grass fires are universal, I do not think that they are the cause of non-reproduction of teak.

21. At all events we have an undoubted fact to go upon, that the Anama[illegible] teak forest has been indented on for a quarter of a century; that the growth of centuries has been since annually turned to account; that there has been a [illegible] of mature trees, and the logical inference therefrom is to give the [illegible] rest, to indent on it less largely, to be content with a less revenue [illegible] more continuous supply for future requirements. Mr. Douglas alludes [illegible] sufficiency of the stock if not too much indented on.

22. *Increase of Establishment.*—Whether the establishment [illegible] for the [illegible] of the Anamallay forest is in excess of its requirements is a professional [illegible] found Mr. Douglas doing the work of a forester, himself superintending the [illegible] felling, dragging and slipping of timber. He had charge and impor[illegible] an[illegible] changes. He was shorthanded; his sole forester was sick, and [illegible] not be replaced. He could give no time for general supervision. What [illegible] is [illegible] a superior officer in this manner, is, in the consideration of Govern[illegible] was wanted to commence conservancy with.

23. If conservancy is to mean more than felling and bringing to market [illegible] all and more than all (much felled timber was never brought out of the forest) that was done in former years; if the block system is to be adopted, there must be employment of labor, which is more expensive now than it would [illegible] been in former years; there must be outlay, there must be an adequate [illegible] establishment and not all the work thrown on one man, the short work of former [illegible] be made up for now and with less revenue to go upon.

24. It is not fair to consume the greater part of a valuable forest in a quarter of a century with no outlay except the expense of felling and dragging out the trees, which last was not even done, and then to contrast less returns with increased expenditure for the commencement of real conservancy.

25. There has been some waste in sending teak to Bombay and selling it at a loss, but the Deputy Conservator was not responsible for this, and the late Conservator, or Inspector at whose instance it was done, recorded a remark acquiesced in by the Board of Revenue that it was experience gained, but I consider that some progress has been made towards conservancy, and that the future of the Anamallay teak forest is not so unhopeful as has been represented.

26. It is certainly still a most valuable property, and cost the State nothing in its origin, [illegible] gift of nature; we have been living on capital, and till lately have spent nothing on conservancy; the capital is not growing again so [illegible] as we could wish; the inference is to trench on it with more caution; [illegible] does not seem to succeed, and nature must be awaited. No axe but that of Government is allowed in this forest; immature trees were never felled; forest dividing roads, fire belts, and blocks of these timber trees are the best antidotes to fires, and adjuvants of reproduction.

27. That forest fires did take place in former years may, I think, be admitted; they were unnoticed and unchecked. If they produced less evil results as regards seedlings, this may be due to the then unfelled forest sheltering the saplings. [illegible] felling without conservancy will, I think, aggravate the evil. [illegible] the fires occur in the season when the forest is dry and establishment removed; some check on entry is then necessary; a dry forest furnishes no grazing or water for cattle.

29. A rough belt should be cleared, fired, if necessary, under control before the establishment is withdrawn, then slope fires would not, if there were a quarter mile [illegible] of cleared grass, affect the teak forest, if such slope fires [illegible] of which however I have never received official or other information. The Chetties fires I have already [illegible], and the measures I took to prevent their recurrence.

From C. G. DOUGLAS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Coimbatore Division, to [illegible] WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Setmale, [illegible] December 1876, No. 525.

REFERRING to yesterday's your letter of the 25th instant asking for certain information regarding the deterioration of the Anamallay teak forest.

difficult. The [illegible] less harm [illegible]

You inquire—

1st.—Whether [illegible] were not shown [illegible] natural teak, and if so, [illegible] be a rough estimate [illegible] quantity and [illegible]

2nd.—If it be the [illegible] twenty-five years, [illegible] of any [illegible] ence [illegible] or less age [illegible] cause of the sudden cessation of reproduction [illegible] what [illegible] opinion as to the [illegible]

3rd.—Information as to [illegible] the last quarter of a century [illegible] be the cause which [illegible] have produced the effect.

3. In reply to the first question, I have the honour to state that you certainly were shown several groups of young teak in different parts of the forest which had grown, if not beyond harm, at least beyond destruction by fire. Roughly speaking I should say they were of eight, twelve, and fifteen years growth.

4. As regards an estimate of the quantity of such trees in the forests, I doubt if any near approach to accuracy can be made in the absence of a thoroughly conducted valuation of the forest piece by piece. Without this all statements as to the general condition and quantity of timber at various stages of growth in so large and dense a forest must be made with great caution.

5. Concerning your second query, though I should hesitate to say there is almost an utter absence of saplings, I think it is clear that their number is insufficient and out of proportion to the stock of twenty-five years' growth from the discrepancy having struck so experienced an observer as the Conservator of Forests.

6. As to the cause of the falling off in reproduction during the last twenty-five years I am not prepared with a satisfactory explanation, but I am not convinced as yet that it is entirely due to the ravages of fire.

7. I can give you no special record of these fires. They are, as the Conservator remarks, of annual occurrence. In some years they are much worse than in others. There are however generally portions of the forests which altogether escape, sometimes for several years in succession.

8. In this respect I do not suppose the Anamallay Forest is either better or worse than many other tracts throughout India. The effects of fire are much the same in all.

9. In offering the following remarks for consideration, I would wish to submit all I [illegible] say with the diffidence becoming an officer without professional training and of not many [illegible] experience.

10. It is, as you observe, noticeable that if the Conservator's estimate of the young growth is correct the deterioration of the forest seems to date from the commencement of forest operations, or twenty-five years ago.

11. I think however that a point of some importance has been overlooked which when duly considered may perhaps tend to modify this view of the case.

12. Granting the utter absence of saplings and the abundance of trees of twenty-five, thirty, and thirty-five years of age, of an average circumference of 4 and [illegible] what [illegible] asked, in view of the approaching exhaustion of mature stock, that is timber of 9 feet girth of teak [illegible] upwards, has become of the trees of fifty or sixty years of age which should measure [illegible] 8 feet [illegible]

13. We have not been cutting immature timber, and it is only of late years that the minimum girth of trees to be cut has been reduced to 9 feet.

14. If the present stock of mature timber is exhausted any time within, say, the next five years, it is evident that before it can be succeeded by the [illegible] of twenty-five to thirty-five years, standing a considerable interval must occur. And if we assume, as I suppose we may, that the teak in natural forests attains maturity at eighty or ninety years, the interval will probably be forty or fifty years as the trees coming [illegible] and but have as yet only reached half the minimum standard of maturity.

15. From this, I submit, the legitimate inference is that the cessation of natural reproduction happened during the time when according to the Conservator's theory the forest enjoyed a comparative immunity from fires. And if his theory is correct some other cause than that of fire must be sought for. And such cause may have operated again now as it did then.

[illegible] At any rate the present state of things seems not without parallel in the history of the [illegible] before it was taken in hand by the department, and that should be some consolation. And [illegible] the lakh of twenty-five and thirty-five year old trees have to grow another forty or fifty years before they are fit to cut there will be [illegible] opportunity for the reproduction, under proper conservancy, of an entirely fresh crop of timber of ages under fifty years, even if no direct action in consequence be taken on an extensive scale for some time to come.

18. And unless the Anamallay teak deteriorates greatly in size and quality, 100,000 trees, if not felled too soon, should last for fifty years, and will then be replaced, without any interval, by a succession of trees brought forward under more systematic management.

19. As regards the leased forest our present term of occupation will end just about the time of the exhaustion of the first crop above named.

20. On the whole it would appear that the present stock of mature timber, now nearly exhausted, had a longer start of the twenty-five and thirty-five years old than they in turn are likely to obtain of the yearlings.

21. Whether I am quite correct in my figures does not at present seem to be of any special moment; the main point is whether there is a sufficiency of mature and nearly mature timber to keep us going until the stock of twenty-five, thirty-five years old is ripe. If not then whatever be the cause it cannot be laid at the door of the Forest Department, nor does it appear that any action of the department could have arrested results which must have their origin in a state of things long prior to its existence. Had felling been less extensively practised the supply of mature timber would have been spread over a longer period, and if we had only cut half the quantity we did we should now have a stock [illegible] to last twenty-five years, but then half profits would be outstanding with interest on money realized. This would not have added a cubit to the stature of a single sapling.

22. Nor does the future prosperity of the forest seem to have been seriously imperilled so far. Of course "the future" is rather a remote prospect in forest matters but if we are justified in expecting to bring up a stock to replace the existing half grown timber it does not seem a very glooming look out.

23. As regards fires the case seems to stand thus. If more or less prevalent before the working of the forest the present half grown trees survived them. It is certain that the younger trees co-existent with forest operations must in their earlier years have encountered them. If fires were not prevalent then the cause of the earlier interruption of reproduction, the consequence of which we appear likely soon to encounter, seems involved in some obscurity. Finally, if fires have during the last twenty-five years prevented reproduction there is time to repair damages.

24. Fires may be more frequent now and harder to contend with than formerly, but it is not clear that they were of such rare occurrence or of so trifling a nature twenty-five or thirty years ago as to have been comparatively harmless.

25. The Conservator bases his theory on the following grounds: prior to their being worked the forests were untrodden save by a few Kaders. Extensive jungles still clothed the plains at the foot of the hills, pasturage was abundant, and there was consequently no necessity for cattle to be driven on to the slopes to which, with the extension of cultivation, grazing has since gradually advanced and whence fires spread into the forests.

26. With all deference to Colonel Beddome, I would offer another side of the question.

27. I gather from the records of boundary disputes both with Cochin and Malabar that the capture of elephants and the collection of hill produce attracted a certain number of Coimbatore native [illegible] and others, and with their following it is not easy to see how the forest could escape fires of more or less severity. It does not moreover seem very likely that before the existence of forest establishments the Kaders should have observed any special caution as to fires. My experience of them is that, beyond reserved forest limits, they are as careless as other natives. [illegible] are not [illegible] numerous certainly, but quite enough to have caused extensive fires, wandering about as is their habit in small parties at all seasons.

28. Whatever the extent of jungle and pasturage on the plains may have been thirty years ago, I see no reason to suppose that fires lit even at its furthest limit did not travel up unchecked,

gathering strength with progress, up the s[illegible] and [illegible] the forest. That fires [illegible] occur in the [illegible]lans jungle is tolerably certain, for cultivation [illegible] being [illegible] pushed [illegible] outskirts. Moreover, the custom of burning grass for pasturage [illegible] and if these jungles were the principal grazing grounds, fires [illegible] have occurred regularly. It is certain that through the Coimbatore Forests [illegible] frequented, those of Colengode were open to cattle and were in all probability burnt [illegible] annually, and such fires must have passed into our forests.

29. In ascribing the increased occurrence of fires to the Chetties the Conservator seems to forget that twenty-five or thirty years ago bands of smugglers constantly traversed these forests, and it is too much to suppose that the night fires they lit at their encampments to keep off wild animals, more especially elephants, were always carefully extinguished when no longer required; and if not, then a chance spark blown into the nearest jungle would set every thing ablaze.

30. I think in short that so far as conditions favorable or unfavorable to forest fires have to be considered as affecting reproduction, there is not much to choose between the past and present. The difference is not however in favor of the present, and had forest conservancy twenty years ago obtained the support that has since been accorded, the work of arresting fires would have been easier More jungle would have been reserved for fuel and grazing purposes [illegible],

31. I do not for a moment question the expediency of fire precautions in forest conservancy; I merely doubt whether the alleged deterioration of the Anamallay forest is altogethor attributable to the want of them.

32. Government apparently do not consider they have reason to be satisfied with conservancy in these forests. I am very sorry for it and can only say I have tried to do my best. From an early period of the time I have held this appointment I have steadily endeavoured to promote efficiency. If progress has been slow it should be remembered that there have been many difficulties and delays to contend with, and that rapid advancement in any particular direction is hardly possible where all the most important operations have to be crowded into a working season of less than six months' duration, the first half of which is very wet, and the second often very unhealthy.

33. Perhaps however more has been achieved than Government are fully aware of.

(1.) In the first place it was at my suggestion that the survey and demarcation of reserved forests was undertaken.

(2.) The leased forest has been done and mapped, and you are aware that I bore no inconsiderable part in finding labor and pushing on work.

(3.) The investigation and settlement of a dispute of long standing with the Numbudrie of Colengode, involving some valuable jungle, was at the same time effected and resulted in favor of Coimbatore.

(4.) The Government forest was next taken up and this produced real action respecting the settlement of the disputed boundary with Cochin, a matter that had been talked about and written about for twenty years at least, and in which at length substantial progress has been made, indeed it may not be said to be on the eve of accomplishment.

In this I acted as Settlement Officer and on me devolved the supply and management of labor, &c.

(5.) The Travancore boundary is next on the list and I am about to take that in hand.

There then remains only the adjustment of reserved forest limits within the [illegible]

These are all important steps in the right direction, and may rightly be styled preliminaries to efficient conservancy.

34. Had blocking or any other conservancy scheme on a large scale been [illegible] before a regular investigation and settlement of boundaries took place, it is difficult [illegible] [illegible]cations might not have arisen.

35. It is tolerably certain that either settlement and demarcation would have [illegible] a [illegible]duction retarded, or that a great risk would have been incurred of sacrificing time and [illegible] of fire drawing the forest officer and his Kader laborers from their conservancy operations.

[illegible] ther important matter demanding his [illegible] have been impossible [illegible] boundary and conservancy operations simul[illegible] for any single officer to [illegible] begin with.

[illegible]ously. The supply of hill men [illegible] forests of conservancy have not be[illegible]

On such points as the following [illegible] neglected:— [illegible] have [illegible] become an established custom in the

(1.) Cattle grazing [illegible] at one time [illegible] reserved forest has [illegible] resisted and [illegible] control by an order prohibiting the

(2.) The Chetties traffic has been placed under some control [illegible] Deputy Conservator. entry of any one into the reserved forests without a pass from the [illegible] will and co-operation of the

(3.) It has been made a special object to secure the good [illegible] demarcation is evidence of success.

Kaders, and the pro[illegible] seldom worked for the department and rarely came near the

Not many years [illegible] spent their time in their huts forest officer, but when not out collecting cardamoms, &c., drinking, a practice in which they were rather encouraged than otherwise by the Chetties.

(4.) Though not immediately affecting the reserved forests may be mentioned as a measure of conservancy the experimental rules for restriction of Kumeri cultivation and the grant of lands and tuccavi to Guliers, Irulers, Mulcers, &c., and which so far give fair promise of success.

(5.) The strict enforcement of the rule prohibiting acceptance of all durkhasts till they shall have been reported to the forest officer has saved many a tract of useful jungle.

(6.) The application of a revised code of license and voucher rules has so far been attended with marked increase in revenue.

38. The beneficial results of these various proceedings may, I trust, become more apparent as time goes on; if proper action is taken they cannot fail, I think, to simplify and facilitate future operations.

In G. O., 4th December 1870, No. 1,895, Government called for further explanation and information with reference to statements in the inspection report by the Conservator on the Anamallay teak forests to the effect that in a few years the whole of the mature teak in the forests will be exhausted; that owing to the prevalence of fires, whereby the young seedlings are destroyed, reproduction has ceased; and that for many years to come the forests will have to be closed so far as teak is concerned. The Government Order above read forwards for the Board's remarks a further letter from Colonel Beddome on the subject, and the letter from the Collector of Coimbatore sets forth his views and gives cover to an able report by the Deputy Conservator Mr. Douglas on the question raised.

2. The Board regret to find that both the officers last named appear to accept Colonel Beddome's statement as to the exhaustion of the forests as regards mature teak. Mr. Douglas points out however that this unfortunate result cannot be attributed to want of proper conservancy since the forest came under the charge of the department twenty-five years ago, because the failure of reproduction [illegible] mature timber [illegible] to a period anterior to the constitution of the department. Teak is mature at eighty or [illegible] years old, but the condition of the forest seems to be that there is [illegible] years old, but very few between that age [illegible] of trees about thirty-five years old [illegible] maturity. [illegible] this be the case the result cannot be attributed to inefficient conservancy [illegible] to the prevalence of fires. The Board think that Messrs. Wedderburn and [illegible] have conclusively shown that there is no reason to believe that these have [illegible] in frequency, but it is possible that the extensive felling of former years

since 1850 may have increased the [illegible] -70.
the fires more destructive to [illegible] the absence, [illegible] deficient [illegible] mixture of the jungle grass and [illegible] sufficient reproduction [illegible] before [illegible] might account [illegible] charge against the forest administration [illegible] trees springing up. It is the absence [illegible] reproduction may be due [illegible] fires [illegible] consequences the most serious [illegible] sixty years ago, and [illegible] which [illegible] Douglas [illegible] that this deficient [illegible] ascribed. It may be that [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] exhausted and require [illegible] rest to enable it [illegible] trees now approaching maturity is to be [illegible] fresh crop.

4. It [illegible] case that there are absolutely [illegible] or young trees of less than twenty-five years old, but it appears to be admitted that they are not so numerous as they ought to be. Better conservancy and [illegible] complete exclusion of fire would doubtless tend to increase them; but [illegible] are as pointed out by the Conservator and by Mr. Douglas, great difficulties in the way. The latter officer shows that a good deal necessarily preliminary to a proper system has been done, and Mr. Wedderburn bears warm testimony to the improvement effected in recent years under Mr. Douglas, and to that officer's zeal and devotion to duty. In these encomiums the Board concur.

5. The Board think that the necessity of giving the teak forests a long period of rest, and of foregoing expectation of increasing revenue for years to come, must be accepted, and attention devoted to conserving the crop which is coming on, and aiding the natural reproduction of a crop which however will not be gathered for generations. The forest [illegible] worked at all, continue [illegible] worked [illegible] it has been for a great many years past.

(True Copies and Extract.)

I. H. Nicholas(?)
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.
" to the Conservator of Forests.

No. 1,793.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2[illegible] April 1877.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 16th March 1877, No. [illegible]:—

Referring to Mr. Wedderburn's [illegible] Douglas' remarks recorded in the Board's Proceedings, No. [illegible], of the 20th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I am well acquainted with the groups of young sapling teak [illegible] to, but I believe they were all systematically cleared round and preserved from fire until they had grown beyond danger. These were selected spots where there was a good show of the annual growth [illegible] some, the oldest of these, were selected by Dr. Cleghorn and Colonel Douglas Hamilton and systematically cleared round during the time the latter officer had charge of the forests, and subsequently by other incumbents, and the same plan has been pursued more or less, I believe, by all the officers. If page 55 of Dr. Cleghorn's "Forests and Gardens of South India" be referred to, it will be seen that I reported on this clearing of teak saplings as long ago as 1859.

2. These are the efforts at past conservancy mentioned in paragraph 9 of my inspection report, and may well be characterized as desultory compared to what might and ought to be done under the block system on a large scale, but they conclusively prove that if there were no fires there would be saplings throughout the forest; this utter or almost utter absence generally is admitted by Mr. Douglas, [illegible] on walking through the forest one sees thousands and thousands of one year old seedlings, which when closely examined are generally found to proceed from a rootstock which has been burnt over year by year.

3. From Mr. Wedderburn's letter it might be inferred that until Mr. Douglas' period of administration there had been no attempt to clear creepers destructive to teak and other trees. Many years ago, however, large gangs of Kaders and Mulcers were regularly employed on this work as the accounts and old reports will prove, and it was a work that Dr. Cleghorn most particularly insisted on and used personally to inspect and assist in.

4. As explained in paragraph 11 of my report, the executive changed hands many times in the nine years previous to Mr. Douglas being appointed to the charge, and owing partly to several of the officers in charge being often ill and absent during the working season large quantities of timber accumulated in the forests; this, however, was not the case in former years. The forests were and had been regularly worked according to the instructions in Colonel Hamilton's Memorandum published in the manual; all the timber required was felled and dragged to depôts between June and September; the same was all carted to the head of the slip before January, slipped in January and February and carted from the foot to Mungarah, our floating depôt, before the rainy season set in in June, and then floated to the coast during the freshes.

5. Prior to 1857 there was always a large annual profit to Government, and if the financial table in paragraph [illegible] of report be [illegible] it will be seen that during the three years that I worked these forests, from 1857-58 to 1859-60, there was a net profit to Government of two-thirds of 2½ lakhs of rupees; in these former years revenue was considered of much greater importance than conservancy; in fact, conservancy was only just beginning to receive attention. We had to cut all the timber required by the Indian Navy, Gun Carriage, and other Government Departments, whatever this might amount to.

6. Mr. Douglas has an enormous supply of teak on hand, and if this is sold at a fair price I think that his forest should show some profit still; it must be borne in mind, however, that he has lately been handing over teak to the Public Works Department at a price that, even after covering all expenses and cost of superintendence, which is doubtful, can show no profit for any calculation, for the fact that the teak standing is worth [illegible] Annas per cubic foot.

7. The cheapening of the price of such a valuable article as teak is a very serious question; it not only tends to exhaust our supply, but it renders many other valuable timbers, such as vengay, karra-marda, &c., which are as good or nearly as good, as teak for many purposes, almost unsaleable.

8. I certainly think that a forest like this should yield a considerable revenue to the State, and that if it does not do so under present management [illegible] should be [illegible] replaced.

9. At page 7 of Dr. Cleghorn's book [illegible] Government in 1858 that the supply of teak in the [illegible] [illegible] years (*i.e.*, in 1873) [illegible] it will be seen that he reported [illegible] least two years' felling, besides many old knotted trees, old felled trees, and others far past their prime, and often [illegible] that ought to come out of the forest.

10. I cannot agree with that part of paragraph [illegible] Mr. Douglas' letter in which he implies that there are no trees between 6 and 9 feet in girth; they are certainly few in comparison to those of [illegible] feet in girth, but they do exist, and some years ago one of the Superintendents cut a good sprinkling of trees of this size (though against orders) and squared them up into single logs; this is the size that teak is generally cut in Burmah, anything 6 feet and upward in girth being considered there as first class, and most of their trees being simply squared, not split up the centre and worked into planks; but in the Annamallays trees of this size have been considered immature, and they have very seldom been felled, though, of course, it is far cheaper and easier to get a fine tree of this size squared into a single log than to cut a large tree of, perhaps, 18 or more feet in circumference, which often turns out to be far past its prime, and trim the same up; and it will be a consideration for the future whether it will not financially and otherwise be better to cut the trees at smaller girth instead of waiting till they become the giants that we are just now beginning to exhaust; in 18 feet girth trees I have often counted over 200 rings, thus proving these trees to be more than 200 years old.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 20th February 1877, No. 712.

2. It seems clear that attention has hitherto been paid too much to the realization of revenue rather than to conservancy, and that reproduction and the protection of seedlings from fire must henceforth be considered of greater importance than the exhibition of a profit if the threatened danger of the exhaustion of the supply of teak is to be averted. The Board do not quite understand paragraph 7, seeing that it is open to the Conservator to regulate the price so as to secure a fair value for the timber.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Conservator of Forests.
" to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

18[illegible]

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 20th April 1877, No. 1,795

Esd.

Received [illegible]

APRIL

No. 1[illegible]

[illegible] Forests of [illegible] — in Coimbatore District.— Submitted to Government, with Board's views, remarks of Conservator of Forests of alleged deterioration of —

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th June 1877, No. 1,962.

Read the following papers:—

No. 222. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th February 1877, No. 712.

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 3rd January 1877, No. 18, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Teak Forests of the Anamallays in Coimbatore District.*—Communicating to the Board of Revenue, for remarks, letter from the Conservator of Forests, reporting on the present anticipated exhaustion of — and on the other points noticed.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 10th January 1877, No. 1[illegible]

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's endorsement* on G.O. 4th December 1876, No. 1,893, requesting me to report on the alleged "deterioration of the Anamallay Teak Forest" reported in Colonel Beddome's letter of the 22nd August 1876, No. 1,06[illegible].

2. I have inspected this forest on several occasions since 1871, and am of opinion that beyond the exhaustion caused by the cutting of ripe teak trees in former years, the conservancy of the forest under Mr. Douglas' careful supervision has continuously improved.

3. The first remark I made on visiting and inspecting this forest as Collector, before being constituted Conservator, was that more attention should be given to removing the destructive creepers which strangled the growing teak trees. I saw a strange sight, an open work cradle made by a peepul tree round a teak which had died, and left the outer open net-work of the peepul standing in the forest. The next was that teak plantation was a doubtful outlay, when natural reproduction might be looked for, and was taking place to some extent by the seed of the ripe teak scattered over the ground, and which only required fostering care by removal of undergrowth and preservation from forest fires. Another remark I made was regarding the great quantity of teak which had been felled in former years, exhibited as revenue, but never moved out of the forest. Lastly, regarding the opening of forest roads and the formation of blocks, so necessary both as a security from fire, and to ascertain the number of trees.

4. To my knowledge Mr. Douglas has continuously been engaged in attempting to effect these [illegible] works of conservancy. I saw him working at the roads, and the removal of parasitical growths was attended to so far as the establishment permitted.

5. *Improvements in Conservancy.*—He has employed to some extent, and as far as funds admitted, the jungle tribes in clearing the parasitical growth off the valuable teak trees: blocks were formed (200 acres in 1874-75). No further expenses have been incurred in extending the not very thriving teak plantation,

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* Without No., dated 22nd December 1876, received on the [illegible]

which could not be protected when the establishment returned from their rest, and which is a temptation to forest animals to enter and damage. Opinions of now [illegible] differ about teak planting, and in the rich plains of Nelambur, a plantation may be formed with success, while on the more arid, wind blown, [illegible] less rich rocky surfaces of the Anamallay mountains the natural reproduction seemed to be the cheapest, most sheltered, and best plan.

6. The bringing out of the forest of the timber which had been lying [illegible] for so many years was most successfully accomplished by Mr. Douglas, and it will be seen that he has been favorably noticed for the same (*vide* G.O., No. [illegible]38, of 24th April 1874, on the annual report for 1872-73), and he has been occupied in the formation of timber roads, and in the general improvement of this Government property.

7. So far from any deterioration having taken place in the last six years, I am of opinion that a steady improvement has been the result of Mr. Douglas' zeal and assiduous attention to duty, even to the sacrifice of his health, and if it were in my province now to do so, I would recommend this officer, who seems to have no other object in life but his duty, who never leaves his work for sport, or any consideration whatever, to the favorable notice of Government.

8. *Former Conservancy and value thereof.*—Having now given my opinion about the progress of conservancy of late years, I may make a few remarks on that of past years; for twenty-five years there has been a continuous denudation of accessible ripe teak trees, the growth of former centuries.

9. The productiveness of the forest was represented by the valuation of the trees cut, as placed against the cost of cutting, and that of the establishment. It was an object to cut trees and show a balance on the right side, but who will say that there was any conservancy in this system. In some years far more timber was cut than could be disposed of to the usual customer, which was the Bombay Dockyard; this is referred to in the 3rd remark in paragraph 3 above when the vast quantity of timber lying in the forest attracted my attention.

10. At last the Bombay market failed, though a futile attempt was made to regain it by a consignment made against my advice* by the late Inspector of Forests, Captain C. Walker, in 1874, which ended in financial loss (Board's Proceedings, No. 55-915, of 14th April 1875, and paragraph 25 of my letter No. 230, of 24th July 187[illegible]).

11. In order to justify the Forest Establishment even though the forest required rest, and still further conservancy, and to show a balance instead of a loss, the Department of Public Works were asked to supply their wants from this forest instead of purchasing in other markets, but they declined to purchase except at market prices, or any other than suitable timber; and if the market price left little margin over seigniorage, felling, and cartage expenses, that was a forest and not a Public Works question.

12. Here we have a forest which has been continuously felled for a quarter of a century until the ripe trees became more and more remote and difficult of access, and with no particular conservancy that I have been able to observe, and it is not to be wondered at that its resources have diminished, teak being a very slow growing tree and not sprouting up to order. In fact, the greater clearance of large trees and consequent aridity of the forest in the dry season from November till May are against the growth of young trees, which love shade and humidity.

13. That the absolute cessation of growth of teak should coincide with the first conservancy of the forest a quarter century ago seemed to me so unexpected a revelation that I addressed a letter to the Deputy Conservator requesting him to state, either from his tree register, if he had kept one, or from his intimate

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* *Vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 26th October 1874, No. 206 3,099, and No. 2-12, of 4th January 1875.

knowledge of the forest in which he had spent seven years of his life, whether the alleged fact that there were no teak trees in the Tuddacadavoo or Government teak forest of less age than twenty-five years was a fact, and if so, to what cause it might be attributed.

14. It was certainly my impression that I had seen trees of different ages growing in the forest; the growing trees that were being strangled by creepers naturally attracted most of my attention on my first visit six years ago. I was more interested then in the conservancy improvement of the trees and in the working out of the timber than in noticing the reproductive growth; but if there had been none, it could scarcely have escaped my notice. Consequently before I could report from my recollection, I considered it necessary that I should ask the officer, who of all others is the most fitted to give a decided answer on this all-important statement of the Conservator.

15. Some explanation of his report by Colonel Beddome was sent in through my office, but as it did not seem to touch the question at issue, I sent it on without further remark (with my endorsement, No. 89, of the 15th December 1876) to Government.

16. In submitting Mr. Douglas' reply to my inquiry as to the alleged fact of the entire cessation of reproduction of teak since twenty-five years, I have the honor to make the following remarks. Apparently no calculation, or book record of growing, to mature stock has been made; the block system is yet in its infancy; progress thereto has been hampered, it is said, by a doubt about boundaries; still Mr. Douglas does state that there are growing teak trees in groups of a less age than twenty-five years; he instances trees of eight, twelve, and fifteen years' growth; he admits that the young growing stock is not in proportion to the more mature growth, and that reproduction is not commensurate with the progress of felling. He admits that forest fires are of annual occurrence, but gives reasons for the inference that they were not unfrequent at an earlier date than twenty-five years ago. I will add my personal testimony to this inference. When I was Acting Head Assistant to the Collector of Malabar in March of 1846, I saw most extensive forest fires on the Palghaut Hills in which the Sholakeray teak forest is situated; grass used to be fired then as now for cattle grazing, and in 1845 I saw the tobacco smugglers' paths through the forest. In a period of thirty years the clearance of forest below Sholakeray, and of the formerly extensive Walliar forest, has been most marked, and yet these forest fires were of frequent occurrence, and were not the result of low country clearance.

17. Perhaps the clearance of large teak trees in the progress of felling in the forest itself has intensified the effects of forest fires upon the sapling growth, and yet I have seen sixteen years ago both saplings and growth from stools in the Cuddapah Hills where grass fires are of annual occurrence; but clearance of mature teak trees does, in my observation, tend to make the reproduction of saplings more difficult. There is less shelter for the growing tree, less humidity of atmosphere, as the forest shade is annually lessened, a greater check is given to growth and in course of time the result of non-conservancy must be extinction. The greater grazing, and the more the grass is eaten down and trampled under foot, the less is the damage caused by fire.

18. On the Bellirungum Hills, in North Coimbatore, I have seen the grass 10 feet high and more, and when ignited and fanned by a strong wind I have observed a line of fire which, but for its rapidity and short duration, seemed enough to destroy every tree, and yet the forest remained unconsumed, while the scattered trees were greatly scorched. The destruction by fires of old grass is not all evil; the height to which it grows tends to choke other vegetation, whereas the ashes of the grass fertilizes the soil, and a short herbage succeeds a tangled mass of undergrowth. The longer such clearance is deferred the greater must be the undergrowth

and consequently the duration and intensity of the fire, and of its effects upon saplings if not under the shelter of forest trees.

19. May not, therefore, the clearance of the large teak trees have had more to do with the checked reproduction of saplings than the annual grass fires? Grass does not grow well under the shade of trees; [illegible] overgrowth with check [illegible] under-growth; dense jungle is not much affected by fire, whereas open grass [illegible] more cleared. I venture this suggestion founded on my personal observation. Trees affect [illegible] soil and situation; thin them out and you have rapid under-growth of grass &c.; the action of the sun produces this effect. When a forest is felled for coffee, unless there is a constant expenditure on weeding, the coffee is choked. A large forest cannot be weeded. The expense would be enormous and labor would not be procurable. I cannot suggest any other remedy than more gradual felling, block conservancy, and cessation of cutting trees to produce a favorable balance sheet, which seems to have been the practice in former years before Mr. Douglas had charge of the forest.

20. The desire to show a good revenue may have had more to do with the lessened reproduction than the occurrence of annual fires; an annual fire may be less destructive than a biennial one; there is less to burn, and the burning is sooner over. A dense forest is less affected by fire than trees scattered among grass. In North Coimbatore where there is no teak the jungle trees are sparse and stunted and do not appear to be reproduced, probably owing to the climate and soil; teak requires a better soil and more rainfall than ordinary jungle-wood, but as grass fires are universal, I do not think that they are the cause of non-production of teak.

21. At all events we have an undoubted fact to go upon, that the Anamallay teak forest has been indented on for a quarter of a century; that the growth of centuries has been since annually turned to account; that there has been a diminution of mature trees, and the logical inference therefrom is to give the forest some rest to indent on it less largely, to be content with a less revenue in view to a more continuous supply for future requirements. Mr. Douglas alludes to the sufficiency of the stock if not too much indented on.

22. *Increase of Establishment.*—Whether the establishment for the up-keep of the Anamallay forest is in excess of its requirements is a professional detail. I found Mr. Douglas doing the work of a forester, himself superintending the felling and squaring, dragging and slipping of timber. He had a large and important and valuable range. He was short-handed. His sole forester was sick and could not be replaced. He could give no time for general supervision. Whether it is right to work a superior officer in this manner is for the consideration of Government; also more money was wanted to commence conservancy with.

23. If conservancy is to mean more than felling and bringing to market, which was all and more than all (much felled timber was never brought out of the forest) that was done in former years; if the block system is to be adopted, there must be employment of labor, which is more expensive now than it would have been in former years; there must be outlay, there must be an adequate establishment and not all the work thrown on one man, the short work of other years must be made up for now and with less revenue to go upon.

24. It is not fair to consume the greater part of a valuable forest in a quarter of a century with no outlay except the expense of felling and dragging out the trees, which last was not even done, and then to contrast less returns with increased expenditure for the commencement of real conservancy.

25. There has been some waste in sending teak to Bombay and selling it at a loss, but the Deputy Conservator was not responsible for this, and the late Conservator, or Inspector, at whose instance it was done, recorded a remark acquiesced in by the Board of Revenue that it was experience gained, but I

[illegible] that some progress has been made towards conservancy, and that the future of the Anamallay teak forests is not so unhopeful as has been represented.

26. It is certainly still a most valuable property, and cost the State nothing in its origin. It was a gift of nature; we have been living on capital, and lately [illegible] on conservancy; the capital is not growing again so rapidly as we could wish, the inference is to trench on it with more caution. Plantation does not seem to succeed, and nature must be awaited. No [illegible] that of Government is allowed in this forest; immature trees were never felled; forest dividing roads, fire belts and blocks of thick timber trees are the best antidotes to fires, and adjuvants of reproduction.

27. That forest fires did take place in former years may, I think, be admitted; they were unnoticed and unchecked. If they produced less evil results as regards saplings, this may be due to the then unfelled forest sheltering the saplings.

28. Felling without conservancy will, I think, aggravate the evil. Fires only occur in the season when the forest is dry and establishment removed; some check on entry is then necessary; a dry forest furnishes no grazing or water for cattle.

29. A ridge belt should be cleared, fired, if necessary, under control before the establishment is withdrawn, then slope fires would not, if there were a quarter mile interval of cleared grass, affect the teak forest, if such slope fires do, of which however I have never received official or other information. The Chetties fires I have already noticed, and the measures I took to prevent their recurrence.

From [illegible] DOUGLAS, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Coimbatore Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Setmade, 28th December 1876, No. 252.

I RECEIVED yesterday your letter of the 25th instant asking for certain information regarding the deterioration of the Anamallay teak forest.

2. You inquire—

1st.—Whether you were not shown in 1871 some young natural teak, and if so, what may be a rough estimate of the quantity and age of such indigenous trees.

2nd.—If it be the case that there is an almost utter absence of trees of a less age than twenty-five years, or "of any saplings beyond a year's growth," what may be my opinion as to the cause of the sudden cessation of reproduction during the last quarter of a century.

3rd.—Information as to the fires, if they be the cause, which are said to have produced this effect.

3. In reply to the first question, I have the honor to state that you certainly were shown several groups of young teak in different parts of the forest which had grown, if not beyond harm, at least beyond destruction by fire. Roughly speaking I should say they were of eight, twelve and fifteen years' growth.

4. As regards an estimate of the quantity of such trees in the forests, I doubt if any near approach to accuracy can be made in the absence of a thoroughly conducted valuation of the forest piece by piece. Without this all statements as to the general condition and quantity of timber at various stages of growth in so large and dense a forest must be made with great caution.

5. Concerning your second query, though I should hesitate to say there is almost an utter absence of saplings, I think it is clear that their number is insufficient and out of proportion to the stock of twenty-five years' growth from the discrepancy having struck so experienced an observer as the Conservator of Forests.

6. As to the cause of the falling off in reproduction during the last twenty-five years, I am not prepared with a satisfactory explanation, but I am not convinced as yet that it is entirely due to the ravages of fire.

7. I can give you no special record of these fires. They are, as the Conservator remarks, of annual occurrence. In some years they are much worse than in others. There are however generally portions of the forests which altogether escape, sometimes for several years in succession.

In [illegible] respect I do not suppose the Anamallay Forest is either better or [illegible] many other tracts throughout India. The effects of fire are much the same in all.

9. In offering the following remarks for consideration, I would wish to submit all I have to say with the diffidence becoming an officer without professional training and of not many years experience.

10. I[illegible] as you [illegible] noticeable [illegible] the Conservator's e[illegible] of the [illegible] is correct the deterioration of the forest seems to date from the commencement of forest operations, viz. twenty-five years ago.

11. I think however that a point of some importance has been overlooked which when duly considered may perhaps tend to modify this view of the case.

12. Granting the utter absence of saplings and the abundance of trees of twenty-five, thirty, and thirty-five years' of age, of an average circumference of 4 and 5 feet, what it may be asked in view of the approaching exhaustion of mature stock, that is timber of 9 feet girth and upwards, has become of the trees of fifty or sixty years of age which should measure 7 and 5 feet.

13. We have not been cutting immature timber, and it is only of late years that the minimum girth of trees to be [illegible] has been reduced to 9 feet.

14. If the present stock of mature timber is exhausted any time within [illegible] next five years, it is evident that before it can be succeeded by the growing crop of twenty-five to thirty-five years standing a considerable interval must occur. And if we assume, as I suppose we may, that the teak in natural forests attains maturity at eighty or ninety years, then the interval will probably be forty or fifty years as the trees both in age and bulk have as yet only reached half the minimum standard of maturity.

15. From this, I submit, the legitimate inference is that a cessation of natural reproduction happened during the time when according to the Conservator's theory the forest enjoyed a comparative immunity from fires. And if his theory is correct some other cause than that of fire must be sought for. And such cause may have operated again now as it did then.

16. At any rate the present state of things seems not without parallel in the history of the forest before it was taken in hand by the department and that should be some consolation.

17. If the lakh of twenty-five and thirty-five year old trees have to grow another forty or fifty years before they are fit to cut there will be ample opportunity for the reproduction under proper conservancy, of an entirely fresh crop of teak of all ages under fifty years, even if no direct action in conservancy be taken on an extensive scale for some time to come.

18. And unless the Anamallay teak deteriorates greatly in size and quality, 100,000 trees, if not felled too soon, should last for fifty years, and will then be replaced, without any interval, by a succession of trees brought forward under more systematic management.

19. As regards the leased forest our present term of occupation will end just about the time of the exhaustion of the first crop above named.

20. On the whole it would appear that the present stock of mature timber, now nearly exhausted, had a longer start of the twenty-five and thirty-five years old than they in turn are likely to obtain of the yearlings.

21. Whether I am quite correct in my figures does not at present seem to be of any special moment; the main point is whether there is a sufficiency of mature and nearly mature timber to keep us going until the stock of twenty-five, thirty-five years' old is ripe. If not then whatever be the cause it cannot be laid at the door of the Forest Department, nor does it appear that any action of the department could have arrested results which must have their origin in a state of things long prior to its existence. Had felling been less extensively practised the supply of mature timber would have been spread over a longer period, and if we had only cut half the quantity we did we should now have a stock sufficient to last twenty-five years, but then half profits would be outstanding with interest on money realized. This would not have added a cubit to the stature of a single sapling.

22. Nor does the future prosperity of the forest seem to have been seriously imperilled so far. Of course "the future" is rather a remote prospect in forest matters, but if we are justified in expecting to bring up a stock to replace the existing half grown timber it does not seem a very gloomy look out.

23 As regards fires the case seems to stand thus. If more [illegible] prevalent before the working of the forest the present half grown trees survived them. It is certain that the younger trees coextensive with forest operations must in their earlier years have encountered fires. If fires were not prevalent then the cause of the earlier interruption of reproduction, the consequence of which we appear likely soon to encounter, seems involved in some obscurity. Finally, if fires su[illegible] during the last twenty-five years prevented reproduction there is time to repair damages.

[illegible] more frequent now and harder to contend with than formerly, but it is not clear that they were of such rare occurrence or of so trifling a nature twenty-five or thirty years ago as to have been comparatively harmless.

25. The Conservator bases his theory on the following grounds: prior to their being worked the forests were untrodden save by a few Kaders. Extensive jungles [illegible] plains at the [illegible] was abundant, and there was consequently no necessity for cattle to be [illegible] which with the extension of cultivation, grazing has since gradually advanced [illegible] hence [illegible] the forests.

26. With all deference to Colonel Beddome, I would offer another side of the question.

27. I gather from the records of boundary disputes both with Cochin and Malabar that the capture of elephants and the collection of hill produce attracted a certain number of Coimbatore native officials and others, and with their following it is not easy to see how the forest could escape fires of more or less severity. It does not moreover seem very likely that before the existence of a forest establishment the Kaders should have observed any special caution as to fires. My experience of them is that, beyond reserved forest limits, they are as careless as other natives. They are not now very numerous certainly, but quite enough to have caused extensive fires, wandering about as is their habit in small parties at all seasons.

28. Whatever the extent of jungle and pasturage on the plains may have been thirty years ago, I see no reason to suppose that fires lit even at its furthest limit did not travel on unchecked, gathering strength with progress up the slopes and into the forest. That fires did occur in the lowland jungle is tolerably certain, for cultivation was being actively pushed on at its outskirts. Moreover, the custom of burning grass for pasturage is not of modern date, and if these jungles were the principal grazing grounds, fires are sure to have occurred regularly. It is certain that though the Coimbatore Forests may not have been much frequented, those of Colengode were open to cattle and were in all probability burnt in tracts annually, and such fires must have passed into our forests.

29. In ascribing the increased occurrence of fires to the Chetties the Conservator seems to forget that twenty-five or thirty years ago bands of smugglers constantly traversed these forests, and it is too much to suppose that the night fires they lit at their encampment to keep off wild animals, more especially elephants, were always carefully extinguished when no longer required, and if not then a chance spark blown into the nearest jungle would set every thing ablaze.

30. I think in short that so far as conditions favorable or unfavorable to forest fires have to be considered as affecting reproduction, there is not much to choose between the past and present. The difference is not however in favor of the present, and had forest conservancy twenty years ago obtained the support that has since been accorded, the work of arresting fires would have been easier. More jungle would have been reserved for fuel and grazing purposes and so on.

31. I do not for a moment question the expediency of fire precautions in forest conservancy; I merely doubt whether the alleged deterioration of the Anamallay forest is altogether attributable to the want of them.

32. Government apparently do not consider they have reason to be satisfied with conservancy in these forests. I am very sorry for it and can only say I have tried to do my best. From an early period of the time I have held this appointment I have steadily endeavoured to promote efficiency. If progress has been slow it should be remembered that there have been many difficulties and delays to contend with, and that rapid advancement in any particular direction is hardly possible where all the most important operations have to be crowded into a working season of less than six months' duration, the first half of which is very wet, and the second often very unhealthy.

33. Perhaps however more has been achieved than Government are fully aware of—

(1.) In the first place it was at my suggestion that the survey and demarcation of the reserved forests was undertaken.

(2.) The leased forest has been done and mapped, and you are aware that I bore no inconsiderable part in finding labor and pushing on work.

(3.) The investigation and settlement of a dispute of long standing with the Numbudries of Colengode, involving some valuable jungle, was at the same time effected and resulted in favor of Coimbatore.

(4.) The Government forest was next taken up and this produced real action respecting the settlement of the disputed boundary with Cochin, a matter that had been talked about and written about for twenty years at least, and in which at length substantial progress has been made, if indeed may not be said to be on the verge of accomplishment.

In this I acted as Settlement Officer and on me devolved the supply and management of labor, &c.

[illegible] The [illegible]ancore boundary is next on the list, and I am about to [illegible] that in hand.

There then remains only the adjustment of reserved forest limits within the district. These are all important steps in the right direction, and may rightly be styled essential preliminaries to efficient conservancy.

34. Had b[illegible]king or any other conservancy scheme on a large scale been commenced before a regular investigation and settlement of boundaries took place, it is [illegible] compli-cations might not have arisen.

35. It is tolerably certain that either settlement and demarkation would have been indefinitely retarded, or that a great risk would have been incurred of sacrificing time and money by with-drawing the forest officer and his Kader laborers from their conservancy operations.

36. It would have been impossible, with so many other important matters demanding his attention, for any single officer to carry on extensive boundary and conservancy operations simultaneously. The supply of hill men is inadequate to begin with.

37. On such points as the following also the interests of conservancy have not been neglected:—

(1.) Cattle grazing, which at one time threatened to become an established custom in the reserved forest, has been steadily resisted and put down.

(2.) The Chetties' traffic has been placed under some control by an order prohibiting the entry of any one into the reserved forests without a pass from the Deputy Conservator.

(3.) It has been made a special object to secure the good will and co-operation of the Kaders, and the progress made in demarcation is evidence of success. Not many years ago the Kaders seldom worked for the department and rarely came near the forest officer, but when not out collecting cardamoms, &c., spent their time in their huts drinking, a practice in which they were rather encouraged than otherwise by the Chetties.

(4.) Though not immediately affecting the reserved forests may be mentioned as a measure of conservancy the experimental rules for restriction of Kumeri cultivation and the grant of lands and tuccavi to Guliers, Irulers, Mulcers, &c., and which so far give fair promise of success.

(5.) The strict enforcement of the rule prohibiting acceptance of all durkhasts till they shall have been reported to the forest officer has saved many a tract of useful jungle.

(6.) The application of a revised code of license and voucher rules has so far been attended with marked increase in revenue.

38. The beneficial results of these various proceedings may, I trust, become more apparent as time goes on; if proper action is taken they cannot fail, I think, to simplify and facilitate future operations.

In G.O., 4th December 1876, No. 1,893, Government called for further explanation and information with reference to statements in the inspection report by the Conservator on the Anamallay teak forests to the effect that in a few years the whole of the mature teak in the forests will be exhausted; that owing to the prevalence of fires, whereby the young seedlings are destroyed, reproduction has ceased; and that for many years to come the forests will have to be closed so far as teak is concerned. The Government Order above read forwards for the Board's remarks a further letter from Colonel Beddome on the subject, and the letter from the Collector of Coimbatore sets forth his views and gives cover to an able report by the Deputy Conservator Mr. Douglas on the question raised.

2. The Board regret to find that both the officers last named appear to accept Colonel Beddome's statement as to the exhaustion of the forests as [illegible] mature teak. Mr. Douglas points out however that this unfortunate result cannot be attributed to want of proper conservancy since the forest came under the charge of the department twenty-five years ago, because the failure of reproduction to which the exhaustion of mature timber is to be ascribed must be traced to a period long anterior to the constitution of the department. Teak is mature at eighty or ninety years old, but the condition of the forest seems to be that there is a sufficiency of trees about thirty-five years old, but very few between that age and full maturity.

In this [illegible] case the result cannot be attributed to insufficient conser-vancy or to the prevalence of fires. The Board think that Messrs. Wedderburn and Douglas have [illegible] shown that there is no reason to believe that these have [illegible] but it is possible that the extensive felling of former years [illegible] luxuri[illegible] grass and [illegible] the [illegible] to seedlings than before; and this might account for the absence, or at least deficiency, of young trees springing up. It is the absence of sufficient reproduction at the present time which constitutes the most serious charge against the forest administration. Mr. Douglas hints that this deficient reproduction may be due to some natural cause, the same which operated fifty or sixty years ago, and to which the want of trees now approaching maturity is to be ascribed. It may be that the land which has borne teak for centuries is becoming exhausted and requires periodic rests to enable it to put forth a fresh crop.

4. It is not the case that there are absolutely no saplings or young trees of less than twenty-five years old, but it appears to be admitted that they are not so numerous as they ought to be. Better conservancy and more complete exclusion of fire would doubtless tend to increase them, but there are, as pointed out by the Conservator and by Mr. Douglas, great difficulties in the way. The latter officer shows that a good deal necessarily preliminary to a proper system has been done, and Mr. Wedderburn bears warm testimony to the improvement effected in recent years under Mr. Douglas, and to that officer's zeal and devotion to duty. In these encomiums the Board concur.

5. The Board think that the necessity of giving the teak forests a long period of rest, and of foregoing expectation of increasing revenue for years to come, must be accepted, and attention devoted to conserving the crop which is coming on, and aiding the natural reproduction of a crop which however will not be gathered for generations. The forest must, if worked at all, continue to be worked at a loss as it has been for a great many years past.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 223. Proceedings of the Board Revenue, dated 20th April 1877, No. 1,793.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 16th March 1877, No. 1,722:—

REFERRING to Mr. Wedderburn's and Mr. Douglas' remarks recorded in the Board's Proceedings, No. 712, of the 20th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I am well acquainted with the groups of young sapling teak trees referred to, but I believe they were all systematically cleared round and preserved from fire until they had grown beyond danger. These were selected spots where there was a good show of the annual growth, and some, the oldest of these, were selected by Dr. Cleghorn and Colonel Douglas Hamilton and systematically cleared round during the time the latter officer had charge of the forests, and subsequently by other incumbents, and the same plan has been pursued more or less, I believe, by all the officers. If page 55 of Dr. Cleghorn's "Forests and Gardens of South India" be referred to, it will be seen that I reported on this clearing of teak saplings as long ago as 1859.

2. These are the efforts at past conservancy mentioned in paragraph 9 of my inspection report, and may well be characterized as desultory compared to what might and ought to be done under the block system on a large scale, but they conclusively prove that if there were no fires there would be saplings throughout

the forest; this utter or almost utter absence generally is admitted by Mr. Douglas, but on walking through the forest one sees thousands and thousands of one year old seedlings, which when closely examined are generally found to proceed from a rootstock which has been burnt over year by year.

3. From Mr. Wedderburn's letter it might be inferred that until Mr. Douglas' period of administration there had been no attempt to clear creepers destructive to teak and other trees. Many years ago, however, large gangs of Kaders and Mulcers were regularly employed on this work, as the accounts and old reports will prove, and it was a work that Dr. Cleghorn most particularly insisted on and used personally to inspect and assist in.

4. As explained in paragraph 11 of my report, the executive changed hands many times in the nine years previous to Mr. Douglas being appointed to the charge, and owing partly to several of the officers in charge being often ill or absent during the working season large quantities of timber accumulated in the forests; this, however, was not the case in former years. The forests w[illegible] had been regularly worked according to the instructions in Colonel Ha[illegible] Memorandum published in the manual; all the timber required was felled and dragged to depôts between June and September; the same was all carted to the head of the slip before January; slipped in January and February and carted from the foot to Mungarah, our floating depôt, before the rainy season set in June, and then floated to the coast during the freshes.

5. Prior to 1857 there was always a large annual profit to Government, and if the financial table in paragraph 11 of my report be referred to it will be seen that during the three years that I worked these forests, from 1857-58 to 1859-60, there was a net profit to Government of upwards of 2½ lakhs of rupees; in these former years revenue was considered of much greater importance than conservancy; in fact, conservancy was only just beginning to receive attention. We had to cut all the timber required by the Indian Navy, Gun Carriage, and other Government Departments, whatever this might amount to.

6. Mr. Douglas has an enormous supply of teak on hand, and if this is sold at a fair price I think that his forest should show some profit still; it must be borne in mind, however, that he has lately been handing over teak to the Public Works Department at a price that, even if it covers all expenses and cost of superintendence, which is doubtful, can show no profit or any calculation, for the fact that the teak standing is worth about 8 Annas per cubic foot.

7. The cheapening of the price of such a valuable article as teak is a very serious question; it not only tends to exhaust our supply, but it renders many other valuable timbers, such as vengay, kara-marda, &c., which are as good, or nearly as good, as teak for many purposes, almost unsaleable.

8. I certainly think that forest like this should yield a considerable revenue to the State, and that if it does not do so under present management that the cost of superintendence, &c., should be considerably reduced.

9. At page 7 of Dr. Cleghorn's book referred to above it will be seen that he reported to Government in 1858, that the supply of teak in the Anamallays would probably be exhausted in [illegible]; there is still, I think, sufficient large fully mature trees for at least two years' felling, besides many old knotted trees, old girdled trees, and others far past their prime, and often partly burnt that ought to come out of the forest.

10. I cannot agree with that part of paragraph 12 of Mr. Douglas' letter in which he implies that there are no trees between 6 and 9 feet in girth; they are certainly few in comparison to those of less than 6 feet in girth, but they do exist, and some years ago one of the Superintendents cut a good sprinkling of trees of

this size (though against orders) and squared them up into single logs; this is the size that teak is generally cut in Burmah, anything [illegible] feet and upwards in girth being considered there as first-class, and most of their trees being simply squared, not split up the centre and worked into planks; but in the Anamallays trees of this size have been considered immature, and [illegible] seldom been felled, though, of course, it is far cheaper and easier to cut a fine tree of this size squared into a single log than to cut a large tree of, perhaps, 18 or more feet in circumference, which often turns out to be far past its prime, and trim the same up; and it will be a consideration for the future whether it will not financially and otherwise be better to cut the trees at smaller girth instead of waiting till they become the giants that we are just now beginning to exhaust; in 18 feet girth tree I have often counted over 200 rings, thus proving these trees to be more than 200 years old.

[illegible]mitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 20th [illegible] 1877, No. 712.

2. It seems clear that attention has hitherto been paid too much to the realization of revenue rather than to conservancy, and that reproduction and the protection of seedlings from fire must henceforth be considered of greater importance than the exhibition of a profit, if the threatened danger of the exhaustion of the supply of teak is to be averted. The Board do not quite understand paragraph 7, seeing that it is open to the Conservator to regulate the price so as to [illegible] fair value for the timber.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 224. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1877, No. 1,962.

Forest No. 4.

THE outcome of the above correspondence, in the opinion of His Grace the Governor in Council is, that the felling of teak in the Anamallay must be restricted to mature trees, and that more attention should be paid to conservancy as developing the resources, and to bringing out the timber lying in the forests. He considers that great injury has been done to the Indian forests by the desire to fell immature timber to produce an apparent revenue. The Forest Department should not fell more timber than is absolutely necessary to meet the wants of the market.

2. In approving the above course generally, His Grace in Council resolves to point out to Colonel Beddome that the Government look to him as Conservator to direct operations in the most advisable course, though they also consider that he has in Mr. Douglas a very competent and zealous Assistant.

3. Regarding Mr. Douglas' letter to Mr. Wedderburn he fails to see that it contains anything of which Colonel Beddome may fairly complain, though Mr. Wedderburn would have been well advised had he abstained from appealing to Mr. Douglas in what was in some measure a controversy with his superior officer.

4. The Conservator will state whether the stock of felled teak lying unremoved on the hills has been accurately taken, submitting a statement of the same with value at market rates, deducting the cost of bringing it to market, which should be shown at so much a ton.

12 *Revenue Department, 12th June 1877, No. 1,962.*

5. The Conservator will expedite the submission of the report called for G.O., 20th May 1876, No. 657.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" Conservator of Forests.

Exd. L. F. Zephir.

Ooty
17 March

My Dear Mr Huddleston.

I think that I am justified in being rather annoyed at the Procs of the Board 712 dated 20 Feby. Mr Wedderburn as Colr refers several Questions to Mr Douglas the Offg in charge of the Anamallays & the latter [illegible] a long report wh is little more than a commentary on my inspection Report on his district, & an attempt to refute much that I have written & the Board particularly characterise it as an able report - this is hardly fair to me - Mr Douglas is a young officer without any training (beyond what I have given him myself during my visits to the Anamallays) & with no experience beyond his particular forests - whereas I worked the Forests myself for 3 years, 20 years ago, with very different results & Mr Douglas's

under
I
hold
or
report

5. The Conservator will expedite the submission of the report called for G.O., 20th May 1876, No. 657.

& have been visiting it every year since – the report besides is so full of vague theories & statements likely to mislead that I have addressed the Board on the subject.

dated 16 March

Mr Douglas is a hard working zealous young officer but he is much wanting in tact & judgment & works very expensively, he has introduced many expensive innovations sanctioned or not sanctioned, & made other alterations much for the worse on former systems & I have had to speak to him seriously on several occasions & after my inspection of it this year I had to address him a very long letter pointing out a great many changes that were necessary

This forest yielded a large Revenue to Govt in former years & it I should do so now without doubt

but it has been worked at a dead loss during the five years it has been under Douglas

If I had not been very ill since I came down from Jeypur or I should have addressed the Board sooner on the subject of Mr Douglas's report

Yrs sincerely

R H Beddome

1868

Fourth

Pro Dy 20th Feb. 77-712

- It is submitted that [illegible]edings should be communicated to Col. Heddene for his remarks, before final orders are passed, as remarked by the Collector (Col. 3) of Coimbatore his explanatory letter (in G.O. 3rd Jany 77-18) hardly touches the point in issue.

Perhaps it may be thought desirable that he should at the same

Yes

Also ask whether this condition attaching to the Amenissa property or includes the aga ~~leases~~ of the Collector of Malabar

What is the amt of ~~lease~~ lease & condition in the latter case? Is there anything besides the stamp fee?

Also ask what kind of felled wood is lying throughout the

time submit definite
proposals for future
management &c.
As it seems to have
undoubted fact that
the Govt. must cease
to expect a surplus revenue
from these Forests –
they will have to
be worked at a
loss, if conservancy
is attended to.

13.3.77

Dear Col. [illegible]

Since writg. I perceive
it appears that Col. B.
has already (11.3.77)
addressed the Bd. on
the subject of these Forests
so we can wait for
the Bd.s consideration
of this letter & their
further remarks.

I don't think Col. B.
has any reason to
complain of Mr. W. or
Mr. D. writing as
they have done. They

been much called for
further remarks by superior
authority, but W. sh'd
not have called on D.
without comment to Col. B.

I don't even myself believe
in the injury from the summer
fires being material –
I believe they do more
good than harm –

23/3

Subsequent letters keep things very much as they were before. The Forests are unwisely worked or timber sold at ~~unremunerative~~ unremunerative rates, it rests with him as Hd. of the Depart. to give definite instructions, and to submit such instructions for the approval of Govt. But he does nothing of the kind merely noting the differences of opinion between himself, Mr. Douglas & Mr. Wilkinson, and making indecisive remarks regarding Mr. Douglas' management but suggesting nothing definite. It is noticeable that as matters stand he should be required to submit proposals for the future management of these forests.

Coll. (3) 7 Rev. R. 1900)) R. C. 19 . R 24/3/77
S.C. 30/3/77 R 30 June 77

Forests

[illegible] Ballard Teak

Br. Bg. 20th Feb. 77

No 7

To lie over as directed until the Br. suppl. the letter on

17/24.3.77

Recirculate – as the [illegible] Proceeds. according have now been received – Ch. [illegible]

Summary Book

or

1968/17

The contents of this & other volumes now compg. seems to me that all are agreed that felling in these Teak forests shd. be restricted – & more attention paid to Conservancy proper in developing the resources & bringing out the timber lying in the forest.

I wd. approve this course generally & tell Col. B. that the Govt. look to him to direct as Conservator the operations of the most advisable [illegible] adding that the Govt. are satisfied that he has in Mr. Douglas a very competent &

patronize assistants.

I don't think Col. B. has any real sound comprehension of Mr. D.'s letter & Mr. W. [illegible] the Col. [illegible] [illegible] I have appealed to him in [illegible] in some manner a controversy with his [illegible] [illegible]. Col. B. is prone to write in an exaggerated tone & the state of things does not seem to me to be as discouraging as he wd. make it out. We can't [illegible] cake & have our cake. but [illegible] a good [illegible] future cakes in the oven: we can't

prop [illegible]
arrangement of [illegible]

[illegible] R. 19 [illegible] [illegible] 24/[illegible]

I do not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] Col. B. but I think [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] why the [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] the future as in the past be a [illegible] [illegible]. Only by [illegible] the [illegible] set.

L.

I agree it does to me that [illegible] [illegible] been [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] by the [illegible] immature [illegible] to produce an

apparent revenue

& that felling be

be restricted to

the working wants of

BM 26/6

---

77 13th Procs 20th Feb 1877 —

20 April 1877 — 179

Order

I have no objection to

[illegible]

Beddome for a definite

plan of management

of the Anamallay

Forest - indeed we

had better have it

and direct him to

confine it to the practical

measures to be set on

foot, stating precisely

what is being done

and how he proposes

to supplement these

efforts. We evidently

have a good man

there. But

[illegible]

Govt. look to him [illegible] carefully

to direct operations in the

most advisable course

But from the Correspondence, his proposals can I think be generally gathered. They are (1) to cut very little more of [illegible]ture teak to save for seeders. (2) not to cut immature (25 to 30 years old) teak, looking to greater growth; (3) to cut rides or fire-traces in order to let the crop of saplings grow. (I doubt the possibility of excluding fire.) (4) removal of creepers & other cumbering growing lots.

I would sanction these things provisionally and direct that they be included in his proposals

I would also ask him to state whether stock has been accurately taken of the felled teak lying [illegible] and to submit it with its value at market rates, deducting the cost of bringing it to market, which should be shown at so much a ton.

2/6 RT

No. 1962 / 6-77 Bd. Procgs. 20th Feby 1877 — 112
20 April 1877 — 59

Order

The issue of the above correspondence in the opinion of His Excy the Govt. in Council, is that the felling of teak in the Anamallay must be restricted to mature trees & that more attention should be paid to conservancy as regards the nurseries & [illegible] the bringing out the timber lying in the woods. The Govt. consider that great injury has been done to the Indian Forests by the desire to fell immature timber to produce an apparent revenue. The Forest Dept. should not fell more timber than is absolutely necessary to meet the wants of the market.

In approving the above course generally, His Excy in Council wishes to point out to Col. Beddome, that the Govt. look to him [illegible] to direct operations in the most advisable course

No. 1962 77

80·12-6-77 No. 1962

he includes in his

~~as~~ there also another thing
he has in Mr. Douglas
a very competent [illegible]
assistant — ~~His Grace~~
~~in considering the Mr. Douglas's~~
~~letter to Mr. Wedderburn~~
~~[illegible]~~

Regarding
~~Mr.~~ Douglas's letter
to Mr. Wedderburn they fairly
[illegible] that it contains
anything of which Col.
Wedderburn may justly
complain, though Col.
Wedderburn would
have been well advised
had he abstained from
appealing to Mr. Douglas
in what was in some
measure a controversy
with his superior Officer.

The Commissioners [illegible]
as to whether the stock
of felled teak upon [illegible] in the books has
been accurately taken,
valuing it with its
value at market rates

deducting the cost of conveying
it to market, which they
should be shown at to
[illegible] a Tour —

The Commissioners [illegible]
[illegible] the submission of
the report called for on
[illegible] May 76. — 658

14 To the [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

ma[illegible]

Avr [illegible]

[illegible]