

(1) Number of pages 4
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2019	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	18-6-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

18th June 1877, No. 2,019.

Read the following paper:—

No. 347. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st May 1877.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, (through the Conservator of Forests,) dated 4th May 1877, No. 154.

With reference to the Proceedings, Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1877, No. 1,545, on Colonel Scott's application for land in the upper Bhowany forests, I have the honor to state that from Colonel Scott's description of the land on the north-western slopes of the Velliyangherry Mulla, latitude 11° , longitude $76^{\circ}45'$, the land in question appears to be in the Malabar District.

1. The demarcated boundary of Malabar and Coimbatore runs along the crest of the highest peak of which is 5,500 feet above the sea.

2. There is a very large forest on the top and on the eastern slope, and a feeder of the Noyel river rises there.

The north-western side is more precipitous.

4. As the hill range extends towards Peermudi, the drainage is to the north towards the Bhowany.

5. The rain-fall on this lower range is, however, lighter, as the ridge is not over 4,000 feet elevation, and rain decreases in the eastern direction.

6. It would not be advisable, in my opinion, to clear the forest on the top of the hills mentioned, but Colonel Scott refers to land on the north-western slope of this range; any drainage from these slopes must fall into the Bhowany river.

7. The chief sources of the Bhowany are on the Koondahs and the Malabar side below them; the rain-fall on the Palghat and Velliyangherry ranges is much lighter.

8. It is a very much utilised river, and has more arable land under it than can be cropped twice during the year; therefore, the land is divided, so that each portion may have one crop.

9. There are three anicuts—the Kaniempolliem, 10 miles below Mettapolliem, the Kodiveli below Sattiamungalam, and the Kalingaroyen at Bhowany, the last channel being 66 miles in length.

10. It cannot be said that the Bhowany river runs to waste, for it is chiefly used up in the Coimbatore District; freshes, however, overtop the anicut at Bhowany and fall into the Cauvery.

11. The clearance, however, of the north-western slope may not, perhaps, have as good an effect as forest.

12. But the question as to disposal of the land appears not to rest with this district. Mr. Morgar has forwarded a letter for submittal, which is annexed.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. W. MORGAN, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Coimbatore Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 30th April 1877, No. 63.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,545, dated 6th April 1877, I have the honor to request that the following remarks on Colonel Scott's letter may be forwarded to the Board with your report.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of his letter, his statement that there are no "forests in the Bhowany Valley or within twenty miles of it" depends entirely on what his definition of a forest may be. In the general acceptance of the term, there are extensive forests—and very valuable ones too—containing Teak, Blackwood, Vengay, Satinwood, Ebony, and Acha (*Hardwickia binata*) and other valuable timber. The injury committed is to the water-supply of these forests.

3. As to paragraph 3, it is too well-known a fact that the denudation of forests invariably decreases and often dries up entirely springs and streams for Colonel Scott to attempt to prove the contrary. Colonel Scott actually credits himself with having increased the volume of water flowing in a stream in the Thaymullay estate by simply damming it up. The mere fact of his having obtained a greater head of water by throwing up this dam by no means proves that the water was not there, already flowing in lower strata. Many streams run underground, occasionally cropping up on the surface to disappear again lower down. It is inscrutable to me how he could have benefited the valley. With reference to paragraph 4 Colonel Scott will be found to have misquoted my letter, having substituted the word region for district, and thereby entirely destroyed my meaning (*vide* paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 548, dated 12th December 1876).

4. If a reference is made to paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 663, it will be seen that my first letter was written under the impression that the land applied for discharged its water-supply into the Noyel river. The words "this arid district" in no way, therefore, refer to Thaymullay but to the district and taluq of Coimbatore through which the Noyel flows.

5. Paragraph 5 simply betrays Colonel Scott's ignorance. He has evidently never seen the Siruvani, which is deep enough to hold alligators and Mahseer. This tributary is nearly 100 yards broad at its lower end, and is 40 miles in length nearly, draining 120 square miles of superb forest land! The falls of the Siruvani, as measured by your aneroid, are over 2,000 feet in height, and can be seen on a fine day from the Coonoor cutting, with the naked eye!

evidently has reference to paragraph 2 of his letter to me, in which he applied for is situated at the foot of Bison Hill "from an adventure which befell you in one of your excursions to that favorite sporting locality," thereby insinuating that my motive for not letting him have the land was because I wished to keep it as a reserve for sporting purposes.

7. As the matter has been laid before the Board, it behoves me to clear myself of the aspersion cast on my character, and which is calculated to injure my professional prospects. I have but thrice visited this forest. On the first occasion I paid it a flying visit, returning to my camp on the plains the same evening, the weather and leeches preventing me from exploring the forest as I had intended; on the second occasion, in December of the same year, when I explored it thoroughly; and on the third occasion I went up in company with you and Messrs. Knox and Russel to settle the boundary between Coimbatore and Malabar. These were the only visits paid in the course of four years. As will be seen from my inspection lists, this portion of my division has been less visited than any other of the 3,000 square miles under my charge. The total number of days spent in this forest during the three visits amounts to thirteen, of which nine were consumed in boundary work. This conclusively proves that the place in question is not a favorite sporting locality of mine. Colonel Scott was evidently under the impression that I would be intimidated into letting him have the land by the hint thrown out in paragraph 2.

8. In the postscript to his letter he adds that the land is in Malabar. If so, why have given me this trouble. If every Durkhashtdar and applicant for land are to question the motives, demand the reasons, and asperse the character of the Forest officer, his life would speedily become a burden to him.

9. In conclusion, I may add that three gentlemen applied to me for land for Coffee in this very quarter, but on my explaining to them my inability to comply with their request, they gave me no further trouble, but obtained land elsewhere.

10. It will be seen from an advertisement in the *South of India Observer* of the 28th April 1877 that Colonel Scott has already a great deal of land to dispose of in "convenient blocks of grass and forest land in suitable quantities."

Note by the Conservator.

If the land in question belongs to Government, the Conservator is of opinion that it should not be given up for Coffee. The sources of the Bhowany and the Noyel are of great importance,

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st May 1877.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue (through the Conservator of Forests), dated 4th May 1877, No. 154:—

With reference to the Proceedings, Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1877, No. 1,545, on Colonel Scott's application for land in the upper Bhowany forests, I have the honor to state that from Colonel Scott's description of the land on the north-western slopes of the Velliyangherry Mulla, latitude 11°, longitude 76° 55', the land in question appears to be in the Malabar District.

2. The demarcated boundary of Malabar and Coimbatore runs along the crest of the Velliyangherry Mulla, the highest peak of which is 5,500 feet above the sea.

3. There is a very large forest on the top and on the eastern slope, and a feeder of the Noyel river rises there.

The north-western side is more precipitous.

4. As the hill range extends towards Peermudi, the drainage is to the north towards the Bhowany.

5. The rainfall on this lower range is however lighter, as the ridge is not over 4,000 feet elevation, and rain decreases in the eastern direction.

6. It would not be advisable in my opinion to clear the forest on the top of the hills mentioned, but Colonel Scott refers to land on the north-western slope of this range; any drainage from these slopes must fall into the Bhowany river.

7. The chief sources of the Bhowany are on the Koondahs, and the Malabar side below them; the rainfall on the Palghat and Velliyangherry ranges is much lighter.

8. It is a very much utilized river, and has more arable land under it than can be cropped twice during the year; therefore the land is divided, so that each portion may have one crop.

9. There are three anients—the Kaniempolliem, 10 miles below Mettoopolliem, the Kodiveli below Sattiamungalam, and the Kalingaroyen at Bhowany, the last channel being 60 miles in length.

10. It cannot be said that the Bhowany river runs to waste, for it is chiefly used up in the Coimbatore District; freshes, however, overtop the anient at Bhowany and fall into the Cauvery.

11. The clearance, however, of the north-western slope may not perhaps much affect the supply of the Bhowany, and possibly cinchona and coffee may have as good an effect as forest.

12. But the question as to disposal of the land appears not to rest with this district. Mr. Morgan has forwarded a letter for submittal, which is annexed.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. W. MORGAN, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Coimbatore Division, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated 30th April 1877, No. 63.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,545, dated 6th April 1877, I have the honor to request that the following remarks on Colonel Scott's letter may be forwarded to the Board with your report.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of his letter, his statement that there are no "forests in the Bhowany valley or within twenty miles of it" depends entirely on what his definition of a forest may be. In the general acceptance of the term, there are extensive forests and very valuable ones too, containing Teak, Blackwood, Vengay, Satinwood, Ebony, and Acha (*Hardwickia binata*) and other valuable timber. The injury committed is to the water-supply of these forests.

3. As to paragraph 3, it is too well known a fact that the denudation of forests invariably decreases and often dries up entirely springs and streams for Colonel Scott to attempt to prove the contrary. Colonel Scott actually credits himself with having increased the volume of water flowing in a stream in the Thaymullay estate by simply damming it up. The mere fact of his having obtained a greater head of water by throwing up this dam by no means proves that the water was not there, already flowing in lower strata. Many streams run underground, occasionally cropping up on the surface to disappear again lower down. It is inscrutable to me how he could have benefited the valley. With reference to paragraph 4, Colonel Scott will be found to have misquoted my letter having substituted the word region for district and thereby entirely destroyed my meaning (*vide* paragraph 2 of my letter, No. 548, dated 12th December 1876).

If reference is made to paragraph 2 of my letter No. 68 it will be seen that my first letter was written under the impression that the land applied for discharged its water supply into the Noel river. The words "this area district" in no way therefore refer to Mymullay, but to the district and taluq of Coimbatore through which the Noel flows.

Paragraph 5 simply betrays Colonel Scott's ignorance. He has evidently never seen the Sivani, which is deep enough to hold alligators and Mahseer. This tributary is nearly 100 yards broad at its lower end, and is 40 miles in length nearly, draining 120 square miles of superb forest land. The falls of the Sivani, as measured by your aneroid, are over 2,000 feet in height, and can be seen on a fine day from the Coimbatore cutting with the naked eye!

6. In paragraph 7 Colonel Scott insinuates that I am prejudiced and interested. This evidently has reference to paragraph 2 of his letter to me, in which he states that the land he applied for is situated at the foot of Bison hill "from an adventure which befell you in one of your excursions to that favorite sporting locality," thereby insinuating that my motive for not letting him have the land was because I wished to keep it as a reserve for sporting purposes.

7. As the matter has been laid before the Board, it behoves me to clear myself of the aspersion cast on my character and which is calculated to injure my professional prospects. I have but thrice visited this forest. On the first occasion I paid it a flying visit, returning to my camp on the plains the same evening, the weather and leeches preventing me from exploring the forest as I had intended; on the second occasion, in December of the same year, when I explored it thoroughly; and on the third occasion I went up in company with you and Messrs. Knox and Russel to settle the boundary between Coimbatore and Malabar. These were the only visits paid in the course of four years. As will be seen from my inspection lists, this portion of my division has been less visited than any other of the 3,000 square mile under my charge. The total number of days spent in this forest during the three visits, amounts to thirteen, of which nine were consumed in boundary work. This conclusively proves that the place in question is not a favourite sporting locality of mine. Colonel Scott was evidently under the impression that I would be intimidated into letting him have the land by the hint thrown out in paragraph 2.

8. In the postscript to his letter he adds that the land is in Malabar. If so, why have given me this trouble. If every Durkhastdar and applicant for land are to question the motives, demand the reasons, and asperse the character of the Forest officer, his life would speedily become a burden to him.

9. In conclusion I may add that three gentlemen applied to me for land for coffee in this very quarter, but, on my explaining to them my inability to comply with their request, they gave me no further trouble, but obtained land elsewhere.

10. It will be seen from an advertisement in the *South of India Observer* of the 28th April 1877 that Colonel Scott has already a great deal of land to dispose of in "convenient blocks of grass and forest land in suitable quantities."

Note by the Conservator.

If the land in question belongs to Government, the Conservator is of opinion that it should not be given up for coffee. The sources of the Bhowany and the Noel are of great importance and should be strictly conserved; coffee opened out on these steep slopes will give rise and land slips and serious floods and the estates would probably not be kept up for very many years.

OOTACAMUND,
7th May 1877.

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

COLONEL S. P. SCOTT will be informed that his application for land in the Bhowany Valley cannot be entertained.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To Colonel S. P. Scott, Retired List, Ootacamund.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

" to the Conservator of Forests.

" to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Department, 18th June 1877, No. 2,019.

and should be conserved; Coffee opened out on these steep slopes will give rise to land slips and serious floods, and the estates would probably not be kept up for very many years.

OOTACAMUND,
7th May 1877.

(Signed)

R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel,
Conservator of Forests.

COLONEL S. P. SCOTT will be informed that his application for land in the Bhowany Valley cannot be entertained.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed)

C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary

No. 348.

ORDER THEREON, 18th June 1877, No. 2,019.

Forests, No. 11.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. M. Bantleman.

Cost of (1877) Rs. 1000.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 1878.

Recd.

Recd.

G.O., 1878, June 1877, No. 2,019.

JUNE.

Nos. 347-348.

Colonel Scott's Application for Land in the
Bhowany Valley, in Coimbatore District.
Respecting Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
devising to enclose.

Revenue Department

No 2864

1877.

BOARD OF REVENUE,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21st May 1877, No. 2,322.

Copy to J. M. 477

Encl.

Received

12 June

M A Y.

No. 2,322.

Land—in the Bhovany Valley in Coimbatore District.—Informing Colonel S. P. Scott that his application for — cannot be entertained.

Remitted

18.6.77

15.6.77