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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	823	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	24. 2. 1897	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th February 1877.*

No. 787. Read the following extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce (Forests), dated Calcutta, 13th February 1877, Nos. 235—237 :—

Read—
A letter to the Government of Madras, No. 509, dated the 12th June 1876, communicating the orders of the Government of India on the Budget Estimate of the Forest Department in Madras for 1876-77.

Read—
A letter from the Accountant-General, Madras, No. 9,130, dated the 14th December 1876, forwarding the Budget Estimate of the Forest Department in Madras for 1877-78.

RESOLUTION.—The actuals of 1875-76 compared with the estimates are as follow :—

		Budget Estimate.	Regular Estimate.	Actuals.
		RS.	RS.	RS.
Receipts	...	5,07,000	4,63,304	4,26,359
Charges	{ A	2,50,000	2,42,328	2,39,945
	{ B	1,95,000	1,93,440	1,90,138
	Total	4,45,000	4,42,768	4,30,083
	Surplus	62,000	20,536	...
	Deficit	...	...	3,724

The figures of the Regular Estimate given above are those proposed by the Madras Government. These were altered by the Government of India from information received up to almost the close of the year from the Accountant-General, viz. :—

Receipts	...	RS.
Charges	...	4,63,000
	Surplus	53,000

But neither of the two estimates has been realized.

The actuals quoted above, which agree with the figures communicated by the Madras Government in September 1876, are those furnished by the Conservator. The figures given by the Accountant-General are slightly different, viz. :—

Receipts	...	RS.
		4,27,723
Charges	{ A	2,40,045
	{ B	1,90,138
	Total	4,30,183
	Deficit	2,460

The difference in receipts is Rs. 1,364, which was not adjusted in the Forest accounts for the year owing to vouchers not having been received in time.

The difference in the charges under A, "Conservancy and Works," is Rs. 100, which is an overpayment from the Malabar Treasury subsequently recovered and credited in the accounts of 1876-77.

The Conservator does not explain the cause of the falling off in the receipts as compared with the estimates, but he contrasts the actuals of 1875-76 with those of 1874-75 thus—

	1874-75.	1875-76.	Increase.	Decrease.
Receipts	Rs. 3,64,326	Rs. 4,26,359	Rs. 62,033	Rs.
Charges {A	2,21,864	2,39,945	18,081	
{B	1,76,008	1,90,138	14,130	
Total	3,97,872	4,30,083	32,211	
Deficit	33,546	3,724		29,822

and explains that the increase over 1874-75 in receipts is owing to a larger stock of timber having been taken by the Public Works and other departments as well as to increased rates at which sandal-wood was sold. The Nilgiri sholas also, which were transferred to the Forest Department, yielded a revenue of Rs. 13,000. The Madras Government, however, point out that the revenue from minor produce alone fell short of the estimate by Rs. 47,000.

The increase under A, "Conservancy and Works," is attributed to extended departmental felling operations and the purchase of a forest for Rs. 12,500, and under B, "Establishments," to the promotion of officers to higher grades.

2. The estimates for 1876-77 are—

	Budget Estimate.	Regular Estimate.	Increase.	Decrease.
Receipts	Rs. 5,12,000	Rs. 4,50,000	Rs. ...	Rs. 62,000
Charges {A	2,64,000	2,22,000	...	42,000
{B	2,10,000	2,23,000	13,000	...
Total	4,74,000	4,45,000	...	29,000
Surplus	38,000	5,000	...	33,000

The following revised figures for the Regular Estimate telegraphed by the Madras Government will be accepted—

Receipts	Rs. 4,35,000
Charges {A	2,22,000
{B	2,23,000
Total	4,45,000
Deficit	10,000

3. The estimate proposed for 1877-78 is—

Receipts	Rs. 4,88,000
Charges {A	1,95,000
{B	2,91,000
Total	4,26,000
Surplus	62,000

4. The Board remark that the estimated revenue is much larger than the average of the last five years, which is Rs. 4,16,000; but, considering the recent improvements introduced in the forest organization, they are not disposed to modify the carefully drawn-up estimate of the Conservator.

The Madras Government admit the receipts at Rs. 4,88,000, but say that it is extremely doubtful whether, considering the distressed condition of many parts of the Presidency, in spite of the improving administration of the department, it is safe to estimate the revenue in the ensuing year at a higher figure than that estimated for 1876-77, viz., Rs. 4,50,000.

The Government of India cannot, however, accept so large an estimate of receipts when, in the opinion of the Madras Government, it is extremely doubtful whether it will be realized. Moreover, the actual forest receipts in Madras have for some time past been always considerably below the Budget Estimate. It will suffice to quote the figures of the last three years—

	Budget Estimate.	Actuals.
	Rs.	Rs.
1873-74	4,90,000	4,64,000
1874-75	4,50,000	3,64,000
1875-76	5,07,000	4,26,000

The estimate will accordingly be reduced to Rs. 4,50,000, which is still Rs. 34,000 more than the average of the last five years.

5. Under "Conservancy and Works" the charges for the production of revenue, amounting to Rs. 1,24,000, are moderate and will be admitted. The provision made for the formation and maintenance of the forests compared with the actual outlay on that account in 1874-75 and 1875-76 stands as follows:—

	ACTUALS.		ESTIMATE.
	1874-75.	1875-76.	1877-78.
III.—Demarcation and Survey of Forests	Rs. 1,148	Rs. 2,940	Rs. 8,176
IV.—1. a. Fire protection	3,131	1,985	2,950
b. Fencing and enclosing	15,588	8,020	2,900
c. Improvement	14,941	13,545	13,180
IV.—2. Plantations	40,212	51,891	34,020
VII.—Communications and Buildings, including Purchase of Land	31,956	40,024	9,670
Total	1,06,976	1,18,405	70,966

6. The Governor-General in Council, in passing orders on the Budget Estimate of the current year, requested that a special report might be furnished to the Government of India as early as possible giving a detailed account of the works undertaken and in progress, the expenditure for which is provided under the above-mentioned four heads. A special report has not been received, but the full and detailed explanation given by the Conservator, in paragraphs 261 to 311 of his Budget Note, makes it possible to understand what is proposed to be done in this respect. For demarcation lines and boundary pillars Rs. 5,455 are estimated, and the work is chiefly proposed to be done in the Cuddapah, Madura, Salem, South Canara, and Palghat Forests; and for the survey of demarcated forests in those districts Rs. 2,720 are provided.

These proposals are very moderate, and the Governor-General in Council will gladly sanction much larger sums for this fundamental work of all forest administration, provided due precautions are taken not to demarcate forests which are not Government property, and which are afterwards given up to other persons.

7. For fire protection, it is noticed, Rs. 2,950 only are proposed to be expended during the coming year, chiefly in the Cuddapah and Coimbatore Forests. Under this head also the Governor-General in Council will gladly sanction a larger outlay, provided measures are taken to ensure the continuous and uninterrupted protection of the tracts selected.

8. Under Plantations it is noticed that Rs. 2,950 only are provided for the extension while Rs. 28,838 are provided for the maintenance and Rs. 1,050 for the fencing and enclosing, of existing plantations. The Board of Revenue explain that they are not disposed to encourage the extension of plantations until the success of those now existing is proved beyond doubt. This view is supported by the Government of Madras, and the Governor-General in Council will not at present urge the formation of new plantations in the Madras Presidency, provided steady progress is made with care and judgment in the demarcation of forests and in the exclusion of fire from them when demarcated.

9. For communications, buildings, and purchase of forest land a much smaller sum is provided than was actually expended in 1874-75 and 1875-76, and the greater portion of it is for the maintenance of existing roads and buildings. The Governor-General in Council trusts that when the financial results of forest administration in the Madras Presidency shall have improved it may again be possible to grant larger funds for new works to open up the forests and to facilitate their working.

10. The Governor-General in Council has on several occasions lately stated his readiness to sanction any well-considered outlay on the formation and improvement of the forests, and, as there now seems reasonable prospect that the receipts of the coming year will cover the outlay, the grants under these heads, proposed by the Conservator and supported by the Government of Madras, will be increased by Rs. 5,000, which will raise the total grant for A, "Conservancy and Works," to Rs. 2,00,000; and His Excellency in Council desires that the additional grant with any savings that it may be possible to effect under other heads may be expended chiefly on the demarcation of Government forests and on their protection from fire. At the same time the Governor-General in Council desires to record his dissent from what would seem to be the views of the Madras Govern-

ment, as expressed in paragraph 11 of their Orders of the 12th December last, on the principles which should guide the financial policy of Government in the matter of forest administration. Government has a right to expect a fair surplus revenue from the forest domains of the State which are now in course of formation in all provinces of Her Majesty's Indian Empire. More than that, the Government of India trusts that these domains will some day contribute largely to the public resources of the country. Large and important benefits will accrue to the agricultural population from the formation and improvement of these State forests.

11. In those districts where this business has been conducted with vigor and judgment, the administration of these forests will place within the reach of many villages an abundant and permanent supply of grass, bamboos, wood, timber, and other forest produce. But, save in the case of actual prescriptive and customary rights, the State has no obligation to furnish the people and railways with fuel at rates below their market-value; such indulgences, special cases excepted, would be out of place; it would be an injustice to the other tax-paying classes of the community, and it would not in the end benefit those classes to whom these indulgences were granted.

As a general rule the principle must be maintained, that the Government forest domains in every province of the Empire must furnish the means to pay their extension and improvement, and it is the duty of the Conservator of forests to increase to the utmost the surplus revenue from the estates under his charge, provided steady progress is made in the formation and improvement of forests.

12. The actual establishment charges in 1875-76 were Rs. 1,90,138 and the annual average during the three preceding years was Rs. 1,76,000. For the current year they were fixed at Rs. 2,10,000 in the last Budget Orders, it having been explained that the new scale of the establishment lately sanctioned must only be worked up to gradually. A further advance of Rs. 10,000 will be permitted for next year, and the grant under B, "Establishments," for the coming year will be Rs. 2,20,000, which amount must not be exceeded.

13. The estimate as thus modified will stand as follows:—

Receipts	...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 4,50,000
Charges	{ A	...	...	...	...	2,00,000
	{ B	...	...	...	...	2,20,000
				Total	...	4,20,000
				Surplus	...	30,000

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded for information and guidance to the Government of Madras, and for information to the Financial Department and to the Comptroller-General.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. H. M. BATTEN,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th February 1877.*

No. 788.

ORDER THEREON, 24th February 1877, No. 823.

Forests, No. 25.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of
Revenue and the Conservator of Forests.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Secretary to Government.

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

The difference in receipts is Rs. 1,364, which was not adjusted in the Forest Accounts for the year owing to vouchers not having been received in time.

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	1874-75.	1875-76.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts	8,64,326	4,26,359	62,033	
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Total	3,97,872	4,30,083	32,211	
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	Budget Estimate.	Regular Estimate.	Increase.	Decrease.
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Receipts	5,12,000	4,50,000	...	62,000
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Budget Estimate of Forest Department in
Madras for 1877-78.—Communicating to Board
and Conservator of Forests provisional orders of
Government of India on the —.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 787-788.

G.O., 24th February 1877, No. 823.

Dated February, 24th.

Recd.

Encl.

Govt. of (1877) Madras.
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Nos. 235—237.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 13th February 1877.

[FORESTS.]

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(3)

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The Madras Government admit the receipts at Rs. 4,88,000, but say that it is extremely doubtful whether, considering the distressed condition of many parts of the Presidency, in spite of the improving administration of the Department, it is safe to estimate the revenue in the ensuing year at a higher figure than that estimated for 1876-77, viz., Rs. 4,50,000.

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	Actuals. 1874-75. Rs.	1875-76. Rs.	Estimate. 1877-78. Rs.
III.—Demarcation and Survey of Forests	1,148	2,940	8,776
IV.—1. a. Fire protection	3,131	1,985	2,950
b. Fencing and enclosing	15,588	8,020	2,900
c. Improvement	14,941	13,545	13,180
IV.—2. Plantations	40,212	51,891	34,090
VII.—Communications and buildings, including purchase of land	31,956	40,024	9,670
	1,06,976	1,18,405	70,966

6. The Governor-General in Council, in passing orders on the budget estimate of the current year, requested that a special report might be furnished to the Government of India as early as possible, giving a detailed account of the works undertaken and in progress, the expenditure for which is provided under the above-mentioned four heads. A special report has not been received, but the full and detailed explanation given by the Conservator, in paragraphs 261 to 311 of his budget note, makes it possible to understand what is proposed to be done in this respect. For demarcation lines and boundary pillars, Rs. 5,455 are estimated, and the work is chiefly proposed to be done in the Cuddapah, Madura, Salem, South Kanara, and Palghat forests; and for the survey of demarcated forests in those districts Rs. 2,720 are provided.

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10. The Governor-General in Council has on several occasions lately stated his readiness to sanction any well-considered outlay on the formation and improvement of the forests, and as there now seems reasonable prospect that the receipts of the coming year will cover the outlay, the grants under these heads, proposed by the Conservator and supported by the Government of Madras, will be increased by Rs. 5,000, which will raise the total grant for A., "Conservancy and Works," to Rs. 2,00,000; and His Excellency in Council desires that the additional grant, with any savings that it may be possible to effect under other heads, may be expended chiefly on the demarcation of Government forests, and on their protection from fire. At the same time, the Governor-General in Council desires to record his dissent from what would seem to be the views of the Madras Government, as expressed in paragraph 11 of their orders of the 12th December last, on the principles which should guide the financial policy of Government in the matter of forest administration. Government has a right to expect a fair surplus revenue from the forest domains of the State which are now in course of formation in all provinces of Her Majesty's Indian Empire. More than that, the Government of India trusts that these domains will some day contribute largely to the public resources of the country. Large and important benefits will accrue to the agricultural population from the formation and improvement of these State forests.

11. In those districts where this business has been conducted with vigour and judgment, the administration of these forests will place within the reach of many villages an abundant and permanent supply of grass, bamboos, wood, timber, and other forest produce. But, save in the case of actual prescriptive and customary rights, the State has no obligation to furnish the people and railways with fuel at rates below their market value; such indulgences, special cases excepted, would be out of place; it would be an injustice to the other tax-paying classes of the community, and it would not in the end benefit those classes to whom these indulgences were granted.

As a general rule the principle must be maintained, that the Government forest domains in every province of the Empire must furnish the means to pay for their extension and improvement, and it is the duty of the Conservator of Forests to increase to the utmost the surplus revenue from the estates under his charge, provided steady progress is made in the formation and improvement of forests.

12. The actual establishment charges in 1875-76 were Rs. 1,90,138, and the annual average during the three preceding years was Rs. 1,76,000.

For the current year they were fixed at Rs. 2,10,000 in the last budget orders, it having been explained that the new scale of the establishment lately sanctioned must only be worked up to gradually. A further advance of Rs. 10,000 will be permitted for next year, and the grant under B., "Establishments," for the coming year will be Rs. 2,20,000, which amount must not be exceeded.

10. The estimate as thus modified will stand as follows:—

Receipts		Rs.
		4,50,000
Charges	{ A	2,00,000
	{ B	2,20,000
		Total 4,20,000
		Surplus 30,000

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded for information and guidance to the Government of Madras, and for information to the Financial Department and to the Comptroller General.

(True Extract).

Wm. Batten
Offs. Secretary to the Government of India.

10 235

To
The Secretary to the Govt of
Madras.

188.
17/2

No 1416.

Revenue 1877. *Deficit*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

FORESTS.

RESOLUTION.

Nos. 235-237.

Dated the 13th February 1877.
Recd. - 23rd - do - 77

*14. To the Secy of Revenue & Forests, No. 1416
21 Comr. of Forests, No. 1416*

How do you like this?

De

SUBJECT.

PROVISIONAL orders on the budget estimate of
the Forest Department in Madras for 1877-78.

21 Feb 77
21 Feb 77

Government Central Press, - No. 790, B. A. & C. - 16-2-77-50.

*Communicated to the Secy of Rev
& the Conservator of Forests.
24-2-77*

14.2.77

C. 24/2/77 24/2/77