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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1189	Press.
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Dated	29-7-1878	197

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Archives I-5,806-24-2-78.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

29th July 1878, No. 1,189.

Read the following papers:—

No. 377. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th March 1878, No. 688.

Read the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trinomalai, 21st January 1878, No. 20:—

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith the report of the Conservator of Forests, dated 12th January 1878, No. 1,306, on his inspection of the South Arcot Forests, &c. Partly from having joined the district only in June last, since which time famine matters have had to engage my attention, I have not known so much of the working and necessities of forests and jungles of the district as I would wish, and I am therefore unable to remark freely upon much of Colonel Beddome's report. I submit, however, the following observations which I offer under the additional disadvantage of making them somewhat hurriedly away from head-quarters, and without getting some local information I should have wished, as I understand the report is wanted in Madras as early as possible.

2. I presume that by "the Vatanaluni firewood jungles" at the end of *paragraph 5* are meant those belonging to the Zemindar of Vatanaluni. They extend over some 15 square miles. I am not aware what there is any very large or valuable timber in them, but I understand that the greater part of that used for building purposes in the Trikalore Taluq is brought from these jungles. The Zemindar gives tickets for cutting on payment of seigniorage, and allows his own ryots also the same privileges as Government ryots in regard to getting timber free for agricultural purposes.

3. *Paragraph 52.*—The boundary disputes as regards the hill slope in the Kallakurchi Taluq can best be investigated, and, if possible, settled by the Revenue Survey Department when it takes up that taluq for survey, probably in some six months' time.

4. *Paragraph 88.*—I think it would be inadvisable and inequitable to the agricultural classes to disturb the present arrangements for cattle grazing. The Forest Department naturally looks at the subject only from the point of view of improving the forests by preventing cattle grazing therein as far as possible, unmindful of the prescriptive rights of the people already curtailed and of the great inconvenience to which they would be exposed and irritation they would feel if they saw their privileges still further diminished.

5. *Paragraph 105.*—I see no sufficient reason for a change in the present mode of treating these open jungles. If more strict conservancy is aimed at, I think it would be at least premature to conserve the open jungles around Gingee more strictly than at present, with the exception perhaps of the Pakam Hill containing good timber. The present "reserves" will amply meet local and trading wants in reference to wood for an indefinite time. The rainfall would not be materially increased by the more careful conservation of the scrub jungles under consideration, and where jungles are not wanted either for wood or for climatic considerations, the conserving of them against the encroachment of *bona fide* and probably permanent cultivation is, I consider, to be deprecated. Moreover, on sanitary grounds the substitution of open fields for jungle is desirable, and Gingee is said to have become remarkably free from fever, for which it is historically famous, since the clearing of some of the jungles near it. From the nature of the jungles I consider their receipts should be debited more properly to Local Conservancy than to that of "Imperial" or "Forests."

6. *Paragraph 118.*—If it is thought equitable that because the Mercanam plantations are not a promising speculation they should therefore be retransferred to Local Conservancy, and that the funds of the latter should pay all expenses incurred by Imperial Funds during the period these plantations have been on Imperial investment, it would appear equally equitable that for the Mullatar plantations which cost

Rupees 20,000 out of Local Funds the value should be repaid to Local Funds on their assumption by the Imperial Department.	
1873-74	RS. 7,761
1874-75	14,134
1875-76	12,696
1876-77	10,776
Half-year ending 30th September 1877	3,178

Moreover, the Local Conservancy Funds are very low this year, the receipts having been much diminished by the famine, amounting only to 3,000 and odd for the half-year ending September 1877, as contrasted with receipts for the preceding years as per margin.

7. Paragraph 159.—The plantations at any rate should not be sold wholesale but gradually in lots, and special efforts should be made to give publicity to the sales.

8. Paragraph 175.—Private enterprise in the growing of Casuarinas appears to have received a very decided check the past two years from its being found that there is no probability of the Railway using such wood for fuel, and there is reason now to fear that as this new enterprise has received such a check there will be a great dearth and dearth of firewood some ten or twenty years hence about Cuddalore and Chedambram especially if Government Casuarina plantations are not further developed.

9. Paragraph 180.—Villapuram is the more central station for the Assistant Conservator, geographically and practically, with reference to his work. I presume Colonel Beddome refers to the public bungalows at that place and Tindivanam as being available for the Assistant Conservator for a dwelling-house. But I cannot recommend the public bungalow at Villapuram for this purpose. Apart from its being still fairly frequented by district officers and private travellers, its situation is, I consider, too low and shut in to be healthy as a permanent residence, and the expense of converting it into a suitable dwelling-house would be excessive. A new house and office should be preferably built on the higher ground near the Railway station. I have no other alternative but to make this suggestion, although the Government, I believe, have stated that they are not prepared to sanction any expenditure for the purpose.

10. Paragraph 181.—The subject of the proportion of the Assistant Conservator's pay which should be debited to Local Funds is under consideration in the office.

11. Paragraph 190.—None of the forests, except the Gingee reserves (inspected in December), were visited by me chiefly for the reasons given in the commencement of this letter.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieut.-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 12th January 1878, No. 1,306.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have lately completed a tour of inspection in the South Arcot Forest Division.

2. I met Mr. Wooldridge, the Deputy Conservator, at Singarapett on the 20th of November, and he accompanied me through his division and in my inspection of the different reserves, plantations, depôts, &c., on which I was occupied till the 8th of December.

3. The district is divided into eight taluqs as follows:—

Taluqs.	Area in Acres.	Population
Trinomalai	633,404	464,657
Kallakurchi	388,819	196,566
Tindivanam	518,474	239,754
Villapuram	339,636	236,108
Trikalore	371,233	216,246
Virdachellum	362,323	178,501
Chellamburam	251,664	239,133
Cuddalore	293,492	284,849

4. All the forests in the Trinomalai and Kallakurchi Taluqs are under Imperial Conservancy; the other taluqs are all under Local Conservancy with the exception of the Gingee reserves and the Casuarina plantations at Mercanum in Tindivanam and the Casuarina plantations in the Maltar bed in Trikalore. Tindivanam, Villapuram, and Trikalore contain good fire-wood jungles scarcely deserving the name of "Forest," but in Virdachellum, Chellamburam, and Cuddalore there is nothing but scrub jungle. The whole operations are under Mr. Wooldridge, the Deputy Conservator.

5. Trinomalai Taluq.—(Area 989½ Square Miles).—About one-third of this taluq may be said to be forest and jungle which is made up as follows:—

	ACRES.
The Chinnasamudram Reserve	6,400
" Moodenai do.	4,000
" Gusba do.	2,350
" Parangalathoor do.	4,800
(Roughly).	
The Chekady Forests (i.e., the northern slopes of the Colroys and the tract between them and the south bank of the Pooniar river)	64,000
The Cheyar Forests (i.e., most of the eastern slopes of the Javadis not included in the reserves, and the forests about the foot of the same hills)	19,200
The Arasangan Forests (i.e., south end of the Javadis near Singarapett abutting on the Salem frontier)	12,800
The Ravandavadi Forests (i.e., tract south of the Javadis and between them and north bank of the Pooniar river)	38,400
The Damarapakum Forests (i.e., south-east slopes of the Tenmally)	7,680
The Tindrampett Firewood Jungles (i.e., tract along the left bank of Pooniar river)	19,200
The Kunamaddi Firewood Jungles	10,240
" Sirupakam do. do.	6,400
" Yeriya do. do.	5,120
" Nukambadi do. do.	12,800
" Vataedam do. do.	9,600

Total ... 222,990 =

348 square miles and 270 acres

6. Of this area, however, the 12 square miles known as the Damarapakum Forest is a transfer from North Arcot and belongs to that revenue district and not to the Trinomalai Taluq, and a considerable portion of the Cheyar Forests are a transfer from Salem and belong to that revenue district.

7. Out of the 348 square miles of forest and jungle, four reserves to the extent of about 27 square miles have been formed; these are as follows:—

8. Chinnasamudram Reserve (selected by Captain Campbell Walker in 1868); on the south-east slopes of the Jyadi Hills near Singarapett, area roughly estimated at 6,400 acres, about half hill and half plain, originally proposed as a railway fuel reserve, but being twenty miles from Samulputty the wood could not probably be delivered at a profit; it has not been surveyed, but the low country boundary has been demarcated with a ditch, stone-walls, or dead-fence.

9. The principal timbers on the hill portion are Nammi (*Anogeissus latifolia*) and Marada (*Terminalia glabra*), and in the plains Satinwood. The following timbers are also abundant: Blackwood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Vengay (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Sandra Acacia (*Sandra*), Parambe (*Prosopis spicigera*), Naga (*Eugenia jambolana*) and Acha (*Hardwickia Binata*); and there is also a good deal of small Teak. Turanji (*Albizia amara*) and many other firewood trees are abundant.

10. The low country portion of the reserve (about 5 square miles) has been divided into twelve blocks by inspection or fire-paths (8 feet wide) at right angles, the length of these paths being 5½ miles.

11. When the conservation first commenced planting out from nurseries was carried on, but this was found to be too expensive; lately broad-cast sowing or dibbling and ploughing in seed have been carried on.

12. Cattle grazing has not been stopped except in portions where planting or sowing operations may be going on.

13. The hill people have free access to collect gall-nuts and other hill produce.
14. The improvement since conservation commenced has been considerable, but until it is made a reserve in the strictest sense we cannot expect improvement beyond a certain point; it is reserved now against felling, extension of cultivation and fire, but until cattle are excluded the forest can never be brought to a condition of sufficient density.
15. The total expenditure up to this official year has been Rupees 2,524, of which Rs. 900 were for fencing and demarcation; receipts Rupees 99.
16. There is at present no demand for either timber or firewood from this reserve as there is abundance of both in the surrounding open jungles.
17. *Moodenai Reserve* (selected by Captain Walker in 1868); on the southern slopes of the Tenmally, a spur of the Javadi, about 32 miles from Samulputty Railway Station, area roughly estimated at 4,000 acres, three-eighths of which is plain and five-eighths hill; not surveyed, but the low country boundary marked with a dead thorn fence.
18. Timber and firewood the same as in the Chinnasamudram Reserve; but the growth on the slopes is finer, and in the low country portion there is more Sandra and less Satinwood.
19. The plain portion has been divided into ten blocks by inspection or fire-paths (8 feet wide) at right angles, the length of these paths being 5½ miles.
20. The remarks in paragraphs 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16 under Chinnasamudram Reserve with reference to conservation, cattle-grazing, hill produce, improvement, and demand apply equally to this reserve.
21. Expenditure Rupees 1,680 up to this official year; receipts 41 Rupees.
22. *The Gusha Reserve* (selected by Mr. Wooldridge in 1872-73); the western side of the Trinomalai Hill and the Kavathymallay; area roughly estimated at 2,350 acres, three-fifths hill and two-fifths plain; not surveyed but demarcated with stones and paths, 9 miles of patrol paths opened.
23. *Timbers*, chiefly on the hills—Nanmi, Vengai, Blackwood, Satinwood, Merada, *Albizia*, *Albizia*, *Padri* (*Sterocarpum thurbinifolium*).
24. *Firewood*—Sandra, Turanji, Pala (*Wrightia tinctoria*), *Trophis aspera*, *Butea frondosa*, *Strychnos nux vomica*, and *Polatorium*, *Deodara* (*Sethia Indica*), *Zizyphus* three species, *Gracia* several species, *Isora parviflora*, *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Polyalthia cerasoides*, *Nim* (*Melin*), *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Cassia fistula* and *montana*, *Sapindus detergens*, *Diospyros montana* and *Cordia*.
25. There is no felling and no demand at present, as all requirements are met from the jungles outside the reservation.
26. A small perennial stream called the Turanji ar, which eventually runs into the Pooniar at Trikalore, has its origin in many rivulets on the Kavathymallay; many fields are irrigated by this stream, and it would be seriously affected if the forest on the hill in question were destroyed; the little river, I learn, has nine permanent anicuts besides temporary weirs, and supplies the water required for the wet cultivation of twenty-seven villages.
27. The Trinomalai hill has many little rivulets, which were very full at the period of my visit, but which I learnt were only running some four or five months during the year; it will be interesting to note the effect of conservancy on these streams.
28. There is a sacred temple at Trinomalai, but the reserve is only one-third of the hill on the western side furthest from the temple, the two-thirds of the hill nearest the temple being left open; the portion now reserved had been very recklessly felled in before it was reserved; the improvement on it is now very marked. Cattle are excluded from the reserved portion, which is about 800 acres. Cattle-grazing is allowed throughout the Kavathymallay Reserve.
29. Expenditure Rupees 1,072 up to the end of last official year, of which 500 Rupees is for fencing and demarcation; receipts Rupees 5.
30. *Pacangalatur Reserve* (selected by Captain Walker in 1868); the N. E. slopes of the Calroys, 26 miles from Trikalore, not surveyed, fenced or ditched, but boundaries settled in 1872 and marked by stone heaps; area roughly estimated at 4,800 acres, of which five-sixths is hill, one-sixth plain.
31. *Timbers*, &c., much the same as in Chinnasamudram, Nanmi, Satin, Sandra, and Nim being the principal trees.
32. No demand for timber at present. It has not yet been blocked out, nor have any paths been cut.
33. Villagers have been allowed to take wood for their own use from this tract, and cattle have been allowed in indiscriminately, though there is no need for either as there is plenty of forest all round; in fact, it is only a reserve as far as extension of cultivation is concerned.
34. Expenditure Rupees 248-1-11; receipts nil.

35. Of the 348 square miles of forest land enumerated in paragraph 5, about 324 belong to the Trinomalai Taluq (24 appertaining to the revenue districts of Salem and North Arcot), of this only 27 square miles are reserved.

36. I must request sanction that Mr. Wooldridge may be allowed to form a reserve of about 6 square miles in the Tandrapett firewood jungles along the left bank of the Pooniar river, which aggregate some 30 square miles.

37. This will aggregate a reservation of only 33 square miles out of 324, i.e., about one-tenth.

38. There will be little or no demand from these reserves at present, as there is so much surrounding forest, but this open forest is being rapidly encroached upon for cultivation, besides being much destroyed by felling, grazing, fires, &c.; and alienation and destruction of these tracts will go on year by year; the object of the reserves is to secure some good forest for future years by rigidly excluding present felling (except by the department), fire, cattle, grazing, &c.

39. At present the measures for conservation are not strict enough; the Forest officer must be allowed to enclose them entirely against cattle as far as he thinks necessary and to treat them otherwise entirely as private estates or puttass can be treated, otherwise the results will never be satisfactory; at present the reservation is little more than a reservation against the inroads of cultivation, and if cattle and hillmen are to be allowed in indiscriminately fire can never be quite effectually kept out, and the superiority of these tracts over the outside jungles will never be very marked; it will be far better to curtail the area to be reserved than to curtail the intensity of the reservation, and it will pay much better to have 10 square miles under intense management than 33 square miles treated by half measures as at present.

40. I do not however think the 33 square miles now proposed can be looked upon as more than sufficient, but the opinion of the Revenue officers will, of course, be taken on this point; except the new reserve now proposed it is chiefly "hill" and necessary in a climatic point; it must also be taken into consideration that this is almost the only forest in this district (the slopes of the Colroys in the Kallakuruchi Taluq being in dispute, and the Gingee Reserve being little better than a firewood tract) that these reserves will always be valuable from their proximity to the South-west Railway line, and that at no very distant date there will probably be Railway extension eastward through Trinomalai.

41. These reserves will be capable of yielding very superior building timber in future years if they are properly conserved now; at present there is little beyond small timber in any of these Javadi Forest tracts, but it could not be otherwise so soon after having always been open to indiscriminate felling, the special department having only lately been organised in this district.

42. The open forest tracts of this taluq yield a fair revenue; the first and second-class timbers are felled departmentally, all the others under the license and voucher system as follows:—

Revenue from Departmental Working.				Revenue from License Working.			
			RS.				RS.
1871-72	...	...	1,797				
1872-73	...	...	1,404				
1873-74	...	...	1,395				
1874-75	...	...	1,695	1874-75	...	...	2,535
1875-76	...	...	3,767	1875-76	...	...	3,640
1876-77	...	...	6,166	1876-77	...	...	3,851

43. Messrs. Wooldridge and Stanbrough have lately completed the settlement of the southern portion of the Javadi Forest Boundary between the Salem and South Arcot Forest Divisions from Station 24 as per former special report (*vide* G.O., No. 592, of the 14th April 1875) to a place called Mathukarai on the Singarapett and Chengam Road, but a special report is submitted on this question.

44. *The Thenmally Hill Reserve*.—This was selected by Captain Walker (*vide* Government Orders as per margin). It is a spur off the Javadi more accessible to South Arcot than to Salem, and was transferred to the South Arcot Forest Division in 1875-76. Mr. Wooldridge

G.O., No. 482, dated 20th February 1868.
 " " 2,603, " 9th October " "
 " " 1,346, " 10th " 1874.

54. No village reserves have yet been formed.

55. *Tindivanam Taluq.*—(Area 810 square miles).—All this reserves and the Mercanum casuarina plantations, is under local conse

58. Acres 7,000 of village reserves (chiefly scrub when taken up by Deputy Conservator; these have been mostly demarcated, but not yet

69. There are some 30 acres of private holdings, chiefly cultivation, within this reserve; particulars of these not known, but all probably given up before the department took up the reserve.
70. Reserve about half plain and half low rocky hills.
71. At the commencement of conservancy 9,147 trees were planted out from nurseries, but reboisement now as in Mutucadu.
72. Timber trees, &c., as in Mutucadu.
73. Expenditure up to end of last official year Rupees 1,594. Receipts Rupees 157.
74. *Periamur Reserve*, south of Mutucadu and west of Padipallam, separated from the latter by a village and tank. Selected by Captain Walker in 1869; approximate area 8,840 acres, mostly hill, now under departmental survey and demarcation; partly bush fenced.
75. Timbers the same as in Mutucadu, but trees larger and of finer growth.
76. Fifteen thousand eight hundred and forty-four jungle trees were planted out at first from nurseries, chiefly the following:—
Eufenia Jambalana, Casica florida, Albizzia Zebbek, and Amara, Nim, Sandra, Prosopis Spicigera, Sapindus Emarginatus, Nammi, Marada, Acha and Teak; broad-cast sowing has now superseded planting out from nurseries; length of patrol paths $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles; private holdings within the reserve about 3 acres.
77. Expenditure Rupees 1,935 up to end of last official year. Receipts Rupees 276.
78. *Kotamungalam Reserve*, north-east of the groups. Selected by Captain Walker in 1869; area 1,661 acres; departmental survey finished last June and plan prepared; demarcated with stones and a boundary of bush fencing, nearly all plain.
79. Timber, &c., the same as in Mutucadu: 6,006 trees planted out from nurseries, but this planting now superseded by broad-cast sowing; length of patrol paths only 1 mile, but they have only lately been commenced.
80. Private holdings seven plots, aggregating 119 acres, mostly of old date, but one putta of 12 acres of good jungle allotted within the last two years, long since we took up the reserve (but before the survey) by collusion of the village Curnam and the occupier; of the 119 acres 40 acres are wet cultivation.
81. Expenditure Rupees 1,160 up to end of last official year. Receipts Rupees 390.
82. *Siruvadi Reserve*, north-west of the group. Selected by Mr. Wooldridge in 1872; area 1,664 acres, about half hill and half plan; departmental survey finished last May and plan prepared; demarcated with planted stones; boundary a bush fence.
83. Timber, &c., the same as in Mutucadu.
84. Sixteen thousand and seventy-five trees planted out from nurseries, but this planting now superseded by broad-cast sowing.
85. Length of patrol paths $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles.
86. Only one private holding of 9 acres (5 cultivation and 4 jungle); it was alienated after the reserve was taken up, but before the demarcation.
87. Expenditure Rupees 1,821 up to end of last official year. Receipts Rupees 17.
88. By present arrangements with the Revenue authorities in all the five above reserves the Forest Department are allowed to enclose from grazing up to one-third of the area of each plantation, two-thirds being left open to grazing, but cattle too often break into portions from which it is most necessary that they should be excluded greatly to the detriment of young seed-

lings which will never come on where cattle have ingress. There is, it appears, ample room for grazing outside the reserves, and if cattle could be entirely excluded, or rather if the grazing arrangements were entirely under the Forest Department so that they would be excluded when and where it might be necessary the conservation would be rendered much easier and far more effectual.

89. In all the Gingee reserves the inhabitants of the surrounding villages are allowed to take dead wood free, but it is to be feared that they also often cut living trees.

90. In going through one of the reserves with the Deputy Conservator we came upon a man illicitly felling a green tree, and as Mr. Wooldridge pointed out to me he is often powerless to do anything in a case like this he has no authority to detain the man without a warrant and he cannot even take away his axe, and unless he should happen to have peons with him to follow the man up a false name is probably given and the offender is never traced. As pointed out in paragraph 7 of a letter from this office, recorded in G.O., No. 482, of the 20th of February 1868, our reserves cannot be expected to show really good results until we have a Forest Act. Mr. Wooldridge complains that though the natives as a rule most scrupulously respect their

Because it has been so hitherto.
(Signed) F. R. H. S.

neighbour's private puttas or any private forest it is very different with a Government reserve, which is too often looked upon as public property, and unless punishment always follows

detection there is no chance of checking illicit felling and trespass, as detection probably only happens in one out of very many cases.

91. The Irulers, a wild race (only numbering 30 to 40) living within the reserves, are allowed to collect hill produce on their own account.

92. *Gungacaram Reserve*. South of all the groups and partly in the Villapuram taluq. Selected by Mr. Wooldridge in 1872; approximate area 8,000 acres, mostly hill; not surveyed; some miles of the boundary demarcated with piles of stones and trenches.

93. Timber the same as in Mutucadu, but growth very good and trees large.

94. No artificial planting as yet. No patrol paths. Private holdings, roughly estimated at 103 acres, nearly all cultivation.

95. Expenditure Rupees 314. Receipts Rupees 22.

96. The grazing rights in this reserve are different from the rest of Gingee, the Forest Department being allowed to enclose two-thirds from grazing instead of only one-third.

97. The amount expended on survey in all the Gingee reserves amounts to Rupees 615 up to date.

98. Until reserves are permanently surveyed and mapped land can always be alienated; before the 12 acres were alienated in Kotamungalam the question never came before the Deputy Conservator as the Curnam's report stated that the land was bare of jungle, whereas it was in reality fine jungle.

99. Besides the large plans (400 feet to the inch) now in progress Mr. Wooldridge has good maps, two miles to the inch.

100. With the exception of 10 acres in Mutucadu, and 16 acres in Kotamungalam, fire has been quite excluded from these reserves since Mr. Wooldridge has had charge in 1870.

101. Broad-cast sowing has been attended with very favorable results in some portions, and I was surprised to see how much the reserves have improved since I saw them last in 1871. Very great credit is due to Mr. Wooldridge. The present yield is estimated at 12 tons to the acre, but it is annually increasing.

102. These reserves may probably never be required for railway fuel, but there will always be a good demand for the timber and firewood; they now supply dead wood for fuel to Pondicherry and all towns to the eastward, and good-sized timber that will be useful for building purposes is coming on.

103. The average revenue now is only Rupees 50 per mensem, but this is all from dead wood. I do not think that any felling of living trees should take place for another four years, the reserves will then be in fine condition and a good permanent revenue should be derived. A considerable revenue might now be realized by felling, but it would be a bad policy.

104. *Establishment.*—The present establishment is as per margin. Mr. Wooldridge agrees with me that it is in excess of what is required as the reserves are not being worked, and the boundaries are now, or will shortly be, all clearly defined with fences in consultation with him on the question. I propose a revision as per margin, and request that this may be sanctioned. The establishment has hitherto been paid from working charges, but I think it would be better that it should be brought on the permanent list, but as it will certainly have to be revised again when the working of the reserves commences, about four years hence, it will not matter much if it remains for the present under working charges.

<i>Present Establishment for the five Gingee Reserves.</i>			
1 Manager	...	...	40
1 Gunstah	...	...	8
1 Maistry	...	...	15
8 Watchmen, at different rates	...	...	29
10 Gardeners, at do.	...	...	43½
<i>For Gangavaram.</i>			
6 Watchmen, at different rates	...	...	32
Total			167½
<i>Proposed Establishment for Gingee</i>			
1 Ranger	...	...	50
1 Gunstah	...	...	12
6 Watchmen, at 7 Rupees each	...	...	42
<i>For Gangavaram.</i>			
1 Gunstah	...	...	12
3 Watchmen, at 7 Rupees each	...	...	21
Total			137

should be allowed to demarcate from them sufficient tracts for village reserves; otherwise they will before long entirely disappear before cultivation.

106. *Mercanum Casuarina Plantations.*—These are situated near the town of Mercanum on the coast, 21 to 24 miles north of Pondicherry, and about the same distance from Tindivanam; they are in three different blocks.

107. *The Mercanum Plantation.*—The planted area of this is 28½ acres; unplanted 102½ acres.

108. Commenced by the Revenue Department or the Salt Department in 1868 or 1869; handed over to Mr. Wooldridge in 1872 when there were only some 3,000 trees which had been planted at about 16' x 16'.

In 1874 Mr. Wooldridge planted 3,600 trees.	
" 1875	" 4,490 "
" 1876	" 4,960 "

which planting has been 8' x 8'.

109. The drought has killed many trees during the last two years, and 3,000 died during the first half of this year; there are now existing 8,704 trees.

110. A good many jungle trees (katvagha, nim, turanji) have also been planted.

111. Expenditure, Rupees 787-3-2. Receipts, Rupees 33.

112. *The Agaram Plantation.*—The planted area is 79½ acres; unplanted 48½ acres.

113. Commenced by Mr. Wooldridge in 1873.

Of the 1873 planting there existed on 1st April last.	25,439
" 1874	9,876
" 1875	13,071
" 1876	5,540
Total	54,576

Since the 1st of April 6,961 casualties occurred owing to the very unusual drought.

114. This plantation is a fine block and very well grown.

115. Expenditure, Rupees 3,685. Receipts, Rupees 6.

116. *The Achicadu Plantation.*—This is a long narrow belt (about 5 miles) between the sand hills along the coast towards Pondicherry planted only in patches; taken up by Mr. Wooldridge in 1873-74; 12,000 plants were put down in 1874 and 1,560 in 1875; there were existing on the 1st of April last 16,175, out of which 5,763 succumbed to drought in the first half of this year; the area is said to be 430 acres, of which 22½ are planted.

117. Expenditure, Rupees 1,077. Receipts, nil.

118. These plantations have cost up to date Rupees 5,549, out of which the sum of Rupees 2,029-15-4 was expended by the local conservancy before they were handed over to Imperial. I valued them as they stand at Rupees 17,000; there is a good local demand for this fuel, and they will pay well; they are not required for railway fuel, and I much doubt if it would pay to send it to Tindivanam if there were a demand for such. There can be no objection in keeping them up as Imperial, and I would recommend that they should be transferred to local and that the local conservancy should pay us the difference between Rupees 5,549 and Rupees 2,029-15-4.

119. *Villapooram Taluq* (Area 530½ square miles).—Under local conservancy a portion of the Gangavaram reserve is within this taluq, but, as it is a portion of the Gingee block, I have treated of it with the rest of the Gingee reserves under Tindivanam Taluq.

120. There is no forest or even good jungle within this taluq; 7,350 acres of scrub have been taken up as village jungles under local conservancy, and these tracts have been demarcated and surveyed by Mr. Wooldridge. Goats are kept out of these blocks, but cattle-grazing is allowed to a certain extent, and the villagers are allowed to take dead wood and leaves, but not allowed to fell green wood or to dig out roots. There can be no doubt that most of these tracts of mere scrub have at one time been fair jungle, as much of the vegetation is composed of species which grow to be trees or large shrubs under fair treatment, but constant felling over year by year before the growth attains even 4 or 5 feet and the grazing of cattle and goats completely stunt the vegetation in time, and then the villagers take to digging up the roots for firewood and all wood growth disappears and is replaced by grass and herbaceous annuals. Some of the tracts taken up look quite hopeless, but they soon begin to recover sufficiently to yield village firewood under proper treatment, and Mr. Wooldridge pointed out to me several tracts where the growth was 12 feet high, which he assured me when taken up less than three years ago was not 5 feet in height.

121. The villagers are very glad to have tracts taken up in this manner and treated as above mentioned, and they often indicate tracts to the Forest Officer which they wish taken up. At present the villagers pay nothing towards this conservancy, but in time when the outside tracts begin to disappear altogether, and these village reserves become good firewood jungles, it is presumed that they will have to pay at least for their upkeep.

122. Mr. Wooldridge has a Surveyor attached to his office, and all these tracts have been, or are being, surveyed, and the plants are on a scale of 400 feet to the inch.

123. *Trikalur Taluq* (Area 580 square miles).—This taluq is under local conservancy. There are about 100 square miles of fair jungle of sandra, turanji, and other trees similar to the Gingee jungles, and from which good native building timber is procurable.

124. I think that four Imperial reserves, aggregating 16 square miles, should be formed out of this block.

125. There are also in this taluq about 100 square miles of firewood and scrub jungles in addition to the above.

126. Eight thousand acres in six different blocks have been taken up and demarcated by Mr. Wooldridge as village reserves under the jungle conservancy as in the Villapuram Taluq.

127. This taluq was not brought under any conservancy rules till the 1st of January 1875, and consequently a great deal of jungle has been cut away during the last few years.

128. The following plantations now under Imperial conservancy are in this taluq.

129. *Multarbed-Casuarina Plantations.*—I regret to have to report that these plantations are a complete failure owing to floods and drought.

130. Some 18 or 19 miles to the north-west of the Punrutti station on the South Indian railway the deserted channel known as the Multarbed breaks off from the Pooniar river. This was selected by Captain C. Walker for casuarina plantations. The plantations were commenced in 1872-73 by the local conservancy, and for two years promised to be a great success. After Mr. Wooldridge had commenced planting, he reported to the Revenue authorities that there was great danger from flood and a bund was put up across the head of the bed close to what is now known as the Andrayanore plantation. The severe floods which occurred in May 1874 washed the bund away and carried away a great portion of the planted trees. The bund was repaired, but again washed away by a still higher flood in October of the same year; more than one-third of all the planted trees were carried away in these two floods. The severe droughts which have occurred during the last two years have killed off more than one-third of what were originally planted, so that less than one-third remain and a vast number of these from being too high above the water are poor and stunted and will come to nothing. After the floods Mr. Wooldridge is naturally anxious that his trees should not be carried away, and much of the subsequent planting was on higher ground where water is too far from the surface.

in 1872 and then extended by him. Two were opened out by Mr. Wooldridge in 1873; the area is as per margin, but only 300 of this is actually planted. Mr. Wooldridge's planting is at 6' x 6' and 8' x 8'; the older plantings at much greater distances up to 16' x 16'; the plantations look very well and are certain to pay as there is much local demand for timber. They have besides, Mr. Wooldridge informs me, given in the last few years some 2,000 acres have been planted in this way; so that I should be inclined to recommend that in future this *Casuarina* plantation is a question for the Collector to decide.

Certainly.—F.H.S.

186. Enclosure No. 3 is a list of the temporary establishment at present employed in the Imperial portion of this division.

187. Enclosure No. 4 is a list of the permanent and temporary establishments employed under the Jungle Conservancy.

188. Enclosure No. 2.—I forward a map of South Arcot prepared by Mr. Wooldridge which clearly shows the situation of the different forest tracts, firewood jungles, Imperial and Village Reserves, plantations, depôts, &c., mentioned in this report.

189. I will here recapitulate a few subjects enumerated in the body of this report that require the orders of Government; and if my proposals on these points receive the sanction of Government, the division will be in a fair way to thorough conservancy—

1st.—The survey of the Kolroys and the question of Government right to the slopes (paragraph 52).

2nd.—The new reserves mentioned in paragraphs 36, 123, and 124.

3rd.—More strict conservancy of the Imperial Reserves by the placing of the control of grazing, &c., entirely in the hands of the Forest Officer.

4th.—The transfer of the open jungles round Gingee from Local to Imperial (paragraph 105).

5th.—Local Conservancy to pay half of the Deputy Conservator's salary (paragraph 181).

To this of course must be added "The Forest Act."

190. I met Mr. Sharp, the Acting Collector, at Cuddalore; he has only been a short time in the district and has not visited any of the Forests, Reserves, or Imperial plantations. This report of course goes through him, and he may perhaps add some remarks regarding "Jungle Conservancy Works" and the Casuarina plantations close to Cuddalore. I would, however, suggest that this report should also be forwarded to Mr. Garstin for any suggestions or remarks he may wish to make.

No. 1,307.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Collector of South Arcot and Board of Revenue agreeably to Rule VIII, published in G.O., No. 1,662-A, dated 19th November 1875, Revenue Department.

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

ENCLOSURE 1 in No. 1.

FORESTS.

STATEMENT showing the Temporary Monthly Servants employed in South Arcot Division paid from Working Charges.

Plantations.

Name of Group or Sub-division.	Number and Designation of each Servant.	Monthly Rate of Pay.	Amount.	Total Monthly Cost.
		RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1 Plantation in Chengam in No. 1 Range	1 Gardener	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0
7 Plantations in Tirukalure Talug, No. II Range	1 Maistry	12 0 0	12 0 0	
	1 Gunastah for Plantation account	8 0 0	8 0 0	
	3 Watchmen	5 0 0	15 0 0	
	2 Do.	4 8 0	9 0 0	
	8 Gardeners	4 8 0	36 0 0	
	2 Do.	4 0 0	8 0 0	88 0 0
	17			
3 Plantations in Mercanum Division in No. 2 Range	1 Maistry	12 0 0	12 0 0	
	1 Watchman	4 0 0	4 0 0	
	3 Gardeners	4 0 0	12 0 0	28 0 0
	5			
Total strength and monthly cost of all Imperial Plantations in the Division	23			120 8 0
Timber Depots No. Range.				
Trinomalai Depot	1 Gunastah	8 0 0		
	2 Watchmen (Chengam and Trinomalai, 1 each).	8 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0
	3			
Tindivanam Depot. — No stock, therefore no establishment.				
Firewood jungles around Trinomalai Cusbah	1 Temporary Peon	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0

8. *Tindivanam Taluk*.—The most important forest operations in the Tindivanam Taluk have been in connection with the Gingee reserves and the Mercanum Casuarina plantations. Most of the Gingee reserves were originally selected as railway fuel reserves, but Colonel Beddome now remarks that they may probably never be required for that purpose. It is expected, however, that there will always be a good demand for the timber and firewood. The only source of revenue for the present is the sale of dead wood, as it is considered that it would be bad policy to commence felling for another four years or so. The extent and expenditure and receipts up to date are as under:—

	Extent.	Expenditure.	Receipts.
	ACRES.	RS.	RS.
Mutucadu Reserve	3,087	3,933	967
Padipallam do.	2,500	1,594	157
Perianur do.	8,840	1,935	276
Kotamangalam Reserve	1,661	1,160	390
Shuvadi Reserve	1,664	1,821	17
Gangavaram Reserve	8,000	314	22

9. In the earlier operations in connection with these reserves numbers of saplings were planted out from nurseries, but this plan has been abandoned as too expensive and reboisement left to nature assisted by broadcast sowing. In the first mentioned five reserves grazing cattle are excluded from one-third of the area, and from two-thirds of the area of the sixth. Colonel Beddome considers this is not sufficient and proposes that the grazing arrangements should be left entirely under the discretion of the Forest Officers. Mr. Sharp objects to this, and as it appears from paragraph 101 of the report that the reserves have made surprising progress under present arrangements the Board would deprecate the introduction of further restrictions until a Forest Act has been passed. The revision of the establishment proposed in paragraph 104 seems unobjectionable.

10. The Conservator and the Collector are at issue as regards the propriety of strictly conserving the open jungles around Gingee, but neither give information in detail to enable a decision to be arrived at. It is clearly undesirable to take open jungles indiscriminately under conservation and stay cultivation and progress in a tract of indefinite extent. But selected and demarcated parts may be advantageously conserved, whilst the reclamation of the rest by cultivation may be encouraged.

11. The Mercanum Casuarina plantations were started from Jungle Conservancy Funds and continued from Imperial Funds. The cost up to date has been Rs. 5,549, of which Rupees 2,030 was the expenditure from Jungle Conservancy Funds. Colonel Beddome values them as they stand at Rupees 17,000, and remarks that as there is a good local demand for this fuel they will pay well, but as they are not required for railway fuel, he sees no object in keeping them up as Imperial, and proposes that the Local Conservancy should pay to Imperial the difference between Rupees 5,549 and Rupees 2,030, and resume the management of the plantations.

12. As the fuel will not be required for other than local purposes it seems right that the plantations should be administered from Jungle Conservancy Funds, and on Colonel Beddome's estimate of the financial position the terms proposed seem eminently favorable to these funds; but Mr. Sharp takes a different view and alludes to the proposal to retransfer the plantations as a consequence of their not being a promising speculation. He will report his reasons in detail, and the Board will then be in a position to submit a definite recommendation.

13. *Villapuram Taluk*.—With the exception of a portion of the Gangavaram reserve above noticed there is no forest in the Villapuram Taluk, but 7,350 acres have been taken up as village jungles. Goats are kept out, and felling green wood and removing roots are prohibited; but cattle-grazing is permitted to a certain extent, and the villagers are allowed to take dead wood and leaves. The results reported by Colonel Beddome are satisfactory, and from the statement that the villagers are glad to have tracts taken up in this way and often take the initiative in pointing out

to the Forest Officers tracts which they wish to have reserved, it may be inferred that the system of partial conservancy above described in no way seriously interferes with the due exercise of the village communal rights.

14. *Trikalore Taluk*.—The most extensive operations in the Trikalore Taluk have been in connection with the Multar bed Casuarina plantations in which 257,460 plants have been put down, but only 74,808 remain—the bulk of those on the low-lying tracts having been swept away by floods, while those on the higher tracts are either stunted or perished altogether from droughts when the subsoil water receded. The expenditure up to date (exclusive of the Veyloor plantation which will be noticed hereafter) is reported at Rupees 19,557, and Colonel Beddome values them at not more than Rupees 10,000 as they stand. They were originally taken up as railway fuel plantations—but it is now found that there is no demand nor likelihood of any demand in the future; and, under all the circumstances, the Board have no hesitation in supporting the Conservator's recommendation, that all planting should cease and that the establishment should be reduced to the minimum required, to look after the plantations until arrangements can be made for disposing of them on as satisfactory terms as can be obtained. If the Government concur definite proposals to this effect should be submitted by the Conservator in communication with the Collector.

15. As it appears that the Veyloor plantation may perhaps be a success as regards the cultivation of the Velveylam tree, the Board approve the Conservator's recommendation that the experiment be continued for two years longer with an expenditure of not more than Rupees 10 per mensem.

16. The information in the report is not sufficient for the formation of any opinion with reference to the recommendation in paragraph 124, that four Imperial reserves, aggregating 16 square miles, should be formed out of the block of forest described in paragraph 123. From paragraph 126, the Board gather that the operations in connection with village jungles have been as successful in the Tickalore as in the Villapuram Taluk.

17. *Virdachellum, Chellumbrum, and Cuddalore Taluks*.—In the remaining three taluks there are no Imperial reserves, and the Conservator is of opinion that there is no necessity for any. Village reserves have been taken up as marginally noted. Five Casuarina plantations in the Cuddalore Taluk, aggregating 1,590 acres, have been fairly successful, and have given such an impetus to private planting, that Colonel Beddome recommends that in future the field should be left entirely to private enterprise. Against this recommendation Mr. Sharp has entered "certainly" in red ink in the margin, but in paragraph 8 of his letter he states that the discovery that there will be no demand for railway fuel has given such a check to private enterprise that he fears that some ten or twenty years hence there will be a great dearth and dearness of firewood if Government Casuarina plantations are not further developed. The question seems to call for fuller consideration.

18. The Government will observe from paragraph 9 of the Collector's letter, that he is of opinion that Villapuram is the best place for the Deputy Conservator's head-quarters, but that the transfer cannot be effected without expenditure on buildings.

The Board will address Government on the question of debiting a portion of the Deputy Conservator's pay to Jungle Conservancy Funds on receipt of the communication alluded to in paragraph 11 of Mr. Sharp's letter—all the other replies to the general reference on the subject have already been received.

19. The Board request attention to paragraph 182 of the Conservator's report. They are glad to observe the progress in real conservancy that has been effected in South Arcot.

The formation of village reserves, their survey with maps on a large scale, and the demarcation and survey and blocking of the Government reserves are considerably in advance of similar operations in most other districts. Colonel Beddome

attributes these happy results in a great degree to the interest taken in forest operations by Mr. Garstin, and to the zeal and ability of Mr. Wooldridge whose work shows him to be a highly-qualified and very efficient officer.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

REFERRED to Mr. Garstin for any remarks he may wish to offer.

Ootacamund,
25th June 1878.

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

No. 378. From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue (Famine) Department, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 12th July 1878.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket of the 25th ultimo, referring to me for any remarks I may wish to offer the report of the Conservator of Forests on the South Arcot Forest Division.* In reply, I beg to submit the following brief observations.

* Dated 12th January 1878, No. 1,806.

Paragraph 36.—Of Colonel Beddome's report, I think the reserve of six square miles in the Tandrapett jungles proposed by Colonel Beddome might be formed with advantage for the reasons given by him.

Paragraph 88.—I am not disposed to recommend any further restriction of grazing rights in the Gingee reserves until the passing of a Forest Act enables the matter to be reconsidered and authoritatively decided. I quite concur with Colonel Beddome that such an Act is much needed, and that until it is passed the conservancy of reserves must always be carried on with difficulty.

Paragraph 105.—There can be no objection, in my opinion, to Mr. Wooldridge's being authorised to demarcate some portions of the open jungles around Gingee for village reserves, but I do not understand why Colonel Beddome should on this account recommend the transfer of these jungles to Imperial. I concur with Mr. Sharp in thinking that there are not sufficient grounds shown for the proposed change.

Paragraph 118.—In 1874 or 1875 when the Mallatar plantations were transferred to the Imperial Department I recommended that the expenditure from Local Conservancy Funds on them should be refunded, but the proposal was not supported by the Board (though its equity was not denied) on the ground, I think, that there was no chance of Government agreeing to the arrangement. Similarly, if the Merkanam plantations are now transferred to Local, the latter should not, I think be called on to pay their supposed value even though credit be given for their estimated worth at the time of their having been taken over by the Forest Department.

Paragraphs 123 and 124.—I see no objection to the formation of the reserve proposed.

Paragraphs 129 to 161.—The Mallatar Casuarina plantations should, I consider be abandoned as railway fuel reserves and sold, especially as Colonel Beddome asserts that there is not likely to be any demand for wood-fuel on the railway, unless the supply of coal should cease for some cause or other. How far he is correct in this statement I cannot judge, but I should think that if wood-fuel can be supplied at the side of the railway line for Rs. 5 a ton, in billets, it might compete with coal; but the only localities where such competition is likely to be successful are, in my opinion, the sea coast in the immediate vicinity of the line, or such other places in its proximity as the fuel could be conveyed to by water.

I may mention that I remember about three years ago a cargo of coals being imported from England to Cuddalore by Messrs. Parry & Co. for their factory at Nellikupam, and being informed by their local Agent that it was cheaper to burn coal and wood mixed, in the engine furnace, than wood-fuel only, I was much struck with the statement at the time.

Paragraph 175.—I do not think any more money should be expended from Jungle Conservancy Funds on Casuarina plantations. Those already formed are sufficiently extensive to serve as specimens of what can be done by planting, but there are three directions in which experiments with these plantations might, I consider, be advantageously conducted,—first, as regards their regrowth from the stool; second, as regards charcoal manufacture; and, thirdly, in respect of the value of the wood for building purposes. I am quite satisfied from what I have seen that Casuarinas, if carefully cut down, will throw out shoots from the stools up to six or eight years of age near the coast, and to a much greater age inland. At Trivenallur I found trees, 27 years old, cut down in front of Messrs. Parry & Co.'s factory, throwing out shoots from the stools; and in the Cuddalore plantations the same thing may be repeatedly seen in the cases of the young trees felled there. But I am not sure that it has been demonstrated that a shoot can be trained up into a tree, and the obviously increased value of the plantations, if this can be done, renders it worth while to make the experiment.

As regards the excellence of the Casuarina wood for making charcoal there is, I fancy, little doubt. I remember once asking Mr. Wooldridge to make an experiment with the Casuarina wood as compared with jungle-wood, and I think he did so, but I cannot remember the result. At any rate, the wood of these Casuarina plantations might bring in larger returns in the shape of charcoal than as wood-fuel.

As regards the use of Casuarina timber for building purposes, it might be as well to see whether the timber is worth working up for building purposes. It will, I believe, bear as great a transverse strain as teak, and if it is not more liable to dry-rot, or to split or sag, there might be a ready sale for the logs as timber.

2. I can fully endorse Colonel Beddome's remarks regarding Mr. Wooldridge's efficiency and devotion to duty, and should be glad to learn that, taking these into consideration, as well as his excellent colloquial knowledge of the vernacular, to which Colonel Beddome bears testimony, the Government had exempted him from passing the Departmental Examination in Tamil, if he has not already passed it.

No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 29th July 1878, No. 1,189.

Forests, No. 21.

THE fuel reserves and chief plantations in the South Arcot District were transferred* to the Forest Department at the commencement of the official year 1875-76.

* Vide G.O., 21st December 1874, No. 1,604.

The former have hitherto been dealt with as open reserves, but the Conservator is of opinion that the time has come when they should be closed.

2. The Government see no objection to this course, as the privileges and requirements of the villagers were fully consulted on the formation of these reserves, but observe that they were retained as open reserves in 1874 in accordance with the advice of the Acting Head of the Department.

G.O., 17th March 1875, No. 434.

3. Colonel Beddome recommends the formation of fresh reserves in the

See paragraph 3 of letter in Board's Proceedings, dated 18th May 1874, No. 1,154.

Tandrapett jungles and in the Trikalur Taluq. These projects were not noticed by the late Acting Collector, but are supported by Mr. Garstin. The matter will await the inspection and report at a future date of Captain C. Walker who has now been entrusted with the duty of selecting reserves throughout the Presidency.

4. The attention of the Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey will be drawn to the Conservator's remarks (paragraph 32) regarding the eastern slopes of the Calroys; and he will, in communication with the Collector, who must not divest himself of his responsibilities in these important matters, issue instructions for the early investigation of the claims said to be advanced to these forests by certain private parties.

5. The working of the forests under his charge is, as the Government have observed in another case, entirely a matter for the Conservator's decision, and he must use his own judgment in the matter of the Gingee reserves.

6. In regard to the open jungles in the neighbourhood of the last-named reserves, the Government will await further information. Now that under this order grazing in the reserved forests will no longer be permitted, it will be necessary to proceed with caution in imposing further restrictions.

7. The temporary establishment for the Gingee reserves should certainly be reduced if no longer needed in full strength, and the Conservator will report separately regarding his proposal to bring a portion of it on the permanent establishment, stating whether the expenditure can be met from the amount sanctioned for the subordinate forest establishment.

8. The chief plantations are those near the town of Mercanum and on the old Multar-bed channel. The Conservator is of opinion that they are not required for railway fuel, and he would, therefore, retransfer the former to Jungle Conservancy.

9. The Government observe that the original scheme of these Casuarina plantations was considered to be beyond the capabilities and scope of the Jungle Conservancy Fund, and that on this ground the transfer was made to the Forest Department. They are now not prepared to sanction any change which will transfer to a General District Fund special plantations of very doubtful success and in themselves inexpedient as village forest enterprises.

10. The Multar-bed plantations will at present be retained, but operations will be curtailed as suggested by Colonel Beddome.

11. No orders seem called for as to the future head-quarters of the local Forest Officer, the matter having been left* in the hands of the Collector and Conservator.

12. The Government notice with satisfaction the testimony borne by Colonel Beddome and Mr. Garstin to the intelligent and successful administration of Mr. Wooldridge, the Deputy Conservator in charge of the South Arcot Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
„ J. H. Garstin, Esq.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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No. 379. ORDER THEREON, 29th July 1878, No. 1,189.

Forests, No. 21.

The fuel reserves and chief plantations in the South Arcot District were transferred* to the Forest Department at the commencement of the official year 1875-76.

* Vide G.O., 21st December 1874, No. 1,604.

The former have hitherto been dealt with as open reserves, but the Conservator is of opinion that the time has come when they should be closed.

2. The Government see no objection to this course, as the privileges and requirements of the villagers were fully consulted on the formation of these reserves, but observe that they were retained as open reserves in 1874 in accordance with the advice of the Acting Head of the Department.

3. Colonel Beddome recommends the formation of fresh reserves in the Tandrapet jungles and in the Trikalur Taluq. These projects were not noticed by the late Acting Collector, but are supported by Mr. Garstin. The matter will await the inspection and report at a future date of Captain C. Walker who has now been entrusted with the duty of selecting reserves throughout the Presidency.

4. The attention of the Acting Superintendent of Revenue Survey will be drawn to the Conservator's remarks (paragraph 32) regarding the eastern slopes of the Calroys; and he will issue instructions for the early investigation of the claims said to be advanced to these forests by certain private parties in communication with the Collector, who must not divest himself of his responsibilities in these important matters.

5. The working of the forests under his charge is, as the Government have observed in another case, entirely a matter for the Conservator's decision, and he must use his own judgment in the matter of the Gingee reserves.

6. In regard to the open jungles in the neighbourhood of the last-named reserves, the Government will await further information. Now that under this order grazing in the reserved forests will no longer be permitted, it will be necessary to proceed with caution in imposing further restrictions.

7. The temporary establishment for the Gingee reserves should certainly be reduced if no longer needed in full strength, and the Conservator will report separately regarding his proposal to bring a portion of it on the permanent establishment, stating whether the expenditure can be met from the amount sanctioned for the subordinate forest establishment.

8. The chief plantations are those near the town of Mercanum and on the old Multar-bed channel. The Conservator is of opinion that they are not required for railway fuel, and he would, therefore, retransfer the former to Jungle Conservancy.

9. The Government observe that the original scheme of these Casuarina plantations was considered to be beyond the capabilities and scope of the Jungle Conservancy Fund, and that on this ground the transfer was made to the Forest Department. They are now not prepared to sanction any *change* which will transfer to a General District Fund special plantations of very doubtful success and in themselves inexpedient as village forest enterprise.

Obdt. of 1878

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

GO., AC., AC.

Dated July 29th.

Printed August 18th.

Part.

Encl.

G.O., 29th July 1878, No. 1,189.

UTLY.

No. 377-379.

South Arcot District. — Passing orders on the readings of the Board of Revenue reviewing the extracts of Forests Inspection Report on the —



Vide enclosure 3.

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10. The Multar-bed plantations will at present be retained, but operations will be curtailed as suggested by Colonel Beddome.

11. No orders seem called for as to the future head-quarters of the local Forest Officer, the matter having been left* in the hands of the Collector and Conservator.

* G.O., 30th January 1877, No. 420.

12. The Government notice with satisfaction the testimony borne by Colonel Beddome and Mr. Garstin to the intelligent and successful administration of Mr. Wooldridge, the Deputy Conservator in charge of the South Arcot Division.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
„ J. H. Garstin, Esq.

Spare Copies.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

South Arcot Forests.—Passing orders on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reviewing Conservator of Forests' Inspection Report on the

Govt. of 1878
REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy, Secy, Secy.

Dated July 29th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 29th July 1878, No. 1,189.

JULY.
Nos. 377—379.

Revenue Department.

No 1189
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Under date the 29th July 1878

Read the following
Order of the Bd of Revenue
dated 14th March 1878 No 688;
reviewing the Inspection
Report of Conservator of
Forests on the South Arcot
Forests.

I think questions
remain to be
settled
1876
Subvt & remarks

* vide G.O. 21st Dec 74
No 1604.

I think it to be
settled by G.O. 21st Dec 74
Remarks on these
papers before passing

The fuel reserves and
chief plantations in the
South Arcot District were
transferred to the Forest
Department at the commence-
ment of the official year
1875-76.

The former have hitherto
been

been dealt with as open reserves but the Conservator is of opinion that the time has come when they should be closed.

2. The Govt. are pro objection to this course as the privileges and requirements of the villagers were fully consulted on the formation of these reserves but observe that they were retained as open reserves in 1894 in accordance with the advice of the Acting Head of the Department.

3. Col. P. Beddome recommends the formation of fresh reserves in the Tandrambat jungles and in the Trikatur taluq. These projects were not noticed by the late Acting

be put before the adm. instruction office or to something like inspection.

Note
+ Mr. Garton is opposed to this course but apparently only because he thinks it can be effected more easily when the Act is passed. But a similar course has been sanctioned in Ludhiana & here great care was exercised in the selection of the reserves.

10.17 March 1895 No 434

See para 3 of letter in P.D. Pass

of 18 May 1894 No 1150

with reference to the letter of 18 May 1894 No 1150. The letter is not yet received. The letter is not yet received. The letter is not yet received.

or should Capt. C. Waller's inspection at some future date be awaited?

MH

upon recommendation of the Col. The matter was decided by the Govt. in the matter of the reservation of the forest.

1189
Colt. and Mr. Cunningham will report on them after due inspection & consideration.

4. The attention of the Asst. Secy. R. Murray will be drawn to the Conservator's remarks (para 32) regarding the eastern slopes of the Caluys, and he will issue instructions for the early investigation of the claims said to be advanced to these forests by certain private parties.

5. The working of the forests under his charge, as the Govt. have observed in another case, entirely a matter for the Conservator's decision and he must use his own judgment in the matter of the Gujra reserves.

Dr

6. In regard to the
open jungles in the neigh-
bourhood of the Cact
named reserves, the Govt
will await further informa-
tion. Now that under this
order grazing in the reserved
forests will no longer be
permitted it will be ne-
cessary to proceed with
caution in imposing
further restrictions.

7. The temporary
establishment for the
higher reserves should
certainly be reduced if
no longer needed in full
strength & the Conservator
will report separately
regarding his proposal
to bring a portion of it
on the permanent estab.

8. Lieut. stating whether

Note
Mr. Farquhar. All
the objection to the
formation of village
reserves here but says
nothing as to the
being required. His
Mr. Sharpe. Questions
& further investigation
seems necessary.

the expenditure can be met
from the amount sanctioned
for the subordinate forest
establishment. $\frac{1189}{20}$

8. The Chief plantations
are those near the town
of Mercamun and on the
old Multan ^{old} channel.
The Conservator is of opinion
that they are not required
for railway fuel and he
would therefore retrans-
fer the former to jungle
Conservancy.

9. The Govt. observe that
the original scheme of
these Casuarina planta-
tions was considered to
be beyond the capabilities
and scope of the jungle
Conservancy Fund and

Secretary. This
here planting speculation
has almost very old. That on this ground
done a financial

Note
The plan. 11412
8/12/12
1/2/13
1/2/13

the transfer was made
to the Forest Deptt.

[If that scheme is to
be abandoned the simple
upkeep of the extant al-
ready planted in the
mercantile plantations
will probably not be
too heavy a charge on the
Jungle Conservancy fund
but the Govt. will await
the further report called
for by the Board.]

10. The Chulhar land
plantations will at
present be retained
but operations will be
curtailed as suggested
by Col Biddome.

11. No orders seem called
for as the future head
quarters of the local
Forest officer, the matter
having

it may - jungle con-
servancy is for
the maintenance
& improvement of nature
not for practically State
Plantation Speculation

* 28 1/4 transplanted 112 per
see para 107 B. 15th Nov
20/11/07
2 money has not been
transferred the Dist. is wanted
on amateur garden

for say the
The Govt. are not prepared
to sanction any change of
with transfer to a person
on our Forest Division
Plantations enterprise
of our doubtful success
2 in themselves in the
view as to the Forest
enterprise

18/6 1807 11/10
para 107 B. 15th Nov
+ Mr. G. J. ...
thinks that should not be
done at present as it is not
the intention of the Govt.

20.30 Jan 1877 to 4.30

having been left in the
hands of the Collector and
Conservator. ¹¹⁸⁹/₂₁

12. The Govt. notice
with satisfaction the
testimony borne by Col
Biddome to the intelli-
gent and successful
administration of Mr.
Woolbridge the Deputy
Conservator in charge of
the South Arcot division

- 14 To the Board of Revenue on 11th Aug
- 21 the Conservator of Forests
- 13 the Deputy Secy Survey
- 1 J. D. G. Parshuram

20th

90
South American

Code 1344

Copy of letter

Circulated with
the remarks recorded
by Mr. Garstin. When
these are opposed
to the draft the
fact is noted in
the margin

Lab
will

Sam
1/11

C 13-6-78. R 15-7-78
R 24-6-78. R 25-7-78

Revenue & Finance Department
1189
22

From
J. H. Garstin Esquire, C.S.,
Additional Secy,
to Government,

C. E. Master Esquire,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,

Sir,
I have the honor
to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter of the 28th ult.
in reference to the
remarks I may wish to offer
thereon of the consideration
of Forests in the South American
Forest Division. In reply,

* dated Jan.
12th 1880

I beg to submit the follow-
ing brief observations;
Para 36 of Colonel Beildoune's
report. I think the reserve
of 6 square miles in the Fair
-ampett Jungles proposed
by Col. Beildoune might be
formed with advantage for
the reasons given by him.
Para 38. I am not disposed
to recommend any further
expansion of rights in

in the Guji Reserved until
the passing of a Forest Act
enables the matter to be re-
considered and authorita-
tively decided. I quite
concur with Col. Beddome
that such an Act is much
needed and that until it
is passed the conservancy
of reserves must always be
carried on with difficulty.

Para 105 - There can be no ob-
-jection in my opinion to Mr.
Woodbridge being authorized
to demarcate some portions
of the open jungles around
Guji for Village reserves but
I do not understand why
Col. Beddome should on
this account recommend
the transfer of these jungles
to Imperial. I concur with
Mr. Sharp in thinking that
there are not sufficient
grounds shown for the pro-
-posed change.

Para 118 - In 1874 or 1875 when
the Mallata plantations
were transferred to the Im-
-perial Department I recom-
-mended that the expenditure
for Local Cont.

on them should be refunded,
but the proposal was not sup-
-ported by the Board, though
its equity was not denied on
the ground, I think, that there
was no chance of Government
agreeing to the arrangement.
Similarly, if the Deccan
plantations are now trans-
-ferred to local, the latter should
not, I think, be called on to
pay their supposed value,
even though credit be given
for their estimated worth
at the time of their having
been taken over by the Forest
Department.

Paras 123 and 124 - I see no
objection to the formation of
the reserves proposed.
Paras 129 to 161 - These Mallata
Casuarina plantations should,
I consider, be abandoned
as Railway fuel reserves and
sold, especially as Colonel
Beddome adds to that there
is not likely to be any de-
-mand for woodfuel on the
Railway unless the supply
of coal should cease for some
cause or other. How far he
is correct in this statement

I cannot judge - but I should think that if wood fuel can be supplied at the side of the railway line for 5 Rs. a ton, in bills to it might compete with coal - but the only localities where such competition is likely to be successful are, in my opinion, the sea coast in the immediate vicinity of the line, or such other place in its proximity as the fuel could be conveyed to by water.

I may mention that I remember about 3 years ago a cargo of coal being imported from England to Cuddalore by Messrs. Parnaud & Co. for their factory at Kallikuppam and being informed by their local agent that it was cheaper to burn coal and wood mixed, in the engine furnaces, than wood fuel only I was much struck with the statement at the time.

Para 175 - I do not think any more money should be expended from Mangle Co. or any other funds on Casuarina

plantations. These ¹¹⁸⁹ ~~are~~ ^{are} already formed are sufficiently extensive to serve as specimens of what can be done by plantations - but there are three directions in which experiments with these plantations might be advantageously conducted - first, as regards their regrowth from the stool, second, as regards charcoal manufacture, and thirdly, in respect of the value of the wood for building purposes. I am quite satisfied from what I have seen that casuarinas, if carefully cut down, will throw out shoots from the stools up to 6 or 8 years of age near the coast, and to a much greater age inland. At Trivunallur, I found trees 27 years old, cut down in front of Messrs. Parnaud & Co's factory, throw out shoots from the stools, and in the Cuddalore plantations the same thing may be repeatedly seen in the cases of the young trees felled there. But I am not sure that it has been demonstrated that a

a shock can be trained up
into a tree and the obviously
increased value of the plant
ations, if this can be done, ren-
ders it worth while to make
the experiment.

As regards the excellence
of the casuarina wood for
making charcoal there is
I fancy little doubt. I remem-
ber once asking Mr. Wood-
bridge to make an experiment
with the casuarina wood
as compared with jungle
wood and I think he did
so but I cannot remember
the result. At any rate the
wood of these casuarina plant-
ations might bring in larger
returns in the shape of char-
coal than as wood fuel.

As regards the use of casu-
arina timber for building
purposes it might be as well
to see whether the timber is
worth working up for building
purposes. I will, I believe,
bear as great a transverse
strain as teak and if it
is not more liable to dry rot

or to split or sag, there might
be a ready sale for the
logs as timber.

1189
25

2. I can fully endorse
Colonel Beddome's remarks
regarding Mr. Woodbridge's
efficiency and devotion
to duty, and should be
glad to learn that taking
these into consideration,
as well as his excellent
colloquial knowledge of the
vernacular, to which Colonel
Beddome bears testimony,
the Government had exempt-
ed him from passing the
Departmental Examination
in Tamil, if he has not al-
ready passed it.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your devoted servant

Cotacamund,
12th July 1878

J. H. P. Smith
Asst. Secy to Govt.

Reverend 1898 Sept.
No 30/13.

From J. H. Crockett Esq.
2202 Leavenworth
San Francisco, Calif.

Revised 1898
No. 2 13:5 July 1898

Oct. 1899-29 Aug, 1898

Substantially correct
on the subject of the
General of the
United States Bureau

13

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CH-1-18
H25-1-18