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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1661 Press.
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 12-10-1878 197 .

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Archives I—S.806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th October 1878, No. 1,661.

Read the following papers:—

No. 138. From A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Forests,) to the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, dated Simla, 24th September 1878, No. 960-F.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter, No. 287-5, dated the 19th July last, on the subject of leasing out the Cardamom jungles in Coorg.

2. From the papers submitted, and from other papers received on previous occasions, it appears that some time after the occupation of the Province the old plan was abandoned, under which the produce of the Cardamom forests was brought to mart bought by Government. After that, and as late as 1868, the Cardamom jungles seem to have been rented out on yearly leases. It is nowhere expressly stated whether these annual leases were sold by public auction; but it is inferred from the papers that they were not sold by auction but were granted year after year to Coorgs and other residents of the vicinity.

3. The system of sale by public auction was apparently introduced when in 1868 leases for ten years were decided upon. The Coorgs who had always worked these forests, wishing to keep them in their hands, and hoping that the high prices then ruling would be maintained, appear to have bid too high, and to have found it difficult to meet their obligations when prices fell some time afterwards.

4. You now propose to grant seven years' leases, renewable up to twenty-one years, the assessment being revised at each renewal. Your proposals are approved to the extent of seven years' leases, but I am directed to state that Government should not undertake any obligations beyond the term of seven years. Government should, however, as you propose, have the power to resume any lease on two years' notice being given. The leases should not be sold by public auction, but should, in accordance with your proposals, be assigned to Patels of villages and Coorgs or other residents in the locality. If the lessee gives satisfaction, it will be an advantage to Government to renew the lease to him after the expiration of the term fixed.

5. The Government of India has, on several occasions, urged the great importance of carefully preserving the ghat forests of Coorg, and I am directed to request your particular attention to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Office letter, No. 382, dated the 13th April 1875. It is satisfactory that, in your opinion, the clearings for Cardamom cultivation, if carefully and prudently made, will not endanger the maintenance of the forests, and your proposal to make the Cardamom leases subject to certain conditions as regards the number of clearings per acre and the size of these clearings, is approved. These conditions should, I am to state, be strictly enforced.

6. But it is evident from the report now submitted that clearances for Coffee cultivation and for other purposes are not uncommon. Mr. Dickinson proposes to stop further denudation through such clearings, by demarcating all forests on the slopes of the ghats which may still be at the disposal of Government, and the Superintendent of Coorg justly urges the special importance of preserving the forest on the eastern slopes, comprising the head waters of the streams which supply the Cauvery River.

7. These proposals are in the right direction, and, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, the first point to be attended to in this business is the demarcation to be permanently maintained as forest of those ghat forests of Coorg which have not yet been alienated. As explained in the orders of April 1875, forest conservancy has a special importance in Coorg, for there seems no doubt that

Kanri clearings and denudation are steadily progressing in Malabar and probably also in South Canara, and the conservancy of the Mysore forests is by no means permanently assured.

8. It is mentioned by Mr. Dickinson that the Madras Topographical Survey of Coorg is now in progress. Efforts should be made to push on the demarcation of the reserves here suggested, so that when that survey takes up that part of the country the boundary lines and boundary marks may be ready to be entered on the maps. It has, on several occasions, been laid down that in all matters relating to the preparation of Forest Maps, the Conservator should consult the Superintendent of Forest Surveys, and I am directed now to repeat this injunction.

9. In September 1876, two officers of the superior staff were, at your predecessor's request, assigned to Coorg as a temporary measure. In October 1877, Mr. Saunders reported that this arrangement was no longer necessary, and consequently one of the officers, Mr. Ring, was transferred to Bengal. I am now directed to state that if you should find it desirable to employ a special officer on this work as a temporary measure, endeavours will be made to send a competent officer to Coorg for that purpose.

10. In paragraph 8 of his letter, No. 2,429-58, R. F., dated the 14th February last, received with the letter under reply, the Conservator adverts to the development of the timber export to the Western Coast from the forests in question, and proposes to send Mr. Dickinson to the Western Coast to make careful inquiries into the state of the timber trade there. This, I am directed to state, is a matter of secondary importance, which must not at present be permitted to occupy the attention of the Forest Officers in Coorg.

11. From paragraph 10 of Mr. Dickinson's Report, dated the 20th March 1877, it has been noticed that he was not able to procure a copy of Mr. Ludlow's pamphlet on Cardemom cultivation which would have been useful to him; and in paragraph 15, he states that he was not able to obtain complete lists of the holdings in each leased forest. Mr. Ludlow's pamphlet was printed at the Government Press, Bangalore, and the lists in question were available in the Office of the Superintendent of Coorg. I am directed to state that it would appear to be a waste of time and strength to send a competent officer to undertake a task of considerable difficulty, without placing at his disposal all the information and assistance that could have been obtained.

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N 41-F.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, in continuation of the endorsement from this Department, No. 323, dated the 13th April 1875.

(Signed) C. L. TUPPER,
Offg. Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

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No. 139. ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1878, No. 1,661.

Forests, No. 7.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue and Conservator of Forests for information in continuation of G.O., 29th April 1875, No. 661.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

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

Esq. W. H. French.

No. 960 F.

From

A. O. HUME, Esq., C. B.,

*Secretary to the Government of India,*

To

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce.

Simla, *the 21th September* 1878.

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter No. 287 R, dated the 10th July last, on the subject of leasing out the Cardamom jungles in Coorg.

2. From the papers submitted, and from other papers received on previous occasions, it appears that some time after the occupation of the province, the old plan was abandoned, under which the produce of the Cardamom forests was brought in and bought by Government. After that, and as late as 1863, the Cardamom jungles seem to have been rented out on yearly leases. It is nowhere expressly stated whether these annual leases were sold by public auction; but it is inferred from the papers that they were not sold by auction but were granted year after year to Coorgs and other residents of the vicinity.

3. The system of sale by public auction was apparently introduced when in 1868 leases for ten years were decided upon. The Coorgs who had always worked these forests, wishing to keep them in their hands, and hoping that the high prices then ruling would be maintained, appear to have bid too high, and to have found it difficult to meet their obligations when prices fell some time afterwards.

4. You now propose to grant seven years' leases, renewable up to twenty-one years, the assessment being revised at each renewal. Your proposals are approved to the extent of seven years' leases, but I am directed to state that Government should not undertake any obligations beyond the term of seven years. Government should however, as you propose, have the power to resume any lease on two years' notice being given. The leases should not be sold by public auction, but should, in accordance with your proposals, be assigned to patels of villages and Coorgs or other residents in the locality. If the lessee gives satisfaction, it will be an advantage to Government to renew the lease to him after the expiration of the term fixed.

5. The Government of India has on several occasions urged the great importance of carefully preserving the ghat forests of Coorg, and I am directed to request your particular attention to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this office letter No. 382, dated the 13th April 1870. It is satisfactory that, in your opinion, the

clearings for Cardamom cultivation, if carefully and prudently made, will not endanger the maintenance of the forests, and your proposal to make the Cardamom leases subject to certain conditions as regards the number of clearings per acre and the size of these clearings, is approved. These conditions should, I am to state, be strictly enforced.

6. But it is evident from the report now submitted that clearances for coffee cultivation and for other purposes are not uncommon. Mr. Dickinson proposes to stop further denudation through such clearings, by demarcating all forests on the slopes of the ghâts which may still be at the disposal of Government, and the Superintendent of Coorg justly urges the special importance of preserving the forest on the eastern slopes, comprising the head waters of the streams which supply the Cauvery river.

7. These proposals are in the right direction, and, in the opinion of the Governor General in Council, the first point to be attended to in this business is the demarcation to be permanently maintained as forest, of those ghât forests of Coorg which have not yet been alienated. As explained in the orders of April 1875, forest conservancy has a special importance in Coorg, for there seems no doubt that Kumri clearings and denudation are steadily progressing in Malabar and probably also in South Kanara, and the conservancy of the Mysore forests is by no means permanently assured.

8. It is mentioned by Mr. Dickinson that the Madras Topographical Survey of Coorg is now in progress. Efforts should be made to push on the demarcation of the reserves here suggested, so that when that survey takes up that part of the country, the boundary lines and boundary marks may be ready to be entered on the maps. It has on several occasions been laid down that in all matters relating to the preparation of Forest Maps, the Conservator should consult the Superintendent of Forest Surveys, and I am directed now to repeat this injunction.

9. In September 1876, two officers of the superior staff were at your predecessor's request assigned to Coorg as a temporary measure. In October 1877, Mr. Saunders reported that this arrangement was no longer necessary, and consequently one of the officers, Mr. Ring, was transferred to Bengal. I am now directed to state that if you should find it desirable to employ a special officer on this work as a temporary measure, endeavours will be made to send a competent officer to Coorg for that purpose.

10. In paragraph 5 of his letter No. 2429-58 R. F., dated the 14th February last, received with the letter under reply, the Conservator adverts to the development of the timber export to the Western Coast from the forests in question, and proposes to send Mr. Dickinson to the Western Coast to make careful enquiries into the state of the timber trade there. This, I am directed to state, is a matter of secondary importance, which must not at present be permitted to occupy the attention of the Forest Officers in Coorg.

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office of the Superintendent of Coorg. I am directed to state that it would appear to be a waste of time and strength to send a competent officer to undertake a task of considerable difficulty, without placing at his disposal all the information and assistance that could have been obtained.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. O. HUME,

*Secretary to the Government of India.*

No. 961 F.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from this Department, No. 363, dated the 13th April 1877.

*Offg. Under Secretary to the Government of India.*

1878.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

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FORESTS.

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To

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG.

No. 968 F.

*Dated Simla, the 24th September* 1878.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, No. 1063, dated the 29th April 1878, and of its enclosure, on the subject of leasing out of the Cardamom jungles in Coorg.

I have, &c.

Govt. Central Branch Press, Shimla.—No. 409, S., 1. 9. 78.—250.