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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. *629, Revenue* Press.
B.P. No. _____ Mis.

Dated *29th April 1878* 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

629
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

29th April 1878, No. 629.

Read the following paper:—

No. 258. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th March 1878,
No. 709.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of
Forests, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
dated Erode, 28th February 1878, No. 1,486:—

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I am in receipt of the Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue, No. 220, of the 25th ultimo.

2. With reference to Mr. Logan's remarks that I do not seem to be aware that
all applications for Government Forest land in the Sultan's Battery District are referred
to Mr. Peet, I wish to observe that during my visit to this division Mr. Peet informed
me that he had cleared a boundary line to take in as a forest reserve a very valuable
tract of the Sultan Battery forests; this line commenced some two miles from the
Battery across the new road to Manantoddy, as, owing to the fact that a large number
of native estates had sprung up (by what authority he could not ascertain, but certainly
without any reference to his office) in the vicinity of the Battery, he was not able to
select a large block nearer, and that he had only just heard that Mr. Andrew and
Mr. Prager of Calicut had applied for about 1,000 acres of this, and that the land was
being sold, if not already sold, to them without any reference whatever to his office.

I addressed the Collector on this subject
(vide copy of my letter enclosed) before
No. 838, dated 10th October 1877.

I sent in my inspection report, but the Collector took no notice of it, and I have received
no answer whatever to it. Mr. Peet now informs me that the land applied for by the
gentlemen in question commences two miles from the Battery towards Manantoddy and
is divided into two by the main road and runs along the road for nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and
that its extent is 1,040 acres all included within his proposed reserve, and that it has
now just been sold (only in December last), and that he knew nothing whatever on the
subject till long after the application was made and the survey completed; so it appears
that the land has been sold since my letter to the Collector, and Mr. Peet states that the
whole tract was sold for Rupees 200 (about 3 Annas per acre), whereas it is covered
heavily with Vengai, Mathi, and a good sprinkling of Blackwood (our most valuable
timbers next to Teak), which he values at the lowest possible estimate at 10,000 Rupees;
he also states that there is nothing under the present system to prevent applicants from
taking up land in this way, felling all the timber and giving up the land after four years
have expired and the tax becomes payable; of course this is ruination in a forest district
like Wynaad, and it will be impossible for Government to derive a sufficient revenue
from timber to pay for conservancy if private individuals can acquire forest land in this
way, throw the timber into the market and undersell us. In Mysore and Coorg, not
only in all the forests under Forest Department, but in Mysore, I understand when
land is sold the trees are not sold with it, and in Coorg the trees are all valued and paid
for.

3. The Board will observe by this that Mr. Logan is in error in supposing that
all applications are referred to Mr. Peet; this valuable tract of forest having without
doubt been sold without the Forest Department hearing anything about it or being able
to advise on the subject, and that too after it had actually been demarcated by us as a
most valuable forest tract that should be reserved.

4. Mr. Logan also remarks that "nothing would have been simpler for Colonel Beddome in the course of his inspection there to have taken up any one or more of these and given something tangible to argue about;" this is exactly what I did, and I can only fancy that Mr. Logan had overlooked my letter.

5. Forest land has here been sold on the part of Government for less than 3 Annas per acre, whilst near Nelambur in the same district and not many miles off very similar forest has lately been purchased for Rupees 15 per acre.

6. With reference to what Mr. Logan states about light forest land, I wish to remark that it is now five or six years since I have been in Coorg; but I then learnt that these light forest estates were everywhere being given up and deserted and most of them had quite gone out from the borer, but it is in any case a fact that the country in and around Manantoddy is now a wilderness of deserted estates. The following is a list Mr. Peet forwards of some (though not all) which have gone out and are deserted:—

Manantoddy Club Estate.	Bargherry.
King's Bungalow do.	Richillieu.
Jemima do.	Pandurang.
and several others along	Bushy Park.
the Race-course road	Dindimal.
(names not known).	Collessie.
Pulikadu.	Allatoor.
Ooloot.	Cartacolum.
Kenilworth.	Teddington.
Pugh Tiranhully.	Glanbotton.
Baigoor.	

These were all, I believe, good deciduous forests like the land at Sultan's Battery, except the two last which were only scrub jungles; they are now mostly overgrown with *Lantana*.

7. Near the Nilgiris I may indicate the estate called "Snowdon" near Mudumalai opened out by Mr. James Morgan, and almost all the estates round about Gudalur and others in the vicinity of Cherambady near the Battery; these were all in my recollection more or less fine forest of the description alluded to, and there was much Teak and Blackwood on some of them which was sawn up and sold; they are nearly all now deserted tracts or the next thing to deserted.

8. Planters will, however, if allowed always continue to take up this sort of forest land as apart from the fact that the timber is marketable, which the evergreen forest timber seldom is, the profits for a few years recoup all expenditure and leave a handsome profit. But is it to the advantage of Government to allow the forest to be destroyed when the land is pretty certain to be given up in a few years?

9. I request that this letter may be submitted to Government in continuation of my Wynaad Inspection Report.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to W. LOGAN, Esq.,
Collector of Malabar, dated Ootacamund, 10th October 1877, No. 838.

I HAVE the honor to request that you will inform me if the Pordadi Amshom, a tract of forest between Sultan's Battery and Kaniambetta, has been escheated to Government.

2. I have lately been over a good deal of the forests near Sultan's Battery with Mr. Peet, and although there is little or no Teak there is much Blackwood, Vengai and Mathi, and the forest may be said to be valuable and the growth fine and rapid; so I think that it would be a pity to give up much of it for coffee; the soil is not at all that adapted for permanent coffee cultivation like that in the heavy moist forests of the ghats, and although planters will be eager to take it up as they can get two or three heavy crops off the virgin soil and a quicker return generally than from the heavy forests, the estates are sure to be deserted in a few years and the valuable forest converted into a dense, rank, thorny growth, as I have observed is the ultimate fate of all coffee estates in Wynaad opened out in this style of forest; the virtue of the soil is rapidly exhausted, and the upkeep of the estate then becomes too expensive. I could point you out many hundreds of acres in and near Manantoddy and in the Coorg direction and all throughout Coorg that have

No. 709.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th March 1878.

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3. Mr. Peet informed me that a Mr. Andrew and another gentleman had applied for a large tract near the Battery. I trust that this will not be given up without his being called to report upon it in the first instance as there is much valuable Blackwood and Vengai which should certainly be reserved, besides a fine tract of wild Jack, and parties might take up the forest as much with a view to the sale of the timber as for coffee.

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4. I went over the tract of forest adjoining Beni (which has hitherto always been worked for the Nilgiris) with Mr. Peet and Major Jago, and I will report to Government through you on the question. Mudumallai and the portion of Beni now within the Nilgiri boundary are so far exhausted that they require rest and the Mudumallai establishment can hardly be kept up if this tract is now transferred to the Wynaad Forest Division.

(True Copy.)

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

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 25th January 1878, No. 220.

2. The Acting Collector will report on the subject of paragraph 2 by which it would seem that a considerable tract of land already marked by the Forest Department for reservation was sold to private individuals without reference to the department. Care must be taken to communicate with the Forest Department before alienating land about the reservation of which there is any doubt.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 259. ORDER THEREON, 29th April 1878, No. 629.

Forests, No. 11.

THE Government await the report called for by the Board.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

629/9

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(True Copies and Extract.)

J. Hurst
Acting Sub-Secretary.

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

Erd. W. J. Lewis.

Govt. of 1878 S. 1000000.
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dated April 29th.
Book.
G.O., 29th April 1878, No. 629.
APRIL.
Nos. 258-259.
Land in Wynad Forest Division, Malabar.
District.—Awaiting the report called for by the Board regarding the sale of — marked by the Forest Department for reservation to private individuals without reference to that department.

Revenue Department

1878.

BOARD of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH MARCH 1878, No. 709.

August 24. 78.

Do 629-29 June 1878

Received

4. Church

MARCH.
No. 709.

Wynad Forest Division in Malabar District.—Submitting to Government remarks of Conservator of Forests with reference to Collector's note on the Inspection Report on —, and requesting latter officer to report on the subject of the sale of land marked by Forest Department for reservation to private individuals without reference to the department.

to the department.
delivered

After 65990

The first event - the report - called for by the Board.

629

27/11/2011

[illegible]

C. 27-4-78, P. 29-4-78