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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	816	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17.6.1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th June 1876.*

No. 190. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 14th June 1876, No. 842:—

In continuation of my letter, No. 523, of the 17th of April last, recorded in G.O., No. 581, of the 6th ultimo, I have the honor to forward a further letter* from

* No. 137, dated 29th May 1876.

the Deputy Conservator of the North Coimbatore Division, by which it appears that he cannot be blamed for the burning of the Sandalwood trees.

2. The plot in question was not considered worth keeping up as a plantation, and had been fenced in and left to itself, only being visited, from time to time, by a subordinate of the department. Between two of these visits the land was obtained on durkhast by a false certificate sent in by a Revenue Inspector, the durkhast never being forwarded to the Forest Department according to orders.

3. By a marginal note in the Deputy Conservator's letter, it will be seen that the retirement of the Revenue Inspector has been ordered. Many tracts of forests and even plantations may be alienated and destroyed if durkhasts for forest-land are to be considered legal, unless they have passed through this department.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. W. MORGAN, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Coimbatore Division, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated 29th May 1876, No. 137 (through the Collector of Coimbatore).

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice that when you wrote to me for particulars concerning the burning of the Modully Sandalwood Plantation, the matter then was, and is still, under investigation. All particulars of the burning of the plantation, &c., have now come to light.

2. A plot of land, situated in the Collegal forests, on the banks of the Goondalum river, five miles from the nearest village, and three acres in extent, was durkhasted for by one Kunnoor Mallapaji, and granted to him without any reference to the Forest Department.

2. After cropping the land once or twice, he abandoned it. As Sandalwood seemed to grow well in the vicinity, my predecessor, as an experiment, formed a small plantation and nursery, at a cost of Rs. 134-15-7, and planted out 1,000 seedlings, of these 400 died.

3. As the land was not found suitable for a plantation, it was considered advisable to leave the remaining 600 trees to grow up in a state of nature, to see, as an experiment, how they would get on when left to themselves.

4. The Overseer visited the spot from time to time.

5. In April 1875, I took charge of the range, and was then not aware of the existence of these 600 trees, as the Modully Plantation was included with the Bylore Sandalwood Plantation, and was not separately mentioned.

6. When last inspected by the Overseer, a few weeks before it was burnt, the trees were alive and thriving, and averaged three feet in height.

7. On the 5th May 1875, the Overseer reported that the trees had been destroyed, and plantations put down instead by one Soory Sidda Gounden, who acknowledged, before the Deputy Collector, that there had been a few Sandal trees there.

8. The land was durkhasted for, and a false certificate sent in by the Revenue Inspector

His retirement has been ordered.

A. WEDDERBURN, Collector.

Teven Rao, who is an old man in his dotage and quite incapable of work. He declared that

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th June 1876.*

he had inspected the land, and that there were no trees on it; whereas, by his own confession, it is proved that he never went near it at all.

9. The durkhast was never sent to me for disposal, though it was well known to be forest land, being situated a mile and a-half from the edge of the forest and within it.

10. It is very hard that forest officers should be undeservedly censured* for what they

cannot possibly help. A watchman in so small a plantation was unnecessary, and besides

* *Vide* G.O., No. 581, dated 6th May 1876.

his pay would have counterbalanced any future profit we might have got from the trees.

No. 191. ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1876, No. 816.

Forests, No. 9.

THE explanation submitted is unsatisfactory, and cannot exculpate the Deputy Conservator. He himself admits

that he was not aware of the existence of the plantation when he took charge, and yet he says that the Revenue Department should know all about it, and erred in not bringing the durkhast to his notice. It is not stated how the Forest Department came into possession of the land after it was renounced by the previous durkhastdar Kunnoor Mallapaji.

2. The marginal extract from the Collector's letter, dated 12th April 1876,

"Nor was I officially cognisant of the existence of the plantation. My impression is that, if Sandalwood Plantations are formed, they should be reported by Deputy Conservators, appear by name in the accounts with the establishment * * * *, and should have formed the subject of delivery of charge and monthly report on state."

No. 59, gives clearly the circumstances of the case; and if the measures therein mentioned had been adopted, the Revenue Department would have been cognisant of the existence of the plantation, and the durkhast complained of would not have been given. The danger adverted

to in the concluding sentence of the Conservator's letter could never happen under a proper system of local supervision and of necessary communication to the Revenue officers of the existence of plantations formed from time to time.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.

„ the Board of Revenue, with G.O., No. 581, dated 6th May 1876.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of 1876 Madras
REVENUE.

To
THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 17th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 17th June 1876, No. 816.

JUNE
Nos. 190-191.

Notably Sandalwood Plantations at College in
Coimbatore District. Considering the explanation
submitted regarding the burning of the — to be
unsatisfactory, and cannot exculpate the Deputy
Conservator.

Office of Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund 14th June 1876.

No. 842

From,
Lieut. Col. R. H. Reddome,
Conservator of Forests,
Ootacamund.

To,
The Hon: D. T. Carmichael,
Secretary to Govt, Rev. Dept.
Ootacamund.

Sir,
In continuation of my letter No. 523
of the 17th of April last recorded in G.O. No.
581 of the 6th ultimo I have the honor to
forward a further letter from the Deputy
Conservator of the North Coimbatore
Division by which it appears that he
cannot be blamed for the burning of
the Sandal wood trees.

2. The plot in question was not con-
sidered worth keeping up as a plan-
tation and had been fenced in and left
to itself, only being visited from time
to time by a subordinate of the Dept.,
between two of these visits the land
was obtained on Durkhast by a false
Certificate sent in by a Revenue Inspec-
tor, the Durkhast never being forwarded
forwarded to the Forest Department
according.

As they were not
cultivated from
year past to the
present.

How far between?

according to orders.

3. By a marginal note in the Deputy Conservator's letter it will be seen that the retirement of the Rev. Inspector has been ordered. Many tracts of forests and even plantations may be alienated and destroyed if Durkhasts for forest land are to be considered legal unless they have passed through this Department.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Yours Most Obedt. Servt.

H. B. Siddons Lt. Col.

Conservator of Forests.

could never happen, under a proper system of local supervision and of necessary communication to the Revenue Officers of the sort of plantations, formed from time to

time -

15-6-76

17 June 1876

1 The Rev. Conservator of Forests
in the Office of the Rev. and Secy to the Govt.

Revised 1876 2^d March

Pennine
Strocks

from
the Governor of
Florida

2/10
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

Patrol 14
Repaired 1/5 } since 1896

No 842

Enclandre Des Des

Stacy.

forward with a
letter from the Deputy Governor
- water of Street No. 100 -
in Balore Division regarding
the burning of the ^{Sandalwood} ~~product~~
plantations - 1000000

Printed

Sept. 17. 1874

no. 9.

No. 816

The explanation submitted as
most satisfactory cannot equal
that the Liberty Bazaar - the
himself admits that he was not
aware of the existence of the Bazaar -
taken when he took charge, and yet
he says that the New Bedford Church
threw all about it and erect me
not denying the charge to his notice
It is not stated how the Bazaar light came
into possession of the land after it
was removed by the previous Donor
- the Recorder & the Bazaar -

[illegible]