

(1) Number of Pages.....26
(2) Date of repair.....5-3-69
(3) Initials of the Referencer.....S.V.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	857	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	26.6.1876	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th June 1876.

No. 175. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th May 1876, No. 1,311, Forest No. 48 :—

Read the following :—

Letter from Lieut.-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 1st April 1876, No. 456.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have just completed a tour of three weeks in the Wynaad Forests with Mr. Peet, the Deputy Conservator.

2. The most important matter connected with the Teak forests of Wynaad is the settlement of the Mysore boundary. Mr. Peet states that the Mysore Forest Department has made a great encroachment upon our forests near Rampore. Instead of taking their boundary line from that place along the cart-track which runs along a ridge and follows the water-shed till it meets Tod and Stephens' line at a point near their third stone as proposed by Dr. Cleghorn in 1859, and afterwards agreed to by both Governments, they have adopted a boundary which cuts Tod and Stephens' line at a point much nearer Ooscottah, and about where the second stone was originally placed. We met Mr. Fraser of the Survey Department at Shegabetta; he had just been making a survey of the boundary lines, and he informed me that Mr. Peet was correct in stating that Mysore had encroached upon our boundary as decided by Dr. Cleghorn. I have just received the G.O., No. 398, of the 21st March, and the Board's docket thereon, by which I perceive that the subject is forwarded to the Collector of Malabar for report, and he will doubtlessly lay the whole before Government in due form.

3. This, however, is not the only dispute. Mr. Peet states that the Mysore Forest Department have largely encroached upon our boundary line between the large Mango tree (Yerra man) west of Shegabetta and the Cubbon River. By the Trigonometrical Survey Map, our boundary from this tree runs W.N.W. to a small stream running into the Mavina hulla, thence the Mavina hulla is our boundary till it meets the Carnagal hulla close to its junction with the Cubbon; this was always understood to be our boundary till 1868, when Mysore stated that the Carnagal hulla was their boundary, claiming thereby all the tract

* G.O., Revenue Department, dated 27th April 1868, No. 1,129, with a Map.

G.O., Revenue Department, dated 24th April 1868, No. 103.

lying between these two rivers. By the Government Orders as per margin, it will be seen that a new boundary line was fixed by Lieutenant Fullerton on behalf of Wynaad and Lieutenant van-

Someren on behalf of Mysore, and that each was accompanied by a Revenue Officer. From the Mango tree as far as the small stream running into the Mavina hulla, the old boundary, as laid down in the Trigonometrical Map, was adhered to; thence a line was drawn direct to the junction of the Mavina hulla and Carnagal hulla (exactly N.W.); the trees were blazed the whole way and arrow marks cut here and there by Lieutenant Fullerton; this boundary was sanctioned by both Governments, but I think that there is no doubt that the Mysore Forest Department have cut a boundary considerably to the S.W. of this line as fixed, thereby taking in nearly all the forest they originally

claimed. Mr. Underwood, the Deputy Collector who accompanied the party with Lieutenant Fullerton, came out from Manantoddy, and he and Mr. Fraser of the Survey and some of the Kurumbers also who had been with Lieutenant Fullerton's party went along the whole distance of the line with Mr. Peet and me as far as the Cubbon, and we had no difficulty in following it with the aid of the marks on the trees and the compass, but the boundary as cut by Mysore runs as I have said considerably to the S.W. of this and not up to the junction of the two rivers alluded to. From Lieutenant Fullerton's map and Lieutenant vanSomeren's description, both published in the Government Orders marginally quoted, Mr. Fraser will have no difficulty in laying down this boundary as already settled between the two Governments, nor will he have any difficulty about the dispute near Rampore. The forests are very unhealthy just now and until the 20th of May, but I would suggest that after that date no time should be lost, and that Mr. Peet and one of the Mysore Forest Officers should meet Mr. Fraser and see the question satisfactorily settled. It may seem strange that it has not been detected before, but in a large forest like this nothing can be done without consulting the compass, and great credit is due to Mr. Peet for having detected it. As far as I could learn, these boundaries have been cut entirely by native subordinates of the Mysore Department. By the boundary as adjusted by Dr. Cleghorn near Rampore and again by the line fixed by Lieutenants Fullerton and vanSomeren between the Mavina hulla and the Carnagal hulla, we have lost a very considerable tract of some of the finest Teak that appeared to belong to us by the evidence of the oldest maps, but now there is an attempt at a much greater encroachment.

4. The Wynaad Government Teak Forests cover an area of about 100 square miles; they abound with much valuable Teak besides other valuable timbers, viz., Blackwood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Hone (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), and Mutti (*Terminalia glabra*); they have never as yet been taken in hand systematically and are capable of very much improvement. There is far too much bamboo (chiefly the male bamboo *Dendrocalamus Strictus*) throughout the tracts, besides much worthless growth of softwooded trees, creepers, &c., which should come out and make way for more Teak and Blackwood, and fire annually sweeps through the forests and does very great damage. Felling has been carried on without any proper selection; it is true that only the larger trees have generally been cut, but these have not often been marked or selected with reference to their position, &c.

5. These forests may be said to be the finest Teak tract now belonging to Government. The North Canara Forests have long since gone over to Bombay, and the South Canara Teak Forests are being, I hear, alienated from the State, and the Annamallay Teak Forests, though of finer growth than any thing in Wynaad, are comparatively a small tract, of which a great portion is only held by Government on lease. I think therefore that every thing should be done to improve these forests, and that a considerable sum should be allowed annually for this purpose for several years to come, and I feel certain that money spent upon fostering the natural growth of the seedlings in these tracts will be more advantageously laid out than spending it on any Teak plantations at Nellumbur or any where else either in the plains or hill tracts.

6. It is not proposed to fell timber this ensuing year beyond what may be necessary for Government requirements, and I would restrict it until the whole tract is properly surveyed and marked out into blocks.

7. We cannot possibly attempt any improvements until the forest is divided into blocks with broad rides round them, and forest surveys made of the contents of each, showing the percentage of each description of tree and of bamboos, their ages, &c., and working plans and maps regularly kept in the Forest Office with records as to all improvements proposed or carried on in each block.

8. All this will cost money and be the work of time, but I think it should be commenced at once, and, under a regular system of this sort, these forests will at some future date become a mine of wealth to the State.

9. Throughout the whole tract, which I estimate roughly at about 100 square miles, the Chetties possess many holdings, and besides these there are many portions that might be excluded from our blocks and eventually given up for cultivation.

10. It is impossible to say, even roughly, what the area of these blocks will be until the surveys have been completed; probably not less than sixty square miles; the blocks will vary in size according to circumstances, but none should exceed five square miles in extent. After the surveys have been made, it will probably be necessary to divide the forest into two or three series each under a Sub-Assistant Conservator, and the blocks (which will answer to the "*affectations*" of the French) into compartments (*parcelles*), each block will have its own forest guard or guards and its own records.

11. Mr. Peet is a trained Forest Surveyor, and from his long training in France thoroughly understands the system now proposed, and is most anxious to commence it in his division. I request that early orders may be passed on this subject, and that he may commence at the eastern or the Rampore side of his forests directly the Mysore boundary question is satisfactorily settled.

12. The Benni Teak Forest which adjoins the leased forests of Mudumallay is portion of this Government Wynaad Teak tract, but this has always been attached to the Mudumallay Division, and I think it must remain so.

13. These forests will probably always have to be worked on the *Selection Felling System* (*Jardinage*), the trees being allowed to remain as now of all ages from large timber to seedlings, the system still in force in many mountain forests in Europe; to introduce the system of *felling by rotation of area*, the more advanced European system, it would be necessary to bring the trees of each compartment to one and the same age by the plan called *natural regeneration*; this would be the work of many years and impossible to attempt until we find that we can effectually exclude fire.

14. A few experiments on the latter system would be interesting and instructive, and a few compartments might be selected and laid up for this. I observed a few small tracts of many year old *Takkal* where all the Teak trees were of exactly the same age from the stool, all having been cut down in the same year for cultivation; such tracts are naturally far advanced towards the conditions necessary to introduce this system.

15. Wild elephants are most abundant in these forests; they were trumpeting every night round our camp, and they or their fresh tracks were seen every

day; they are probably increasing rapidly, now that there are strict orders for their preservation, and unless some system of catching them is shortly put in force, they will soon become a great nuisance. They are very destructive to cultivation and to the forests, even in their present uncared-for state, but when systematic forestry comes into play, I am afraid to think of the destruction they will commit. I should like to see them all caught within the next five or six years, and this would not be a question of much expense if both this Government and Mysore took it in hand systematically, and the Mysore Forest Department will be equally anxious on the subject if they intend introducing systematic forestry into their portion of the belt, which I believe they do. We are in the greatest need of elephants for timber operations in several of our forests, but I hear that nearly all those lately caught by Government on different occasions have died either almost directly after their capture or soon after they were handed over to the Forest Department or otherwise disposed of. If this is the case, elephant-catching must be an expensive matter; such loss, however, does not occur in Ceylon and Burmah, and can only be the result of their treatment after capture not being understood.

16. A Mr. Brighter, a German at present at Nellumbur, has been appointed as Forest Ranger for this division under the new revision scheme; he will be quartered in the forests at Chedalett, N.W. of the Battery, or near Rampore as the Deputy Conservator may decide with reference to proposed operations. It is absolutely necessary that a small brick and chunam house should be erected for him immediately; the present hut at Chedalett is a wretched thatched tumble-down hut that no one could be asked to live in. I propose a small house of two rooms built of brick and chunam and tiled similar to the small houses which the Engineer's Department have lately been erecting in different parts of Wynaad, and which I believe have cost about 1,000 Rupees each; and I request that the Deputy Conservator may be allowed to send in a plan and an estimate for it through the Collector, and the godowns, stable, &c., can for the present be temporary thatched huts. Similar houses will be necessary at Rampore, Chedalett, and Goondry, but two of these can wait till next year. The Collector has already sanctioned some 600 or 700 Rupees for a wooden house in the Kodracote Forests west of the Cubbon River, and this is in course of erection, and will do for the present; but the white-ants are so terribly destructive in the Wynaad that no wooden house will last very long.

17. These forests contrast favorably with the Anamallays as regards health; they are I believe quite healthy during the monsoon and cold weather and only feverish between the setting in of the first showers (generally late in March) and the 20th of May; whereas the Anamallay Teak Forests are also very feverish during the cold months (December and January). This year the showers set in unusually early and caught us whilst in camp in the Teak forests, and I anticipated that we should all probably get attacks of jungle fever; and since my return two out of the five servants who accompanied me have been laid up with severe fever, but the others have apparently escaped altogether.

18. These forests should in time become one of the best training grounds for the department.

19. A large area of about twenty-five or thirty square miles of some of the finest growth of Teak and situated nearly in the centre of the belt belongs to the Pulpilly Temple. This was given up to the temple by Government in their Order, Revenue Department, No. 2,551-A, dated 5th December 1862, and it has always been a great thorn in our side; it has quite ruined our market at times, and always opened great facilities for smuggling; the Teak has been cut out most recklessly, and Mr. Peet informs me that there is hardly any of marketable size now left. The Irulers of the temple originally leased it out to a contractor at a very low rate, I believe $3\frac{1}{2}$ Rupees per cart load of 60 cubic feet, but I could not obtain positive information on this point; but this contractor is said to have made a very large profit by again sub-letting it. As it is now nearly worked out, and there will be no Teak available for some years, it is probable that Government could acquire the forest at a reasonable rate either for purchase outright or on stump fee, and I hope that the Collector of Malabar may be empowered to negotiate for it; if not acquired now, it will in future years be a very great drawback to the conservancy of this very important forest, and I think that Government should bid very high for it rather than lose it.

20. A small tract known as the Pambarray Forest is also in dispute; it adjoins the Pulpilly Forest on the S.W., and also contains much Teak; the Poodadi Nambiar who claimed it has died intestate. Government should also get possession of this, if possible. I have asked the Collector to add a note on this subject to this report, as I could not learn much about the right of the question in the district.

21. I was sorry to find that some felling of Hone logs had been undertaken in the Chedalett Forest during the dry season, and that consequently some of the logs had been much injured by fire; this is quite an innovation, as, formerly, felling only went on during the monsoon and the logs were all got out, or safely stored in depôts before the annual fires.

22. We have always looked to Mysore as a market for the timber from these forests, the demand for Bangalore being very great; I was sorry to find that our Mysore Depôt had been given up, rather precipitately I think, considering that the Pulpilly Forests, from which very large supplies have been going annually in that direction, are just exhausted. I have little doubt, however, that we can in time create a considerable market on the coast at Cannanore, Tellicherry, Mangalore, Calicut, &c., but we shall there have to compete against timber brought a shorter distance and by water carriage. Mr. Peet informed me that he had layed down Teak at Tellicherry at 11 Annas the cubic foot, and that it had realized Rupees 1-8-0. It is not necessary, however, just at present to go further into the question of a market, as for several years to come, or until we have got the forests properly planned out, it is not desirable to work them beyond the requirements of the Public Works Department, and then different conditions may obtain.

23. Several roads will be required eventually, but for the present the only one necessary is one that Mr. Peet has already traced between Chedalett and Sultan's Battery, and as this will only cost Rupees 150 to 200, I have sanctioned its being made at once.

24. At Manantoddy I found Mr. Peet living with Mr. Underwood in an old Government building which has been condemned by the Public Works Department, and which appears quite unsafe. I do not know what he will do in the monsoon;

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his office is also in a building which has been condemned as unsafe; he is most anxious that Government should build him a small house and charge him a fair rent, and I think it most necessary that a house and office should at once be built, and I request that Government will give this their earliest consideration. In districts like this our young officers must be properly housed, or they can have no chance of keeping their health.

25. It might be a good plan to get out from England a small iron house of two rooms for the office and two similar ones for the forest instead of two of those proposed in paragraph 16; white-ants are even very destructive to brick buildings in the Wynaad so that iron houses would be very valuable, and probably always fetch their original cost, and besides they would have the advantage of being movable which would be a great consideration in the forest.

26. The Korothe Escheat Forests have lately been handed over to this department; they consist of a tract of heavy evergreen (shola) forests covering a quantity of small hills near the ghats south of Periah and are estimated at 50 square miles by the Tahsildar and 30 square miles by Mr. Peet; they will become a very valuable Cardamom tract if properly attended to, and I request sanction for obtaining the services of a man who understands Cardamom cultivation from Travancore or Mysore (the same to be paid from working charges). This last year 42 maunds were collected for the department by the Kurchias and Kaders at a cost of 450 Rupees, but owing to a combination amongst the Moplah merchants, Mr. Peet could not get offers of more than 25 Rupees per maund, so sales have not been effected. Cardamoms are worth about Rupees 1,000 the candy, which is 50 Rupees per maund, so I directed Mr. Peet to try the Madras and Bombay merchants before effecting sales. About 100 maunds of Myrabolans have also been collected and some Sheekay (soap bean pods or *Acacia concinna*), but these have not yet been sold.

27. Outside our Teak belt, it is very difficult to ascertain what is Government and what private land in the Wynaad, and I trust that a survey and permanent demarcation of Government land may not be long delayed. I observed that the most painful destruction of forests has lately been effected by Moplahs on the slopes of the Bonasore Mountain near Manantoddy. All the heavy forest of some fine ravines protecting streams of considerable size has been felled during the last year or two by Moplahs, nominally for coffee planting, but coffee is often not planted and the tract becomes a mass of rank weeds and impenetrable thorny scrub that can never be eradicated; in fact, a splendid forest is felled and burnt for nothing and the water-supply considerably effected. The ravines of mountains like this and of the slopes of Wynaad should be protected by legislation whether Government or private property.

No. 457.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue, through the Collector of Malabar, with reference to Rule VIII. published with G.O., No. 1,662-A, of 19th November 1875, Revenue Department.

OOTACAMUND,
1st April 1876.

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

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th June 1876.*

Note to the Conservator of Forests' letter, No. 456, dated 1st April 1876, to the Revenue Secretary to Government, submitted with reference to Rule VIII. of the New Forest Rules.

REFERRING to paragraphs 2 and 3, my letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 76, dated 27th March 1876, will show how the question of the disputed boundaries stands. I await the receipt of the Revenue Survey Maps before taking further steps to have the matters in dispute definitely settled. I propose, if necessary, to meet the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore with a view to the final settlement of the questions in issue.

2. Referring to paragraphs 4 to 14, I observe that Mr. Peet has been engaged for some time in the work of ascertaining what is and what is not Government forest, with a view to the introduction of such a system as Colonel Beddome advocates.

3. With reference to paragraph 15, I entirely approve of Colonel Beddome's proposals for catching the elephants as soon as systematic forestry has been introduced; but as this is not likely to be the case for some time, immediate steps are not required. At the same time, there is no doubt that Government will shortly have to consider a question which I have brought forward before, *viz.*, setting aside tracts of forest as refuges for these useful animals, unless meanwhile some way of breeding them in confinement is discovered.

4. Referring to paragraphs 16, 17, 24 and 25, I am quite at one with Colonel Beddome as to the absolute necessity for housing Forest Officers comfortably in such malarious tracts of country as those under notice. When a house is *continuously* inhabited, I think a substantial wooden one with the flooring well raised off the ground is about the best for Wynaad. Planters almost universally now adopt them. They can be made on the coast and carted to the site, and with a little ingenuity they can be made to take to pieces. One more point which I have always considered to be of vital importance to health in Wynaad, is the provision of good deep wells dug in proper situations and as near as possible to the houses. So far as my experience goes, the men who enjoy the best health in Wynaad are the men who either take great care about the water they drink or who never touch it.

5. Paragraph 19.—The acquisition by lease or purchase of the Pulpilly Forests is a matter of much importance for future forest operations, and I shall, if the Government approve, make overtures to that end. I question however if the Irulers will be able to sell the forest outright.

6. With reference to paragraph 20, it seems that the Pambarray Forest was for a long time, and until 1868, worked by the Forest Department. In 1868, operations were suspended because of some claim to the forests set up by the late Poodadi Nambiar. It was not apparently in consequence of any reference from this office that the operations were suspended, and Mr. Peet has been informed that I see no objection to his demarcating the tract and resuming operations. The question of the Poodadi Nambiar escheat is altogether a separate one, and will be brought to the notice of Government in due course and through the usual channel.

7. Referring to paragraph 26, there is, owing to extensive Ponam clearings, very little "heavy evergreen (shola) forest" belonging to the Korothe escheat, and, if I am not mistaken, the Cardamoms collected this last year were taken from some fine forest lying above the ghats between Periah and Korothe.

8. Referring to paragraph 27, I quite agree with Colonel Beddome that a survey and permanent demarcation of all Government forests in Wynaad is urgently required, and more particularly in the neighbourhood of the Bonasore Mountain. Mr. Peet could probably find occupation for a large party during the whole of next season in demarcating the boundaries of such tracts as have been definitely settled. I cannot help fancying that Colonel Beddome is mistaken in supposing that the tracts he alludes to on the Bonasore Mountain, as covered with rank weeds and impenetrable thorny scrub, were never planted with coffee, because Moplahs, of all people in the world, are least likely to spend their money in cutting down forest for no purpose, and because as a matter of fact which I have already brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue large areas of land assessed as coffee are annually thrown up in Wynaad both by natives and

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Europeans. Colonel Beddome's last proposal in this paragraph should doubtless be considered while the new forest law is under discussion; it is one of immense importance in this district where wasteful Ponam cultivation is so largely practised.

CALICUT,
21st April 1876.

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue.

COLONEL Beddome's Inspection Report on the Wynaad Forests will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. Of the two boundary disputes with Mysore, referred to in paragraphs 2

* G.O., dated 21st March 1876, No. 398. and 3 of the Conservator's letter, the former has been referred to the Collector*

of Malabar who, it is observed, proposes, if necessary, to arrange for a meeting between the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore and himself on the subject. This course was approved in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th April 1876, No. 1,108, and further report may be awaited. The latter dispute, as to whether the boundary accepted by Government in the orders quoted has been properly marked in accordance with the decision, can be investigated at the same time.

3. The Teak forests of Wynaad are said by Colonel Beddome to be among the finest Teak forests belonging to the Madras Government, and he urges the desirability of improving and preserving them to the utmost; he thinks money expended in this direction will be better laid out than on plantations whether on the hills or plains. As a preliminary he considers block surveys absolutely necessary, and the Collector states that Mr. Peet is actually engaged in enquiring into the different rights in these forests with a view to more strict conservancy. Colonel Beddome suggests that Mr. Peet may be directed to commence operations by surveying and dividing into blocks so soon as the boundary is settled. The Board approve this suggestion; the details may be left to the Conservator who should himself issue the necessary instructions to Mr. Peet.

4. In paragraph 15, Colonel Beddome suggests that steps should be taken to catch the elephants which now haunt the Wynaad Forests in large numbers, and the Collector approves the proposal. Colonel Beddome observes that the majority of those lately captured have died, and it seems to the Board that some enquiry as to the cause of the extensive mortality amongst these animals should be made before further captures are attempted.

5. The Board fully support the Conservator and Collector in recommending the provision of substantial houses and good wells for the use of Forest Officers. As there seems to be a doubt whether wooden houses or substantial masonry buildings are best, it would be well to try one of each kind. The requisite plans and estimates should be prepared and submitted.

6. As regards the forest attached to the Pulpilly Temple, the Collector should, the Board think, be empowered, as he suggests, to make overtures for its purchase or lease. His action in regard to the Pambaray Forest is approved, and his report on the matter of the escheat awaited.

7. The Board support Colonel Beddome's recommendation in regard to the provision of a house and office for the Deputy Conservator. They have no inform-

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ation as to cost, &c., of iron houses, and cannot therefore offer any opinion as to their suitability, but they are convinced that the provision of good healthy residences for Forest Officers will prove to be economical as well as humane.

8. Further enquiry seems necessary before entering on Cardamom cultivation, but, if it is found that they can be produced profitably in the Government Forests, a skilled man should be procured from Travancore or Coorg.

9. The Board concur in the Collector's remarks in paragraph 27 of Colonel Beddome's letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 176.

ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1876, No. 857.

Forests, No. 14.

THE Government observe that the boundary dispute referred to in paragraph 2 of the Conservator's letter is

under reference to the Collector of Malabar, who has reported that he awaits the receipt of maps of the locality from the Survey Department.

2. In paragraph 3 Lieutenant-Colonel Beddome reports the existence of another dispute on the boundary line between Wynaad and Mysore. His remarks will be communicated to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore; and Mr Logan will be directed to investigate this dispute also in conjunction with the Deputy Commissioner whom he is to meet shortly.

3. The proposals in regard to the survey and division into blocks of the valuable Teak forests of Wynaad are approved.

4. Paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings will be referred to the Judicial Department, where the cause of the mortality among newly-captured elephants is under investigation.

5. Plans and estimates for the buildings referred to in paragraph 5 will be called for in the Public Works Department. They should be prepared in communication with the Collector and the Conservator. The proposal regarding iron houses will be considered in the Public Works Department. The Government admit the desirability of providing proper house-accommodation to their officers in Wynaad.

6. The Collector is authorised to negotiate for the lease or purchase of the forests attached to the Pulpilly Temple.

7. The Government await further report on the subject of Cardamom cultivation.

8. With reference to the points adverted to in paragraph 27 of the Conservator's letter, the Government observe that the survey and demarcation of all Government forests in Wynaad should certainly be proceeded with, as soon as the survey

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of the Nilgiris is completed. The necessity of providing by Legislation against the destruction of forests in ravines protecting streams will be considered in connection with the new Forest Bill.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Judicial Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Collector of Malabar.
„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey
„ the Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ the Legislative Department.

Gobi. of 1876 Madras
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated June, 20th.

Per

Per

G.O., 26th June 1876, No. 857.

JUNE.

Nos. 175-176.

Wynaad Forests, Malabar District.—Passing orders on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reviewing Inspection Report of the Conservator of Forests on the —



FOREST No. 48.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th May 1876, No. 1,311.

Read the following:—

Letter from Lieut.-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 1st April 1876, No. 456:—

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* G.O., Revenue Department, dated 27th April 1868, No. 1,129, with a Map.

G.O., Revenue Department, dated 24th April 1868, No. 103.

Government Orders as per margin, it will be seen that a new boundary line was fixed by Lieutenant Fullerton on behalf of Wynaad and Lieutenant van-

Someren on behalf of Mysore, and that each was accompanied by a Revenue Officer. From the Mango tree as far as the small stream running into the Mavian hulla, the old boundary, as laid down in the Trigonometrical Map, was adhered to; thence a line was drawn direct to the junction of the Mavina hulla and Carnagal hulla (exactly N.W.); the trees were blazed the whole way and arrow marks cut here and there by Lieutenant Fullerton; this boundary was sanctioned by both Governments, but I think that there is no doubt that the Mysore Forest Department have cut a boundary considerably to the S.W. of this line as fixed, thereby taking in nearly all the forest they originally claimed. Mr. Underwood, the Deputy Collector who accompanied the party with Lieutenant Fullerton, came out from Manantoddy, and he and Mr. Fraser of the

Survey and some of the Kurumbers also who had been with Lieutenant Fullerton's party went along the whole distance of the line with Mr. Peet and me as far as the Cubbon, and we had no difficulty in following it with the aid of the marks on the trees and the compass, but the boundary as cut by Mysore runs as I have said considerably to the S.W. of this and not up to the junction of the two rivers alluded to. From Lieutenant Fullerton's map and Lieutenant vanSomeren's description, both published in the Government Orders marginally quoted, Mr. Fraser will have no difficulty in laying down this boundary as already settled between the two Governments, nor will he have any difficulty about the dispute near Rampore. The forests are very unhealthy just now and until the 20th of May, but I would suggest that after that date no time should be lost, and that Mr. Peet and one of the Mysore Forest Officers should meet Mr. Fraser and see the question satisfactorily settled. It may seem strange that it has not been detected before, but in a large forest like this nothing can be done without consulting the compass, and great credit is due to Mr. Peet for having detected it. As far as I could learn, these boundaries have been cut entirely by native subordinates of the Mysore Department. By the boundary as adjusted by Dr. Cleghorn near Rampore and again by the line fixed by Lieutenants Fullerton and vanSomeren between the Mavina hulla and the Carnagal hulla, we have lost a very considerable tract of some of the finest Teak that appeared to belong to us by the evidence of the oldest maps, but now there is an attempt at a much greater encroachment.

4. The Wynaad Government Teak Forests cover an area of about 100 square miles; they abound with much valuable Teak besides other valuable timbers, viz., Blackwood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Hone (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), and Mutti (*Terminalia glabra*); they have never as yet been taken in hand systematically and are capable of very much improvement. There is far too much bamboo (chiefly the male bamboo *Dendrocalamus Strictus*) throughout the tracts, besides much worthless growth of soft-wooded trees, creepers, &c., which should come out and make way for more Teak and Blackwood, and fire annually sweeps through the forests and does very great damage. Felling has been carried on without any proper selection; it is true that only the larger trees have generally been cut, but these have not often been marked or selected with reference to their position, &c.

5. These forests may be said to be the finest teak Tract now belonging to Government. The North Canara Forests have long since gone over to Bombay, and the South Canara Teak Forests are being, I hear, alienated from the State, and the Annamallay Teak Forests, though of finer growth than any thing in Wynaad, are comparatively a small tract, of which a great portion is only held by Government on lease. I think therefore that every thing should be done to improve these forests, and that a considerable sum should be allowed annually for this purpose for several years to come, and I feel certain that money spent upon fostering the natural growth of the seedlings in these tracts will be more advantageously laid out than spending it on any Teak plantations at Nellumbur or any where else, either in the plains or hill tracts.

6. It is not proposed to fell timber this ensuing year beyond what may be necessary for Government requirements, and I would restrict it until the whole tract is properly surveyed and marked out into blocks.

7. We cannot possibly attempt any improvements until the forest is divided into blocks with broad rides round them, and forest surveys made of the contents of each, showing the percentage of each description of tree and of bamboos, their ages, &c., and working plans and maps regularly kept in the Forest Office with records as to all improvements proposed or carried on in each block.

8. All this will cost money and be the work of time, but I think it should be commenced at once, and, under a regular system of this sort, these forests will at some future date become a mine of wealth to the State.

9. Throughout the whole tract, which I estimate roughly at about 100 square miles, the Chetties possess many holdings, and besides these there are many portions that might be excluded from our blocks and eventually given up for cultivation.

10. It is impossible to say, even roughly, what the area of these blocks will be until the surveys have been completed; probably not less than sixty square miles; the blocks will vary in size according to circumstances, but none should exceed five square miles in extent. After the surveys have been made, it will probably be necessary to divide the forest into two or three series each under a Sub-Assistant Conservator, and the blocks (which will answer to the "*affectations*" of the French) into compartments (*Parcelles*), each block will have its own forest guard or guards and its own records.

11. Mr. Peet is a trained Forest Surveyor, and from his long training in France thoroughly understands the system now proposed, and is most anxious to commence it in his division. I request that early orders may be passed on this subject, and that he may commence at the eastern or the Rampore side of his forests directly the Mysore boundary question is satisfactorily settled.

12. The Benni Teak Forest which adjoins the leased forests of Mudumallay is portion of this Government Wynaad Teak tract, but this has always been attached to the Mudumallay Division, and I think it must remain so.

13. These forests will probably always have to be worked on the *Selection Felling System* (*Jardinage*), the trees being allowed to remain as now of all ages from large timber to seedlings, the system still in force in many mountain forests in Europe; to introduce the system of *felling by rotation of area*, the more advanced European system, it would be necessary to bring the trees of each compartment to one and the same age by the plan called *natural regeneration*; this would be the work of many years and impossible to attempt until we find that we can effectually exclude fire.

14. A few experiments on the latter system would be interesting and instructive, and a few compartments might be selected and laid up for this. I observed a few small tracts of many year old *Takkul* where all the Teak trees were of exactly the same age from the stool, all having been cut down in the same year for cultivation; such tracts are naturally far advanced towards the conditions necessary to introduce this system.

15. Wild elephants are most abundant in these forests; they were trumpeting every night round our camp, and they or their fresh tracks were seen every day; they are probably increasing rapidly, now that there are strict orders for their preservation, and unless some system of catching them is shortly put in force, they will soon become a great nuisance. They are very destructive to cultivation and to the forests, even in their present uncared-for state, but when systematic

forestry comes into play, I am afraid to think of the destruction they will commit. I should like to see them all caught within the next five or six years, and this would not be a question of much expense if both this Government and Mysore took it in hand systematically, and the Mysore Forest Department will be equally anxious on the subject if they intend introducing systematic forestry into their portion of the belt, which I believe they do. We are in the greatest need of elephants for timber operations in several of our forests, but I hear that nearly all those lately caught by Government on different occasions have died either almost directly after their capture or soon after they were handed over to the Forest Department or otherwise disposed of. If this is the case, elephant-catching must be an expensive matter; such loss, however, does not occur in Ceylon and Burmah, and can only be the result of their treatment after capture not being understood.

16. A Mr. Brightriter, a German at present at Nellumbur, has been appointed as Forest Ranger for this division under the new revision scheme; he will be quartered in the forests at Chedalett, N.W. of the Battery, or near Rampore as the Deputy Conservator may decide with reference to proposed operations. It is absolutely necessary that a small brick and chunam house should be erected for him immediately; the present hut at Chedalett is a wretched thatched tumble-down hut that no one could be asked to live in. I propose a small house of two rooms built of brick and chunam and tiled similar to the small houses which the Engineer's Department have lately been erecting in different parts of Wynaad, and which I believe have cost about 1,000 Rupees each; and I request that the Deputy Conservator may be allowed to send in a plan and an estimate for it through the Collector, and the godowns, stable, &c., can for the present be temporary thatched huts. Similar houses will be necessary at Rampore, Chedalett, and Goondry, but two of these can wait till next year. The Collector has already sanctioned some 600 or 700 Rupees for a wooden house in the Kodracote Forests west of the Cubbon River, and this is in course of erection, and will do for the present; but the whiteants are so terribly destructive in the Wynaad that no wooden house will last very long.

17. These forests contrast favorably with the Anamallays as regards health; they are I believe quite healthy during the monsoon and cold weather and only feverish between the setting in of the first showers (generally late in March) and the 20th of May; whereas the Anamallay Teak Forests are also very feverish during the cold months (December and January). This year the showers set in unusually early and caught us whilst in camp in the Teak forests, and I anticipated that we should all probably get attacks of jungle fever; and since my return two out of the five servants who accompanied me have been laid up with severe fever, but the others have apparently escaped altogether.

18. These forests should in time become one of the best training grounds for the department.

19. A large area of about twenty-five or thirty square miles of some of the finest growth of Teak and situated nearly in the centre of the belt belongs to the Pulpilly Temple. This was given up to the temple by Government in their Order, Revenue Department, No. 2,551-A, dated 5th December 1862, and it has always been a great thorn in our side; it has quite ruined our market at times, and always opened great facilities for smuggling; the Teak has been cut out most recklessly,

and Mr. Peet informs me that there is hardly any of marketable size now left. The Irulers of the temple originally leased it out to a contractor at a very low rate, I believe $3\frac{1}{2}$ Rupees per cart load of 60 cubic feet, but I could not obtain positive information on this point; but this contractor is said to have made a very large profit by again sub-letting it. As it is now nearly worked out, and there will be no Teak available for some years, it is probable that Government could acquire the forest at a reasonable rate either for purchase outright or on stump fee, and I hope that the Collector of Malabar may be empowered to negotiate for it; if not acquired now, it will in future years be a very great drawback to the conservancy of this very important forest, and I think that Government should bid very high for it rather than lose it.

20. A small tract known as the Pambarray Forest is also in dispute; it adjoins the Pulpilly Forest on the S.W., and also contains much Teak; the Poodadi Nambiar who claimed it has died intestate. Government should also get possession of this, if possible. I have asked the Collector to add a note on this subject to this report, as I could not learn much about the right of the question in the district.

21. I was sorry to find that some felling of home logs had been undertaken in the Chedalett Forest during the dry season, and that consequently some of the logs had been much injured by fire; this is quite an innovation, as, formerly, felling only went on during the monsoon and the logs were all got out, or safely stored in depôts before the annual fires.

22. We have always looked to Mysore as a market for the timber from these forests, the demand for Bangalore being very great; I was sorry to find that our Mysore Depot had been given up, rather precipitately I think, considering that the Pulpilly Forests, from which very large supplies have been going annually in that direction, are just exhausted. I have little doubt, however, that we can in time create a considerable market on the coast at Cannanore, Tellicherry, Mangalore, Calicut, &c., but we shall there have to compete against timber brought a shorter distance and by water carriage. Mr. Peet informed me that he had layed down Teak at Tellicherry at 11 Annas the cubic foot, and that it had realized Rupees 1-8-0. It is not necessary, however, just at present to go further into the question of a market, as for several years to come, or until we have got the forests properly planned out, it is not desirable to work them beyond the requirements of the Public Works Department, and then different conditions may obtain.

23. Several roads will be required eventually, but for the present the only one necessary is one that Mr. Peet has already traced between Chedalett and Sultan's Battery, and as this will only cost Rupees 150 to 200, I have sanctioned its being made at once.

24. At Manantoddy I found Mr. Peet living with Mr. Underwood in an old Government building which has been condemned by the Public Works Department, and which appears quite unsafe. I do not know what he will do in the monsoon; his office is also in a building which has been condemned as unsafe; he is most anxious that Government should build him a small house and charge him a fair rent, and I think it most necessary that a house and office should at once be built, and I request that Government will give this their earliest consideration. In districts like this our young officers must be properly housed, or they can have no chance of keeping their health.

25. It might be a good plan to get out from England a small iron house of two rooms for the office and two similar ones for the forest instead of two of those proposed in paragraph 16; whiteants are even very destructive to brick buildings in the Wynaad so that iron houses would be very valuable, and probably always fetch their original cost, and besides they would have the advantage of being movable which would be a great consideration in the forest.

26. The Korothe Escheat Forests have lately been handed over to this department; they consist of a tract of heavy evergreen (shola) forests covering a quantity of small hills near the ghats south of Periah and are estimated at 50 square miles by the Tahsildar and 30 square miles by Mr. Peet; they will become a very valuable Cardamom tract if properly attended to, and I request sanction for obtaining the services of a man who understands Cardamom cultivation from Travancore or Mysore (the same to be paid from working charges). This last year 42 maunds were collected for the department by the Kurchias and Kaders at a cost of 450 Rupees, but owing to a combination amongst the Moplah merchants, Mr. Peet could not get offers of more than 25 Rupees per maund, so sales have not been effected. Cardamoms are worth about Rupees 1,000 the candy, which is 50 Rupees per maund, so I directed Mr. Peet to try the Madras and Bombay merchants before effecting sales. About 100 maunds of Myrabolans have also been collected and some Sheekay (soap bean pods or *Accacia concinna*), but these have not yet been sold.

27. Outside our Teak belt, it is very difficult to ascertain what is Government and what private land in the Wynaad, and I trust that a survey and permanent demarcation of Government land may not be long delayed. I observed that the most painful destruction of forests has lately been effected by Moplahs on the slopes of the Bonasore Mountain near Manantoddy. All the heavy forest of some fine ravines protecting streams of considerable size has been felled during the last year or two by Moplahs, nominally for coffee planting, but coffee is often not planted and the tract becomes a mass of rank weeds and impenetrable thorny scrub that can never be eradicated; in fact, a splendid forest is felled and burnt for nothing and the water-supply considerably affected. The ravines of mountains like this and of the slopes of Wynaad should be protected by legislation whether Government or private property.

No. 457.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue, through the Collector of Malabar, with reference to Rule VIII. published with G.O., No. 1,662-A, of 19th November 1875, Revenue Department.

OOTACAMUND,
1st April 1876.

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

Note to the Conservator of Forests' letter, No. 456, dated 1st April 1876, to the Revenue Secretary to Government, submitted with reference to Rule VIII. of the New Forest Rules.

Referring to paragraphs 2 and 3, my letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 76, dated 27th March 1876, will show how the question of the disputed boundaries stands. I await the receipt of

the Revenue Survey Maps before taking further steps to have the matters in dispute definitely settled. I propose, if necessary, to meet the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore with a view to the final settlement of the questions in issue.

2. Referring to paragraphs 4 to 14, I observe that Mr. Peet has been engaged for some time in the work of ascertaining what is and what is not Government forest, with a view to the introduction of such a system as Colonel Beddome advocates.

3. With reference to paragraph 15, I entirely approve of Colonel Beddome's proposals for catching the elephants as soon as systematic forestry has been introduced; but as this is not likely to be the case for some time, immediate steps are not required. At the same time, there is no doubt that Government will shortly have to consider a question which I have brought forward before, viz., setting aside tracts of forest as refuges for these useful animals, unless meanwhile some way of breeding them in confinement is discovered.

4. Referring to paragraphs 16, 17, 24 and 25, I am quite at one with Colonel Beddome as to the absolute necessity for housing Forest Officers comfortably in such malarious tracts of country as those under notice. When a house is *continuously* inhabited, I think a substantial wooden one with the flooring well raised off the ground is about the best for Wynaad. Planters almost universally now adopt them. They can be made on the coast and carted to the site, and with a little ingenuity they can be made to take to pieces. One more point which I have always considered to be of vital importance to health in Wynaad, is the provision of good *deep* wells dug in proper situations and as near as possible to the houses. So far as my experience goes, the men who enjoy the best health in Wynaad are the men who either take great care about the water they drink or who never touch it.

5. Paragraph 19.—The acquisition by lease or purchase of the Pulpilly Forests is a matter of much importance for future forest operations, and I shall, if the Government approve, make overtures to that end. I question however if the Irulers will be able to sell the forest outright.

6. With reference to paragraph 20, it seems that the Pambarray Forest was for a long time, and until 1868, worked by the Forest Department. In 1868, operations were suspended because of some claim to the forests set up by the late Poodadi Nambiar. It was not apparently in consequence of any reference from this office that the operations were suspended, and Mr. Peet has been informed that I see no objection to his demarcating the tract and resuming operations. The question of the Poodadi Nambiar escheat is altogether a separate one, and will be brought to the notice of Government in due course and through the usual channel.

7. Referring to paragraph 26, there is, owing to extensive Ponam clearings, very little "heavy evergreen (shola) forest" belonging to the Korothe escheat, and, if I am not mistaken, the Cardamoms collected this last year were taken from some fine forest lying above the ghats between Periah and Korothe.

8. Referring to paragraph 27, I quite agree with Colonel Beddome that a survey and permanent demarcation of all Government forests in Wynaad is urgently required, and more particularly in the neighbourhood of the Bonasore Mountain. Mr. Peet could probably find occupation for a large party during the whole of next season in demarcating the boundaries of such tracts as have been definitely settled. I cannot help fancying that Colonel Beddome is mistaken in supposing that the tracts he alludes to on the Bonasore Mountain, as covered with rank weeds and impenetrable thorny scrub, were never planted with coffee, because Moplahs, of all people in the world, are least likely to spend their money in cutting down forest for no purpose, and because as a matter of fact which I have already brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue large areas of land assessed as coffee are annually thrown up in Wynaad both by natives and Europeans. Colonel Beddome's last proposal in this paragraph should doubtless be considered while the new forest law is under discussion; it is one of immense importance in this district where wasteful Ponam cultivation is so largely practised.

CALICUT,
21st April 1876.

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

It is
Korothe
not Korothe
see para 26
of the new
Forest Rules
better

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue.

COLONEL Beddome's Inspection Report on the Wynaad Forests will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. Of the two boundary disputes with Mysore, referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Conservator's letter, the former has been referred to the Collector*

* G.O., dated 21st March 1876, No. 398. of Malabar who, it is observed, proposes, if necessary, to arrange for a meeting between the Deputy Commissioner of Mysore and himself on the subject. This course was approved in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th April 1876, No. 1,108, and further report may be awaited. The latter dispute, as to whether the boundary accepted by Government in the orders quoted has been properly marked in accordance with the decision, can be investigated at the same time.

3. The Teak forests of Wynaad are said by Colonel Beddome to be among the finest Teak forests belonging to the Madras Government, and he urges the desirability of improving and preserving them to the utmost; he thinks money expended in this direction will be better laid out than on plantations whether on the hills or plains. As a preliminary he considers block surveys absolutely necessary, and the Collector states that Mr. Peet is actually engaged in enquiring into the different rights in these forests with a view to more strict conservancy. Colonel Beddome suggests that Mr. Peet may be directed to commence operations by surveying and dividing into blocks so soon as the boundary is settled. The Board approve this suggestion; the details may be left to the Conservator who should himself issue the necessary instructions to Mr. Peet.

4. In paragraph 15, Colonel Beddome suggests that steps should be taken to catch the elephants which now haunt the Wynaad Forests in large numbers, and the Collector approves the proposal. Colonel Beddome observes that the majority of those lately captured have died, and it seems to the Board that some enquiry as to the cause of the extensive mortality amongst these animals should be made before further captures are attempted.

5. The Board fully support the Conservator and Collector in recommending the provision of substantial houses and good wells for the use of Forest Officers. As there seems to be a doubt whether wooden houses or substantial masonry buildings are best, it would be well to try one of each kind. The requisite plans and estimates should be prepared and submitted.

6. As regards the forest attached to the Pulpilly Temple, the Collector should, the Board think, be empowered, as he suggests, to make overtures for its purchase or lease. His action in regard to the Pambaray Forest is approved, and his report on the matter of the escheat awaited.

7. The Board support Colonel Beddome's recommendation in regard to the provision of a house and office for the Deputy Conservator. They have no information as to cost, &c., of iron houses, and cannot therefore offer any opinion as to their suitability, but they are convinced that the provision of good healthy residences for Forest Officers will prove to be economical as well as humane.

8. Further enquiry seems necessary before entering on Cardamom cultivation, but, if it is found that they can be produced profitably in the Government Forests, a skilled man should be procured from Travancore or Coorg.

9. The Board concur in the Collector's remarks in paragraph 27 of Colonel Beddome's letter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Calcutta
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ the Collector of Malabar.

„ the Conservator of Forests.

The Government observe
that the boundary dispute
refers to the Kharofai
Census area; Letter is under
reference to the Collector
of Malabar, who has reported
that he awaits ^{the} receipt
of Kharofai locality from
the Survey Dept.

In para 3d. Col Hedden reports the existence of another dispute on the boundary line between Wynaad & Mysore. His remarks will be communicated to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, & his opinion will be desired to decide the dispute also in conjunction with the Deputy Commissioner whom he is to meet shortly.

3. A. 27. June 1868. 22645
 - 2. May/68. N. 197-198
 - 5. Dec/62. N. 89-90
 - 19. Jan/75. N. 224-226
 - 21. Nov/76. N. 192-98
 - 11. May/76. N. 90-94.

Annex 1876. *Appendix*
 Board of Revenue,
 MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH MAY 1876, No. 1, 311

Q. 20/12/29 0104/76
Encl

Kenn

Ms. A. 9. 2. 6. 1. 8. 7. 1876

Received

2^d June 1907

MAY.

Forest No. 48.

If you had Forests—in Malabar District.—
Submitting for orders of Government Inspec-
tion Report of Conservator of Forests on — and
remarks of Collector thereon.

The proposals in regard
to ^{the} Survey & demarcation into
blocks of the valuable State
Forest of which roads are approved.

Para 4 of the Board's proceedings
will be referred to the
Department, where the
cause of the
mortality among newly
captured elephants is
under investigation.

Plans estimates for the
building referred to in
para 5 will be called for
in the Public Works Dept.

They had be prepared in con-
junction with the

Collector & the Conservator.
The proposal regarding workmen will
be considered in the Public Works Dept.
The Collector is authorized
to negotiate for the lease
or purchase of the forests at-
tached to the Pulpellig
Temple.

The Government awaits
further report on the subject
of cardamom cultivation.

vide p 17: May 1876 to 95

The Govt. admit the desirability
of promoting proper house
accommodation for
officers in Mysore.

For orders

Orders are required on
the subject of para 27 of the
Conservator's letter.
The points referred to are

(1) The Survey & demarcation
of the Forest in Mysore

(2) The necessity of promoting the
legislation against the destruction
of forests in Mysore protecting
streams from contamination.

The Commission
Forest Law Bd 22/6

addition to the
draft p 10 -

with reference to the
points adverted to in
para 27 of the Conservator's
letter, the Govt. observe
that the survey & de-
marcation of all forest
tracts in Mysore is
certainly be proceeded
with, as soon as the survey
of the State forests is
completed. The necessity
of providing by legislation
against the destruction of
forests in Mysore from
cutting streams will be
considered in connection
with the new Forest Bill.

150
10

*This is certainly
a proceeding of
the Govt. as the
Bill is now in
complete
12/6 1876*

22/6

- 14 To the Board of Revenue, 7 July
- 21 The Conservator of Forests 5
- 5 The Judicial Dept
- 21 The Civil Dept
- 4 The Collector of Malabar 5
- 10 The Secy of Revenue 5
- 26 The Secy of Revenue 5
- 5 The Legislative Dept

