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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	982	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	28-6-1878.	198.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

28th June 1878, No. 982.

Read the following paper:—

No. 338. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th June 1878, No. 1,575.

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 29th May 1878, No. 137:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in paragraph 2 of Board's Proceedings, No. 709, dated 16th March 1878.

2. I am asked to report why "a considerable tract of land already marked by the Forest Department for reservation was sold to private individuals without reference to the Department."

3. The block in question was applied for on 24th April 1876. It was surveyed by the Revenue Survey Department. On 14th August 1877, Mr. Peet, the Deputy Conservator, addressed me on the subject of the grant of this land and of another piece in the same neighborhood. He described the land in the following terms in paragraph 6 of his letter: "I certainly considered this tract worth reservation for several reasons, and therefore commenced enlarging the Amshom boundary immediately on the completion of that part of the Revenue Survey. My chief reasons were that we should have a fixed and permanent boundary in this direction; and because the forest was of average quality, was easily accessible and was part of the only continuous block of forest left in this part of the Amshom." And, again, in paragraph 9 "Mr. Fraser (a mistake for Mr. Prager, the agent of the applicant) is under the impression that there is scarcely any valuable timber on the land, but my opinion differs from his. In many parts, it is true, the forest has been felled out for ragi cultivation; but I am under the impression that there is a considerable sprinkling of Blackwood and Vengay besides Benteak and a few other useful woods. The chief growth is Mutty which I consider a first-class tree, but which unfortunately has little market value."

4. Colonel Beddome in paragraph 2 of his letter, embodied in the Proceedings now under reference, speaks of it as "a very valuable tract of the Sultan Battery Forests" and as "covered heavily with Vengay, Mutty and a good sprinkling of Blackwood (one most valuable timber next to Teak) which he (Mr. Peet) values at the lowest possible estimate at Rupees 10,000."

5. The Board will see that the two accounts do not by any means agree. Mr. Peet's forest "of average quality" with a growth chiefly of Mutty, a first-class wood, but unfortunately of little market value, has now become, according to Colonel Beddome, a "most valuable forest tract" (paragraph 3 of his letter) heavily covered with most valuable timber.

6. The fact is that long before the application was made I was personally very well acquainted with the tract in question, and I considered that it was a most suitable locality for coffee-planting. There has lately been a great desire evinced by planters to secure blocks of land near the Idikal rock, a precipitous hill which rises abruptly from the plateau and which is believed in some way or other to attract the early showers on which the success of coffee-planting so much depends. The Idikal rock immediately adjoins this tract on the south. Knowing this and Mr. Peet's opinion that it was a forest of average quality with a chief growth of a timber of small market value coinciding with my own observations on the subject, I had no hesitation in deciding that the sale should proceed.

7. The sale accordingly took place after the usual preliminaries by public auction, and the result shows that Colonel Beddome's opinion as to the marketable value of the timber on the land is not shared by others.

8. Colonel Beddome, the Board will observe, falls into another mistake in saying that the tract had been marked out by Mr. Peet for reservation. The first extract from Mr. Peet's letter quoted above shows that he had merely "commenced" the work.

9. Finally, as regards the previous reference to the department. It is true that the application was not first of all sent to Mr. Peet for report. That was in accordance with previous practice up to that time. It was Mr. Peet's report, which I have quoted, that led to the adoption of the new procedure of referring all applications for coffee lands in certain tracts to him in the first instance. On my reply, No. 1,296, dated 21st August 1877, he sent me another report, No. 160, dated 29th August. I need not trouble the Board with these letters, but I enclose copy of my final letter on the subject to Mr. Peet, No. 1,337-A, dated 3rd September 1877, copy of which was sent to Colonel Beddome for information. Colonel Beddome's report on the Wynad Forests (Board's Proceedings, No. 220, dated 25th January 1878) is dated 27th October 1877. The Board will, I think, understand, on perusal of my letter of 3rd September, how natural it was I should be surprised at Colonel Beddome's remarks in paragraph 8 of his report regarding previous reference of applications for land to his department.

10. After these observations, the Board will understand what weight ought to be attached to Colonel Beddome's remarks in paragraphs 3 and 4 of his letter embodied in the Proceedings under reference.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to A. W. PEET, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wynad, dated Palghat, 3rd September 1877, No. 1,337-A.

REPLYING to your letter, No. 160, dated 29th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that I chanced to meet Colonel Beddome here after your letter reached me. We talked over the matter and agreed that no applications for coffee land within the boundaries of the blocks you have laid down are to be entertained till after you have seen and reported on the land applied for; but we both also thought that there is a great deal of land within these blocks which is nearly useless for forest purposes and therefore that your proposal to stop for the future all grants within those limits whatever is impracticable. We, in short, agreed that no grant should be made without consulting you, but that applications for lands within those limits should continue to be entertained.

2. In future, therefore, I beg you will inquire into each application as soon as possible after it reaches you, and let the Deputy Collector know if you agree to the land being made over for cultivation. If you think it should not be granted, I beg you will be so good as to set forth in returning the application your reasons for so thinking. I reserve to myself personally the power of deciding whether the land should be reserved or not.

3. I understand Colonel Beddome wishes you to restrict as much as possible the area of the blocks which are eventually to be broken up into parcels and treated scientifically. As soon as you have decided on the reservation of any such block and have marked out its limits it will be sufficient for you when reporting on land applications, to state that the land lies within the limits of reserve block so and so. That one reason will be accepted by the Revenue Department as conclusive that the land cannot be granted.

4. I presume that in reporting to Colonel Beddome recommending the reservation of any such block your report will be sent through me, so that I may have an opportunity of stating any objections that may exist and that may have been overlooked in respect of each such block. It would be a convenient arrangement too if, before sending on your reports to Colonel Beddome recommending block reservations, you were to consult the Deputy Collector and submit his views in writing along with your report.

5. I forward copies of your letter and of this to Colonel Beddome and to the Deputy Collector, Wynad.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 16th March 1878, No. 709.

2. It appears from the Collector's letter that Colonel Beddome was mistaken in supposing that the tract in question had been marked out for reservation by the Forest Department as it was not until after the survey had been made in consequence of the application for the land for planting purposes that the Deputy Conservator informed the Collector he had commenced to demarcate it. The land was applied for in April 1876, and Mr. Logan's letter to the Deputy Conservator, dated 3rd September 1877, shows clearly that up to that time it had not been usual to refer such applications for the opinion of the Forest Department. The course indicated in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Board's Proceedings, dated 25th January 1878, will obviate all misunderstanding for the future. The value of the timber on the tract referred to seems to have been overestimated by Colonel Beddome.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 339.

ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1878, No. 982.

Forests, No. 17.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

No. 1,575.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th June 1878.

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 29th May 1878, No. 137:—

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2. I am asked to report why "a considerable tract of land already marked by the Forest Department for reservation was sold to private individuals without reference to the Department."

3. The block in question was applied for on 24th April 1876. It was surveyed by the Revenue Survey Department. On 14th August 1877, Mr. Peet, the Deputy Conservator, addressed me on the subject of the grant of this land and of another piece in the same neighborhood. He described the land in the following terms in paragraph 6 of his letter: "I certainly considered this tract worth reservation for several reasons, and therefore commenced enlarging the Amshom boundary immediately on the completion of that part of the Revenue Survey. My chief reasons were that we should have a fixed and permanent boundary in this direction; and because the forest was of average quality, was easily accessible and was part of the only continuous block of forest left in this part of the Amshom." And, again, in paragraph 9 "Mr. Fraser (a mistake for Mr. Prager, the agent of the applicant) is under the impression that there is scarcely any valuable timber on the land, but my opinion differs from his. In many parts, it is true, the forest has been felled out for ragi cultivation; but I am under the impression that there is a considerable sprinkling of Blackwood and Vengay besides Benteak and a few other useful woods. The chief growth is Mutty which I consider a first-class tree, but which unfortunately has little market value."

4. Colonel Beddome in paragraph 2 of his letter, embodied in the Proceedings now under reference, speaks of it as "a very valuable tract of the Sultan Battery Forests" and as "covered heavily with Vengay, Mutty and a good sprinkling of Blackwood (one most valuable timbers next to Teak) which he (Mr. Peet) values at the lowest possible estimate at Rupees 10,000."

5. The Board will see that the two accounts do not by any means agree. Mr. Peet's forest "of average quality" with a growth chiefly of Mutty, a first-class wood, but unfortunately of little market value, has now become, according to Colonel Beddome, a "most valuable forest tract" (paragraph 3 of his letter) heavily covered with most valuable timber.

6. The fact is that long before the application was made I was personally very well acquainted with the tract in question, and I considered that it was a most suitable locality for coffee-planting. There has lately been a great desire evinced by planters to secure blocks of land near the Idikal rock, a precipitous hill which rises abruptly from the plateau and which is believed in some way or other to attract the early showers on which the success of coffee-planting so much depends. The Idikal rock immediately adjoins this tract on the south. Knowing this and Mr. Peet's opinion that it was a forest of average quality with a chief growth of a timber of small market value coinciding with my own observations on the subject, I had no hesitation in deciding that the sale should proceed.

Vide vol 338.

Govt. of 1878

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June 28th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 28th June 1878, No. 983.

JUNE.

No. 338-359.

Land in Wynad in the Malabar District.—
Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
submitting Collector's explanation as to why a
considerable tract of — was sold to private
individuals without reference to that depart-
ment.

2

7. The sale accordingly took place after the usual preliminaries by public auction, and the result shows that Colonel Beddome's opinion as to the marketable value of the timber on the land is not shared by others.

8. Colonel Beddome, the Board will observe, falls into another mistake in saying that the tract had been marked out by Mr. Peet for reservation. The first extract from Mr. Peet's letter quoted above shows that he had merely "commenced" the work.

9. Finally, as regards the previous reference to the department. It is true that the application was not first of all sent to Mr. Peet for report. That was in accordance with previous practice up to that time. It was Mr. Peet's report, which I have quoted, that led to the adoption of the new procedure of referring all applications for coffee lands in certain tracts to him in the first instance. On my reply, No. 1,296, dated 21st August 1877, he sent me another report, No. 160, dated 29th August. I need not trouble the Board with these letters, but I enclose copy of my final letter on the subject to Mr. Peet, No. 1,337-A, dated 3rd September 1877, copy of which was sent to Colonel Beddome for information. Colonel Beddome's report on the Wynaad Forests (Board's Proceedings, No. 220, dated 25th January 1878) is dated 27th October 1877. The Board will, I think, understand, on perusal of my letter of 3rd September, how natural it was I should be surprised at Colonel Beddome's remarks in paragraph 8 of his report regarding previous reference of applications for land to his department.

10. After these observations, the Board will understand what weight ought to be attached to Colonel Beddome's remarks in paragraphs 3 and 4 of his letter embodied in the Proceedings under reference.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to A. W. PEET, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, Wynaad, dated Palghat, 3rd September 1877, No. 1,337-A.

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2. In future, therefore, I beg you will inquire into each application as soon as possible after it reaches you, and let the Deputy Collector know if you agree to the land being made over for cultivation. If you think it should not be granted, I beg you will be so good as to set forth in returning the application your reasons for so thinking. I reserve to myself personally the power of deciding whether the land should be reserved or not.

3. I understand Colonel Beddome wishes you to restrict as much as possible the area of the blocks which are eventually to be broken up into parcels and treated scientifically. As soon as you have decided on the reservation of any such block and have marked out its limits it will be sufficient for you when reporting on land applications, to state that the land lies within the limits of reserve block so and so. That one reason will be accepted by the Revenue Department as conclusive that the land cannot be granted.

4. I presume that in reporting to Colonel Beddome recommending the reservation of any such block your report will be sent through me, so that I may have an opportunity of stating any objections that may exist and that may have been overlooked in respect of each such block. It would be a convenient arrangement too if, before sending on your reports to Colonel Beddome recommending block reservations, you were to consult the Deputy Collector and submit his views in writing along with your report.

5. I forward copies of your letter and of this to Colonel Beddome and to the Deputy Collector, Wynaad.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. LOGAN,
Collector.

56 2/3 982/4

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SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 16th March 1878, No. 709.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

J. Murray
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Malabar
" " Conservator of Forests

Exd. W. H. French.

1029.4.40 25.8.59.
25.3.78 - 3.3.36.

14. Local Board of Revenue

Revenue Deptt
No. 2099

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

1878.

PROCEEDINGS, 11TH JUNE 1878, No. 1,575.

(24/2/6/78)

Encl.

Received

Ch. B. R.

JUNE.
No. 1,575.

Land in Wynad in Malabar District —
already reserved by the Forest Department for
reservation. Submitting to Government letter
from Collector explaining why a considerable
tract of lands sold to private individuals with-
out reference to that department.

24/2/6/78
Received
25 June 1878

27-6-78 No. 338