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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

12th September 1878, No. 1,500.

Read the following papers:—

No. 169. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th May 1878, No. 1,239.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th March 1878, No. 1,537.

I have the honor to inform you that I have just completed a tour of inspection in the Tinnevelly Forest Division.

2. I went out to Papanasam with Mr. Hayne, and we visited most of the mountain forests which protect the sources of the Tambrapurni river; and I ascended to the top of the Agnasteermallay (6,200 feet), from which I had a magnificent view of the lay of the different tracts of forests, *i.e.*, the Singampatty forests, the Kutlaymallay, the Payar Shola or Attraymallay forests, and the courses of the different streams feeding the Tambrapurni river.

3. Government are aware of the late alienation of the Kutlaymallay forest; it is a track of some 3,000 or 4,000 acres of magnificent virgin forest of the heaviest ever-green description, the felling of which will, I fear, cause great loss in the district, but it is now, I suppose, too late for any interference; it has been demarcated and lately surveyed by Mr. Cass, but the plan is not yet ready, and I do not know the exact area; it is almost all mountain slope on which the preservation of the forest is most important for climatic reasons. Some natives have already felled some 200 or 300 acres or more at an elevation of about 1,800 to 2,300 feet, but the greater bulk of the forest which is at higher elevations and more important has, I believe, passed into the hands of some European planters and is all about to be felled for coffee at an early date; in fact, a small clearing has already commenced.

4. The district had a rude example of what a flood can do on the 13th of last December, and I understand that the damage to bridges, roads, and tanks is not less than 1½ lakhs of rupees, besides great damage to crops and salt. It would be a bold assertion to say that the small felling which has already taken place added much to the volume of this flood; but I visited the tract to see the effects, and I have no hesitation in saying that, to a certain degree, its intensity must have been increased. The splendid leafy canopy in these ever-green forests is so dense that it rains for some minutes before any drops come through, and then it comes down so lightly that it is soaked up in the soft humus and debris that forms the upper stratum of the surface soil. When the trees are all felled and burnt much of this

humous and debris is also burnt, and the rest is swept down by the first heavy rains; after this whenever there is violent rain, it rushes off down the sides of the mountains forming numerous sluices where nothing of the sort existed before. If all the rest of the Kuttaymallay forest is felled, I anticipate that the result will be very serious. I do not know whether it is too late for Government to interfere, but I believe it would be a good policy to pay a very large sum to save the remainder from destruction.

5. This, however, is not all; the whole of the Singampatty forests are threatened, and I believe doomed if Government do not interfere; this tract is variously estimated from 100 to 200 square miles (all superb ever-green forests), the boundaries not being known or demarcated; if this or any great portion of it is felled, it will be an act of vandalism that will be bitterly repented when it is too late, and it will be impossible to say what ruin it will not bring on the Tinnevelly District.

6. I am not sure that Government have resigned all claim to these mountain forests in question, or that it is too late for them to interfere; but it is generally supposed that they have, and it is only the accident of the Zemindar being a Minor that the whole or large tracts have not already disappeared before the axe of the coffee planter; many of the coffee planters wish to get the land, and it is a superb coffee tract, and directly the Zemindar gets his majority, which, I believe, occurs in 1880 or 1881, all the forest will be bought up.

7. If, therefore, Government resign all claims to these forests, they must be treated under a Forest Act. Treated as a timber forest a considerable annual revenue will always accrue from removing only the equivalent to the annual reproduction, and from the tracts where carriage would be too heavy an item to remove the timber at a profit, a good revenue can be got from Cardamoms and other forest-products without destroying the forest. Given up to coffee, the estates at the least are not likely to last thirty or forty years if any thing like as much (many are deserted in three or four years), and then the heavy forest can never be renewed; a thorny almost impenetrable scrub, which we call a Kumari tract through which the fire runs every year preventing any renewal of soil, takes its place; knowing this, is it not madness to allow these fine forests to be destroyed, even if we doubted their influence on the climate, rain-fall, and water-storage below?

8. That great floods and corresponding droughts must occur if these ghaut forests are destroyed is a question that no one who has visited these steep mountain forests, and knows the heavy rain-fall that often occurs in the north-east monsoon can over, I think, doubt; other climatic considerations, such as actual rain-fall, radiation, vapor, temperature, &c., are more occult, but scientific meterecological observations on these influences in our heavy forests and the deforested tracts would well repay the Government.

9. The exceptionally heavy forests which clothe these steep mountains above a certain elevation are evidently a provision of nature; when they are destroyed the climatic changes will probably be rapid and startling.

10. I am writing about a part of the country where the preservation of the forests is, I consider, of more importance than any where else in the Presidency, but it is far away from all beaten tracts and not likely to be visited by any one but officials and others in the district; but to exemplify the damage of floods on deforested mountain slopes, I would draw attention to the slopes above the Coonoor ghaut; if any one riding up this ghaut will occasionally look up at the slopes above the ghaut on their right hand both below and above Burliar, they will see what quantities of land-slips there have been, and how the rain-fall has caused the formation of numerous sluices on the faces of the slopes quite distinct from the original streams; there is now never a really heavy shower such as occasionally occurs in October, November, or December, when there is a good north-east monsoon, but we have land-slips, and boulders of rock and trees are swept down over both the new

and old ghaut; the bridges are often destroyed and the road rendered impassable. I have been on the ghaut whilst violent north-east rain has been falling, and the soil from above has been carried over the road in regular streams like lava. Until very lately, or before all these clearings commenced, I never knew the ghaut obstructed in the heaviest rain; the importance of the preservation of these forests was often before Government, and strict orders have, from time to time, been issued that no more forests should be alienated; it has, however, all disappeared, and I believe that the same will occur elsewhere without a Forest Act and more authority vested in this department. These Coonoor ghaut slopes comprise a very small area compared with the forest slopes that I may style the Tambrapurni reservoir, and, for the most part, they were light deciduous forest which would not appear to be nearly as important to reservoir as the heavy ghaut forests now in question; but the damage even here is beyond question, and expenditure in future years for repairing the two Coonoor ghauts will, in consequence of these clearings, probably far exceed any revenue that can be derived temporarily from the coffee cultivation.

11. Nearly all the forest in this district above a certain elevation being of the ever-green description generally called "Shola" and the surface soil consequently more or less moist, fire never enters it; consequently, fire-traced reserves are not of importance here for climatic considerations, as they are in our dry districts; the lower portions of the mountains are, however, more or less clothed with dry deciduous forest where reservation and fire-tracing is of importance for the supply of timber, as Vengay, one of the most favorite timbers in this district, and other valuable sorts only affect these tracts and never grow in the moister forest above. Some years ago Mr. Puckle, when Collector, introduced a very good system of conservancy here; he cut a broad ride or fire-trace a little up the mountains running in parallel with the base of the hills; all below this ride was considered communal forest and open to free felling, grazing, &c.; above this ride parties with free licenses or fire-wood tickets were not admitted; grazing was also excluded, and fire kept out; in fact, it was a reserved forest; this system was particularly adapted to this district, and was answering exceedingly well, and the reserved tract above the ride or fire-trace was showing most marked improvement, so much so that almost every one in the district remarked the rapid growth of, and change for the better in the character of the forest above this ride. Mr. Puckle's trace perhaps did not give quite sufficient open forest just in the vicinity of Courtallam, but this is a matter of detail that might be corrected by the Revenue Authorities, but the provision further south was, I believe, more than ample. In December 1876, the acting Collector, Mr. Stuart, not realising the damage that can be done by fire and graziers' axes, applied to the Board to be allowed to throw open all the ghaut forests for grazing for one year, upon which Government, in their Order, No. 849, of the 27th February 1877, ordered the grazing to be general, thereby upsetting all Mr. Puckle's arrangements, and cattle and consequently fire are admitted every where, and much that has been done towards conservancy is now all undone. Government, however, remark that they will sanction special reserves; special blocks might, of course, be demarcated and fire-traced, but this will be a far more difficult and expensive system and much less effectual than that established by Mr. Puckle; and I strongly recommend that his plan be re-adopted as there can be no real objection to it if the tract outside the ride be sufficient for the wants of the people. Mr. Payne informs me that the cattle-graziers take in axes and bill-hooks and cut down the young Vengay (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) saplings just as they cut down the Red Sanders in Cuddapah, so that there can be no conservancy unless grazing is restricted; but this practice is much against the timber-supply and the interests of the people in general, and can never, I think, be necessary in a district like this where there is generally plenty of grass, and it should be put a stop to by law even in the communal tracts.

12. I give below the receipts and charges since my last Inspection report; the eleven months for 1877-78 show a considerable deficit, but if the anticipated receipts and expenditure for March, viz., 4,400 and 1,850, be added, the deficit will be considerably reduced.

STATEMENT of Receipts and Expenditure of the Tinnevelly Forests from 1876-77 to February 1878.

Months.	Receipts.	Expenditure. A. "Conservancy and Works."	Expenditure. B. "Establishment and Contingencies."	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
April 1876	1,066	87	931	1,018
May "	1,053	307	929	1,236
June "	1,183	116	861	977
July "	1,913	1,109	930	2,039
August "	6,445	662	972	1,634
September "	1,701	1,160	560	1,720
October "	1,197	1,417	1,023	2,440
November "	424	717	971	1,688
December "	1,253	562	1,061	1,623
January 1877	1,235	396	956	1,352
February "	1,016	802	1,005	1,807
March "	3,819	1,423	*1,200	2,623
Total	22,409	9,077	12,279	21,356
April 1877	1,270	421	1,581	2,002
May "	1,197	966	2,070	3,036
June "	2,616	885	1,433	1,318
July "	1,995	1,003	1,105	2,107
August "	8,738	1,161	1,508	2,669
September "	1,442	1,984	500	1,484
October "	1,045	191	1,593	1,784
November "	1,904	843	1,014	1,857
December "	262	14	994	1,008
January 1878	711	329	1,056	1,385
February "	1,288	1,965	1,410	2,376
Total ...	17,360	7,701	13,304	21,105
Grand Total ...	39,838	16,778	25,584	42,461

* Includes Rs. 600 balance of Rs. 1,200

13. The causes of the deficit, Mr. Hayne informs me, are attributable to the short crop of Cardamoms, an additional expenditure of Rs. 1,200 for the salaries and travelling allowances of Mr. Gass for three months, to the famine, and subsequently to the continuous wet weather which occurred from October to January. Mr. Hayne's extra travelling allowance (viz., Rs. 569) whilst employed on the Travancore Boundary Work has also been debited against the forest which I consider a mistake as this is a work quite distinct in itself, and the total charges have, I believe, to be borne equally by both Governments, so I request sanction that the sum may be refunded to Forests and debited to the boundary work.

14. I went over some of the boundary with Mr. Hayne, and I consider that it has been a needless expense cutting it along some of the higher portions of the ghauts, such as Aghastearmalay and the hills to the south of it; these higher portions which rise up to 6,000, 6,000 feet are only covered with very stunted jungle, and the climate is so bleak and the places so inaccessible that they must always remain a sort of no man's land of no value to either Governments; the boundary line should have been cut along the water-shed wherever the forests can ever be possibly of any value either as forest or for coffee or tea, but the cutting of any line was quite unnecessary along some of the higher elevations, and it would

be sufficient if the maps show that the water-shed was the accepted boundary along such tracts, and I would advise that this system be followed when the demarcation is continued north of Courtallam; the up-keep of the boundary line will be a considerable expense, particularly up in these inaccessible places, and I would suggest that it be only kept up where necessary.

15. The heavy rains have completely flooded the tank-beds for many months, and Mr. Hayne has consequently been prevented from doing very much in the way of felling the Babul trees and recouping the expenditure incurred; attention will be given to this, now that the dry weather has set in. It will be better to hand these tracts back to the Revenue Authorities when the timber has been removed, as any expenditure on conservancy is valueless as long as cattle and goats are allowed in indiscriminately; under proper restrictions, however, much timber might have been made annually available both for the public and the railway.

16. The demarcation of the Government and Zemindari forest is still all-important; it is at present* postponed until the Travancore boundary is finally settled.

* *Vide* paragraph 7, G.O., No. 759, of 21st February 1877.

17. In my last report amongst other reductions, Mr. Hayne was only allowed two clerks instead of three in his Office, as I considered that two should be sufficient; he now informs me that it is utterly impossible for him to get through his office-work without the third clerk, so I request sanction for the increase (Rupees 15 *per mensem*), though I feel that economy is very necessary here for the present, as the division is not likely to do more than pay its expenses, if that, for some years to come.

18. I have nothing further to add since my last report, recorded in G.O., No. 759, of the 21st February 1877.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

No. 216.

Memorandum.

I HAVE really nothing to add to Colonel Beddome's report. It appears to me to be absolutely conclusive as to the very urgent necessity for immediate action if the magnificent irrigation of the Tambraparni River is not to be utterly destroyed, and I do *most earnestly* trust that such action may be no longer delayed. It is a matter of immediate necessity that we should, by some means or other, secure the control of the "Kudayanallay," and ultimately of the whole Singampetti Forest. I hope I am not apt to be too confident in expressing my opinions, and, indeed, on many of the problems of administration I am doubtful enough; but on this particular subject I may claim to speak with some confidence, for I am perfectly familiar with the whole country affected, and have studied the question both on the spot with the aid of all the local information obtainable and also in the office of the Board of Revenue most anxiously and continuously for the last eleven years or more, and I am satisfied that the mischief that has occurred has already been the cause of incalculable damage, and that, if nothing is done soon it will not be very long before the ruin of the river valley will have been completed; and we in Tinnevelly, at any rate, shall have to write "*too late*" on our forest legislation.

2. It is only those who have actually seen the progress of coffee cultivation from its first small beginnings, just about the time I first joined this district, who can form an adequate idea of the ravages the planters have already committed and of the imminent risk to this district if clearings are permitted at the same rate on the eastern slopes of the ghauts.

3. The very steepness of the Kudayanallay in particular is a source of peculiar danger, and I am not at all sure that Colonel Beddome is altogether wrong in ascribing a good deal of the excessive violence of the two last floods to the comparatively small felling that has taken place already. But however that may be, the experiment of clearing the sources of our water-supply is too risky for any Government to permit, and I feel confident that the Board who have always consistently urged upon Government the necessity for getting complete control of the head-waters of the Tambraparni will do their utmost to secure the continued prosperity of the district *before it is too late*.

4. I entirely approve of Colonel Beddome's proposal to revert to Mr. Puckle's system of conservancy, only modified as he suggests. It was an admirable system, perfectly suited to the district, as I have already remarked in reporting on Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 4,365, dated 23rd March 1877.

4. Not wishing to lose a day in forwarding Colonel Beddome's most interesting report, I have written without special reference to previous correspondence, though I might have referred to whole volumes that have been written to the same effect year after year by every Forest and Revenue-officer in the district.

P.S.—As regards the financial aspect of forest conservancy in this district, I deprecate the idea of any pressure being put upon the local executive to show direct pecuniary profits.

2. It will be many years, I believe, before the Forests of this district can properly be made to pay for the establishment required to conserve them, and meantime we ought to be satisfied with the immense indirect benefit to be expected from rigorous conservancy.

TRICHENDUR,
24th March 1878.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Collector.

No. 1,538.

FORWARDED to Government through the Collector of Tinnevelly and the Board of Revenue with reference to Rule VIII published with G.O., No. 1,562-A, of the 19th November 1875, Revenue Department.

OOTACAMUND,
19th March 1878.

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

COLONEL BEDDOME'S inspection report on the Tinnevelly Forests, with Mr. Pennington's remarks thereon, will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The main feature of the report is Colonel Beddome's strong appeal, supported by the Collector, that far more efficient measures than are now in force should be immediately introduced to prevent the destruction of the Singampatti, Kutlaymallay, and Attraymallay forests. The prosperity of a great part of the Tinnevelly District depends on the irrigation under the Tambraparni and its affluents, and the water-supply and distribution of these rivers again depends, in great measure, on the conservancy of the forests in the tracts above mentioned. In this aspect Colonel Beddome considers forest conservancy here to be of greater importance than any where else in the Presidency, and Mr. Pennington most earnestly trusts that action may be no longer delayed.

3. The Board have no information regarding the Attraymallay, but the Singampatti forests are in the hands of the Court of Wards, and therefore safe until 1881, when the Minor attains his majority, while as regards the Kutlaymallay it has been decided that it is the absolute property of a temple Trustee who has definitely rejected all overtures made to him for its acquisition by Government. It, therefore, appears that the only action now called for is the speedy introduction of a Forest Act under which the Government will be able to interfere and regulate the administration of all forests by whomsoever owned.

4. Colonel Beddome reports that the bulk of the Kutlaymallay has already passed into the hands of European coffee planters, and that unless Government interferes, the very much more extensive Singampatti forests will follow, and proceeds to draw a vivid picture of the ruin and devastation which must necessarily ensue if steps are not taken to prevent it. Mr. Pennington looks on the report as absolutely conclusive, and is satisfied that the delay that has occurred has already been the cause of incalculable damage, and that if nothing is done soon it will not be very long before the ruin of the river valley will have been completed.

5. In his inspection report, dated 3rd November 1876, Colonel Beddome drew attention in somewhat similar, though less forcible, language to the mischief which he considered would result from the extension of coffee cultivation in these forests, but the only notice taken of the subject in G.O., dated 21st February 1877, No. 759, was the remark in paragraph 7 that the Government learn with satisfaction that coffee planting is extending as mentioned in paragraph 27 of the Conservator's letter.

6. From this remark the Board infer that the Government are far from sharing Colonel Beddome's forebodings, but they respectfully submit that the subject is one which deserves anxious and careful consideration. If the views so strongly held by the Conservator and the Collector are even approximately correct, the interests of cultivators paying a revenue of about ten lakhs of rupees are most seriously endangered. On the other hand, the benefits accruing to a district and to the Presidency generally from the extension of the Cinchona, Tea, and Coffee-planting industries are far too great to be lightly sacrificed, and general prohibition at any rate should not be resorted to until it has been clearly ascertained that the object aimed at cannot be secured by merely regulating the conditions under which forest land is allowed to be taken up by planters. There will always be a mean between wholesale exclusion of the feller and planter and wholesale neglect of forest conservation which no theories can fix but which must be decided in different localities according to their particular circumstances, but in any case it is desirable that Government should be armed with full powers to act, when a decision has been arrived at, and the Board would strongly urge that steps be at once taken for the passing of a Forest Act for this Presidency, or the introduction of Act VII of 1878.

7. The extent of the Singampatti forests is estimated at from 160 to 200 square miles, while the Kutlaymallay is a comparatively small tract of from 3,000 to 4,000 acres. As already stated the Singampatti forests are safe till 1881, but the Kutlaymallay is rapidly being denuded, and Colonel Beddome is of opinion that it would be good policy to pay a very large sum to save the remainder from destruction. The Board observe, however, that, in his letter recorded with G.O., dated 29th September 1871, No. 1,702, Colonel Beddome remarked that unless the Government got control of the Singampatti forests, it would scarcely be worth while to treat for the Kutlaymallay. Looking to the comparative size of the two tracts, the Board are inclined to think that the earlier opinion formed by Colonel Beddome is the more correct one, and the Kutlaymallay may be left alone till a Forest Act has been introduced and a decision come to with reference to the action to be adopted when the Singampatti forests have been made over to the Minor.

8. In paragraph 7 of his report, the Conservator alludes to the forest revenue which might be secured by treating the tracts as timber forests, and asks if it is not madness to allow these fine forests to be destroyed even if their influence on the climate, rain-fall and water-storage be doubted, and in paragraph 10 he alludes to damage caused by floods far exceeding any revenue that can be derived from coffee cultivation. The Board need hardly remark that it is on account of the indirect benefits resulting from coffee planting far more than for the mere direct revenue that they would deprecate any uncompromising discouragement of its extension in Tinnevelly. It is only, indeed, in exceptional cases that they would refuse forest land to coffee planters on considerations other than those connected with the influence of forests on the rain-fall and water-supply, and they observe that the Imperial Forest Act, on which the Local Act will probably be based, does not authorise the interference of Government in private forests for the mere preservation of timber as such (Section 35).

9. In their Proceedings, recorded with G.O., dated 25th September 1876, No. 1,335, the Board have remarked that when land is replanted, as in the case of coffee-clearings, with shrubs which prevent the evaporation of moisture, the danger to the sources of large rivers does not appear to be such as to justify any heavy outlay, and, in their order thereon, the Government remark that it is out of the question to incur the very heavy outlay which the preservation of the hill sides all over the country must necessarily lead to. It is also to be noted that this difficulty of expense will not be got over by treating the forests under an Act, unless its provisions are much less liberal than those of Act VII of 1878, Section 37, of which vests in any proprietor, whose forests have been interfered with, the right of compelling Government to take them up under the Land Acquisition Act. It is, therefore, essential to use great caution in resolving on any measures for the regulation of private forests in demand for coffee planting.

10. Another danger is alluded to by Colonel Beddome in paragraph 7, where he remarks that coffee plantations are often deserted in three or four years "and then the heavy forest can never be renewed, a thorny almost impenetrable scrub which we call a Kumari trace through which the fire runs every year, preventing any renewal of soil, takes its place." If fire *does* run through every year, the renewal of the heavy forest will undoubtedly be indefinitely delayed, but as a matter of fact Kumari tracts on the western ghauts are usually sufficiently renovated in eight years to make it worth while to burn them again, and the Board are inclined to believe that the state of the jungle in abandoned Kumari tracts of five or six years' standing is by no means unfavorable to the stay of evaporation, although it may have lost its humus for the retention of moisture and possess greatly deteriorated advantages for the growing of timber. In paragraph 8 of his report, Colonel Beddome suggests that scientific meteorological observations in the forests of the Presidency would well repay Government. The Board are not aware if there is any one in the Forest Department possessed of the requisite qualifications, but they consider it important that the ratio of evaporation at several altitudes should be determined as regards (*a*) ever-green forests, (*b*) deciduous forests, (*c*) coffee plantations in full bearing with the amount of shade now considered necessary, (*d*) abandoned Kumari tracts of a few years' standing.

11. Information might also be obtained from other parts of India regarding the cases in which it has been considered necessary to interfere to prevent the extension of coffee or tea planting in forests not the property of Government and the measures which have been adopted for the purpose.

12. In paragraph 11 of his report Colonel Beddome refers to Mr. Puckle's plan of cutting a broad ride or fire-trace a little up the mountains running parallel with the base, and considering all below the trace as communal forest and all above it as reserved. Both the Conservator and the Collector deprecate the Order of Government, dated 27th February 1877, No. 849, remarking that His Grace was not aware of any such restrictions having been authorised, and directing that they should be cancelled.

13. This order appears to have been issued under a partial misapprehension, on the receipt of a communication from the Conservator's Office to the effect that it did not appear from the records that any Government order had been issued authorising the closing of the forests to cattle. It appears, however, that the Collector reported his action as regards the Tenkasi Taluk in November 1873, the Board entirely approved his arrangements, and in G.O., dated 2nd February 1874, No. 148, his proceedings were highly commended. The Board support the recommendation that Mr. Puckle's method be reverted to subject to such modification in matters of detail as may be found on local considerations to be desirable.

14. Mr. Hayne's extra travelling allowance while engaged on the Travancore boundary settlement should certainly have been debited to that work, and the necessary adjustment should now be made.

15. The Board do not agree with Colonel Beddome in considering it unnecessary to mark out the boundary line between Tinnevelly and Travancore in the more inaccessible parts of the hills. It may be done as inexpensively as possible by raising piles of stones, by marking in a permanent way prominent rocks, particular trees, or other natural features easily recognisable, but it ought to be distinctly defined as disputes are always liable to crop up. When there is no active dispute a boundary can be agreed to without difficulty, but if settlement is left till dispute requires it, disposal becomes far less easy.

16. The Board consider that the additional clerk applied for in paragraph 17 may be sanctioned.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 170. From Lieut.-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to L. A. CAMPBELL, Esq., Under-Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 2nd July 1878, No. 567.

In reply to your Official Memorandum, No. 13[illegible], of the 1st instant, I have the honor to inform you that the Payar Shola or A[illegible]malay forests, referred to in my last inspection report on the Tinnevelly for[illegible]on, all belongs to Government and the forests claimed by [illegible] ment. The tract is situated between the Kuf[illegible] the Singampatti Zemindar.

No. 171. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1878, No. 1,500.

Forests, No. 8.

G.O., 8th May 1878, No. 695.

Zeal[illegible]tri[illegible]alre[illegible]pro[illegible]

operations in private forests will be dealt w[illegible] lation now under the consideration of Gove

2. With regard to the removal of th entry into the ghaut forests, the Governm 1877, No. 849, need not be held to bar the

G.O., 2nd February 1874, No. 148.

3. In his report on the Tinnevel Captain C. Walker, the Officiating Inspec

G.O., 30th October 1874, No. 1,380, paragraph 4.

have yet reached Government, and the r visit to the district under G.O., 30th Jul

(True

The scrutiny of the claims of [illegible]rs to forest lands in the dis[illegible] Tinnevelly and Madura has been urged, and is now in [illegible], and the question of regulating [illegible]nnection with the Forest Legis[illegible]

[illegible]as imposed by Mr. Puckle on [illegible]e that G.O., 27th February [illegible]ce of those arrangements for [illegible]i Taluk which were distinctly

[illegible]dated 24th September 1874, [illegible]ts, took exception to some of [illegible]e's measures, and the Collector [illegible] upon to explain his system. [illegible] to this reference appears to [illegible]y now await Captain Walker's [illegible]. 1,105.

) L. A. CAMPBELL,
[illegible]der Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 1,239.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 9th May 1878.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 19th March 1878, No. 1,537: —

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have just completed a tour of inspection in the Tinnevelly Forest Division.

2. I went out to Papanasam with Mr. Hayne and we visited most of the mountain forests which protect the sources of the Tambrapurni river, and I ascended to the top of the Aghasteermallay (6,200 feet) from which I had a magnificent view of the lay of the different tracts of forests, *i.e.*, the Singampatty forests, the Kutlaymallay, the Payar Shola or Attraymallay forests, and the courses of the different streams feeding the Tambrapurni river.

3. Government are aware of the late alienation of the Kutlaymallay forest; it is a tract of some 3,000 or 4,000 acres of magnificent virgin forest of the heaviest evergreen description, the felling of which will, I fear, cause great loss in the district, but it is now, I suppose, too late for any interference; it has been demarcated and lately surveyed by Mr. Gass, but the plan is not yet ready, and I do not know the exact area; it is almost all mountain slope on which the preservation of the forest is most important for climatic reasons. Some natives have already felled some 200 or 300 acres or more at an elevation of about 1,800 to 2,300 feet, but the greater bulk of the forest which is at higher elevations and more important has, I believe, passed into the hands of some European planters and is all about to be felled for coffee at an early date; in fact, a small clearing has already commenced.

4. The district had a rude example of what a flood can do on the 18th of last December, and I understand that the damage to bridges, roads, and tanks is not less than 1½ lakhs of Rupees, besides great damage to crops and salt; it would be a bold assertion to say that the small felling which has already taken place added much to the volume of this flood, but I visited the tract to see the effects, and I have no hesitation in saying that to a certain degree its intensity must have been increased; the splendid leaf canopy in these evergreen forests is so dense that it rains for some minutes before any drops come through, and then it comes down so lightly that it is soaked up into the soft humus and debris that forms the upper stratum of the surface soil; when the trees are all felled and burnt much of this humus and debris is also burnt and the rest is swept down by the first heavy rains; after this whenever there is violent rain it rushes off down the sides of the mountains forming numerous sluices where nothing of the sort existed before. If all the rest of the Kutlaymallay forest is felled I anticipate that the result will be very serious. I do not know whether it is too late for Government to interfere, but I believe it would be a good policy to pay a very large sum to save the remainder from destruction.

5. This however is not all; the whole of the Singampatty forests are threatened and I believe doomed if Government do not interfere; this tract is variously estimated from 100 to 200 square miles (all superb evergreen forests), the boundaries not being known or demarcated; if this or any great portion of it is felled it will be an act of vandalism that will be bitterly repented when it is too late, and it will be impossible to say what ruin it will not bring on the Tinnevelly District.

6. I am not sure that Government have resigned all claim to these mountain forests in question, or that it is too late for them to interfere, but it is generally supposed they have, and it is only the accident of the Zemindar being a Minor that the whole or large tracts have not already disappeared before the axe of the coffee planter; many of the coffee planters wish to get the land, and it is a superb coffee tract, and directly the Zemindar gets his majority, which I believe occurs in 1880 or 1881, all the forest will be bought up.

7. If therefore Government resign all claims to these forests they must be treated under a Forest Act. Treated as a timber forest a considerable annual revenue will always accrue from removing only the equivalent to the annual reproduction, and from the tracts where carriage would be too heavy an item to remove the timber at a profit, a good revenue can be got from Cardamoms and other forest products without destroying the forest. Given up to coffee the estates at the least are not likely to last thirty or forty years if anything like as much (many are deserted in three or four years), and then the heavy forest can never be renewed; a thorny almost impenetrable scrub which we call a Kumari tract through which the fire runs every year preventing any renewal of soil takes its place; knowing this, is it not madness to allow these fine forests to be destroyed? even if we doubted their influence on the climate, rainfall, and water-storage below.

8. That great floods and corresponding droughts must occur if these ghaut forests are destroyed is a question that no one who has visited these steep mountain forests and knows the heavy rainfall that often occurs in the north-east monsoon can ever, I think, doubt, other climatic considerations, such as actual rainfall, radiation, vapor, temperature, &c., are more occult, but scientific metereological observations on these influences in our heavy forests and the deforested tracts would well repay the Government.

9. The exceptionally heavy forests which clothe these steep mountains above a certain elevation are evidently a provision of nature; when they are destroyed the climatic changes will probably be rapid and startling.

10. I am writing about a part of the country where the preservation of the forests is I consider of more importance than anywhere else in the Presidency, but it is far away from all beaten tracts and not likely to be visited by any one but officials and others in the district, but to exemplify the damage of floods on deforested mountain slopes I would draw attention to the slopes above the Coonoor ghaut; if any one riding up this ghaut will occasionally look up at the slopes above the ghaut on their righthand both below and above Burliar, they will see what quantities of land-slips there have been, and how the rainfall has caused the formation of numerous sluices on the faces of the slopes quite distinct from the original streams; there is now never a really heavy shower such as occasionally occurs in October, November, or December when there is a good north-east monsoon, but we have land-slips, and bolders of rock and trees are swept down over both the new and old ghaut; the bridges are often destroyed and the road rendered impassable. I have been on the ghaut whilst violent north-east rain has been falling, and the soil from above has been carried over the road in regular streams like lava. Until very lately; or before all these clearings commenced, I never knew the ghaut obstructed in the heaviest rain; the importance of the preservation of these forests was often before Government and strict orders have from time to time been issued that no more forests should be alienated; it has however all disappeared, and I believe that the same will occur elsewhere without a Forest Act and more authority vested in this department. These Coonoor ghaut slopes comprize a very small area compared with

the forest slopes that I may style the Tambraparni reservoir, and for the most part they were light deciduous forest which would not appear to be nearly as important to reserve as the heavy ghaut forests now in question, but the damage even here is beyond question, and expenditure in future years for repairing the two Coonoor ghauts will in consequence of these clearings probably far exceed any revenue that can be derived temporarily from the coffee cultivation.

11. Nearly all the forest in this district above a certain elevation being of the evergreen description generally called "Shola" and the surface soil consequently more or less moist, fire never enters it; consequently fire-traced reserves are not of importance here for climatic considerations as they are in our dry districts; the lower portions of the mountains are however more or less clothed with dry deciduous forest where reservation and fire-tracing is of importance for the supply of timber, as Vengay, one of the most favorite timbers in this district, and other valuable sorts only affect these tracts and never grow in the moister forest above. Some years ago Mr. Puckle, when Collector, introduced a very good system of conservancy here; he cut a broad ride or fire-trace a little up the mountains running in parallel with the base of the hills; all below this ride was considered communal forest and open to free felling, grazing, &c.; above this ride parties with free licenses or firewood tickets were not admitted; grazing was also excluded, and fire kept out; in fact, it was a reserved forest; this system was particularly adapted to this district and was answering exceedingly well, and the reserved tract above the ride or fire-trace was showing most marked improvement so much so that almost every one in the district remarked the rapid growth of, and change for the better in the character of, the forest above this ride. Mr. Puckle's trace perhaps did not give quite sufficient open forest just in the vicinity of Courtallam, but this is a matter of detail that might be corrected by the Revenue authorities, but the provision further south was, I believe, more than ample. In December 1876, the Acting Collector, Mr. Stuart, not realizing the damage that can be done by fire and graziers' axes, applied to the Board to be allowed to throw open all the ghaut forests for grazing for one year, upon which Government in their Order, No. 849, of the 27th February 1877, ordered the grazing to be general, thereby upsetting all Mr. Puckle's arrangements, and cattle and consequently fire are admitted everywhere, and much that has been done towards conservancy is now all undone. Government however remark that they will sanction special reserves; special blocks might, of course, be demarcated and fire-traced, but this will be a far more difficult and expensive system and much less effectual than that established by Mr. Puckle; and I strongly recommend that his plan be re-adopted as there can be no real objection to it if the tract outside the ride be sufficient for the wants of the people. Mr. Hayne informs me that the cattle-graziers take in axes and bill-hooks and cut down the young Vengay (*Pterocarpus marsupium*) saplings just as they cut down the Red Sanders in Cuddapah, so that there can be no conservancy unless grazing is restricted; but this practice is much against the timber supply and the interests of the people in general, and can never, I think, be necessary in a district like this where there is generally plenty of grass, and it should be put a stop to by law even in the communal tracts.

12. I give below the receipts and charges since my last Inspection report; the eleven months for 1877-78 show a considerable deficit, but if the anticipated receipts and expenditure for March, viz., 4,400 and 1,850, be added the deficit will be considerably reduced:—

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure of the Tinnevelly Forests from 1876-77 to February 1878.

Months.		Receipts.	Expenditure. A, "Conservancy and Works."	Expenditure. B, "Establishment and Contingencies."	Expenditure. Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
April	1876 ...	1,066	67	981	1,048
May	" ...	1,038	307	929	1,236
June	" ...	1,482	116	861	977
July	" ...	1,915	1,169	920	2,089
August	" ...	6,149	662	972	1,634
September	" ...	1,704	1,109	500	1,609
October	" ...	1,197	1,447	1,923	3,370
November	" ...	426	717	971	1,688
December	" ...	1,352	862	1,061	1,923
January	1877 ...	1,285	396	956	1,352
February	" ...	1,016	802	1,005	1,807
March	" ...	3,319	1,423	*1,200	2,623
	Total...	22,469	9,077	12,279	21,356
April	1877 ...	1,270	421	1,581	2,002
May	" ...	1,197	966	2,070	3,036
June	" ...	3,616	385	1,433	1,818
July	" ...	1,996	1,002	1,105	2,107
August	" ...	3,138	1,141	1,008	2,149
September	" ...	1,412	1,084	500	1,584
October	" ...	1,045	151	1,633	1,784
November	" ...	1,494	940	3,014	3,954
December	" ...	262	14	994	1,008
January	1878 ...	711	329	1,056	1,385
February	" ...	1,288	1,365	1,010	2,375
	Total...	17,369	7,701	13,404	21,105
	Grand Total...	39,838	16,778	25,683	42,461

* Includes Famine batta of Rupees 152.

13. The causes of the deficit, Mr. Hayne informs me, are attributable to a short crop of Cardamoms, an additional expenditure of Rupees 1,200 for the salary and travelling allowances of Mr. Gass for three months, to the famine, and subsequently to the continuous wet weather which occurred from October to January. Mr. Hayne's extra travelling allowance (viz., Rupees 569) whilst employed on the Travancore Boundary work has also been debited against the forest which I consider a mistake as this is a work quite distinct in itself, and the total charges have, I believe, to be borne equally by both Governments, so I request sanction that this sum may be refunded to forests and debited to the boundary work.

14. I went over some of the boundary with Mr. Hayne, and I consider that it has been a needless expense cutting it along some of the higher portions of the ghauts, such as Aghasteermallay and the hills to the south of it; these higher portions which run up to 5,000, 6,000 feet are only covered with very stunted jungle, and the climate is so bleak and the places so inaccessible that they must always remain a sort of no man's land of no value to either Government; the boundary line should have been cut along the watershed wherever the forests can ever be possibly of any value either as forest or for coffee or tea, but the cutting of any line was quite unnecessary along some of the higher elevations, and it would be sufficient if the maps show that

the watershed was the accepted boundary along such tracts, and I would advise that this system be followed when the demarcation is continued north of Courtallum; the upkeep of the boundary line will be a considerable expense, particularly up in these inaccessible places, and I would suggest that it be only kept up where necessary.

15. The heavy rains have completely flooded the tank-beds for many months, and Mr. Hayne has consequently been prevented from doing very much in the way of felling the Babul trees and recouping the expenditure incurred; attention will be given to this now that the dry weather has set in. It will be better to hand these tracts back to the Revenue authorities when the timber has been removed, as any expenditure on conservancy is valueless as long as cattle and goats are allowed in indescriminately; under proper restrictions, however, much timber might have been made annually available both for the public and the Railway.

16. The demarcation of the Government and Zemindari forest is still all-important; it is at present* postponed until the Travancore boundary is finally settled.

* *Vide* paragraph 7, G.O., No. 759, of 21st February 1877.

17. In my last report amongst other reductions, Mr. Hayne was only allowed two clerks instead of three in his office, as I considered that two should be sufficient; he now informs me that it is utterly impossible for him to get through his office work without the third clerk, so I request sanction for the increase (Rupees 15 per mensem), though I feel that economy is very necessary here for the present, as the division is not likely to do more than pay its expenses, if that, for some years to come.

18. I have nothing further to add since my last report, recorded in G.O., No. 759, of the 21st February 1877.

Enclosure No. 1.

No. 216.

Memorandum.

I have really nothing to add to Colonel Beddome's report. It appears to me to be absolutely conclusive as to the very urgent necessity for immediate action if the magnificent irrigation of the Tambraparni River is not to be utterly destroyed, and I do *most earnestly* trust that such action may be no longer delayed. It is a matter of immediate necessity that we should by some means or other secure the control of the "Kuthaymallay" and ultimately of the whole Singampatty Forest. I hope I am not apt to be too confident in expressing my opinions, and, indeed, on many of the problems of administration, I am doubtful enough; but on this particular subject I may claim to speak with some confidence, for I am perfectly familiar with the whole country affected, and have studied the question both on the spot with the aid of all the local information obtainable and also in the office of the Board of Revenue most anxiously and continuously for the last eleven years or more, and I am satisfied that the delay that has occurred has already been the cause of incalculable damage, and that, if nothing is done soon it will not be very long before the ruin of the river valley will have been completed; and we in Tinnevelly, at any rate, shall have to write "too late" on our forest legislation.

2. It is only those who have actually seen the progress of coffee cultivation from its first small beginnings, just about the time I first joined this district, who can form an adequate idea of the ravages the planters have already committed and of the imminent risk to this district if clearings are permitted at the same rate on the eastern slopes of the ghauts.

The very steepness of the Kuthaymallay in particular is a source of peculiar danger, and I am not at all sure that Colonel Beddome is altogether wrong in ascribing a good deal of the excessive violence of the two last floods to the comparatively small felling that has taken place already. But, however, that may be, the experiment of clearing the sources of our water-supply is too risky for any Government to permit, and I feel confident that the Board who have always consistently urged upon Government the necessity for getting complete control of the head-waters of the Tambraparni will do their utmost to secure the continued prosperity of the district *before it is too late*.

3. I entirely approve of Colonel Beddome's proposal to revert to Mr. Packle's system of conservancy only modified as he suggests. It was an admirable system, perfectly suited to the district, as I have already remarked in reporting on Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, No. 4,365, dated 23rd March 1877.

4. Not wishing to lose a day in forwarding Colonel Beddome's most interesting report I have written without special reference to previous correspondence though I might have referred to whole volumes that have been written to the same effect year after year by every Forest and Revenue officer in the district.

P.S.—As regards the financial aspect of forest conservancy in this district, I deprecate the idea of any pressure being put upon the local executive to show direct pecuniary profits.

2. It will be many years, I believe, before the forests of this district can properly be made to pay for the establishment required to conserve them, and meantime we ought to be satisfied with the immense indirect benefit to be expected from rigorous conservancy.

Vellore,
24th March 1878.

(Signed) J. B. PENNINGTON,
Collector.

No. 1,538.

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

Ootacamund,
19th March 1878.

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

Colonel Beddome's inspection report on the Tinnevelly Forests, with Mr. Pennington's remarks thereon, will be submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The main feature of the report is Colonel Beddome's strong appeal, supported by the Collector, that far more efficient measures than are now in force should be immediately introduced to prevent the destruction of the Singampatty, Kuthaymallay and Attaymalay forests. The prosperity of a great part of the Tinnevelly District depends on the irrigation under the Tambrapurni and its affluents, and the water supply and distribution of these rivers again depends in great measure on the conservancy of the forests in the hills above mentioned. In this respect Colonel Beddome considers forest conservancy here to be of greater importance than anywhere else in the Presidency, and Mr. Pennington most earnestly trusts that action may be no longer delayed.

3. The Board have no information regarding the Attaymallay, but the Singampatty forests are in the hands of the Court of Wards and therefore safe until 1881, when the Minor attains his majority, while as regards the Kuthaymallay it has been decided that it is the absolute property of a temple trustee who has definitely rejected all overtures made to him for its acquisition by Government. It therefore appears that the only action now called for is the speedy introduction of a Forest Act under which the Government will be able to interfere and regulate the administration of all forests by whomsoever owned.

4. Colonel Beddome reports that the bulk of the Kuthaymallay has already passed into the hands of European coffee planters, and that unless Government interferes, the very much more extensive Singampatty forests will follow, and proceeds to draw a vivid picture of the ruin and devastation which must necessarily ensue if steps are not taken to prevent it. Mr. Pennington looks on the report as absolutely conclusive and is satisfied that the delay that has occurred has already been the cause of incalculable damage, and that if nothing is done soon it will not be very long before the ruin of the river valley will have been completed.

5. In his inspection report, dated 3rd November 1876, Colonel Beddome drew attention in somewhat similar, though less forcible, language to the mischief which he considered would result from the extension of coffee cultivation in these forests, but the only notice taken of the subject in G.O., dated 1st February 1877, No. 759, was the remark in paragraph 7 that the Government learn with satisfaction that coffee planting is extending as mentioned in paragraph 27 of the Conservator's letter.

6. From this remark the Board infer that the Government are far from sharing Colonel Beddome's forebodings, but they respectfully submit that the subject is one

which deserves anxious and careful consideration. If the views so strongly held by the Conservator and the Collector are even approximately correct, the interests of cultivators paying a revenue of about ten lakhs of rupees are most seriously endangered. On the other hand the benefits accruing to a district and to the Presidency generally from the extension of the Cinchona, tea, and coffee-planting industries are far too great to be lightly sacrificed, and general prohibition at any rate should not be resorted to until it has been clearly ascertained that the object aimed at cannot be secured by merely regulating the conditions under which forest land is allowed to be taken up by planters. There will always be a mean between wholesale exclusion of the feller and planter and wholesale neglect of forest conservation which no theories can fix but which must be decided in different localities according to their particular circumstances, but in any case it is desirable that Government should be armed with full powers to act, when a decision has been arrived at, and the Board would strongly urge that steps be at once taken for the passing of a Forest Act for this Presidency, or the introduction of Act VII of 1878.

7. The extent of the Singampatty forests is estimated at from 100 to 200 square miles, while the Kuthaymallay is a comparatively small tract of from 3,000 to 4,000 acres. As already stated the Singampatty forests are safe till 1881, but the Kuthaymallay is rapidly being denuded, and Colonel Beddome is of opinion that it would be good policy to pay a very large sum to save the remainder from destruction. The Board observe, however, that in his letter recorded with G.O., dated 29th September 1871, No. 1,702, Colonel Beddome remarked that unless the Government got control of the Singampatty forests, it would scarcely be worth while to treat for the Kuthaymally. Looking to the comparative size of the two tracts, the Board are inclined to think that the earlier opinion formed by Colonel Beddome is the more correct one, and the Kuthaymallay may be left alone till a Forest Act has been introduced and a decision come to with reference to the action to be adopted when the Singampatty forests have been made over to the Minor.

8. In paragraph 7 of his report the Conservator alludes to the [illegible] revenue which might be secured by treating the tracts as timber forests, and asks if it is not madness to allow these fine forests to be destroyed even if their influence on the climate, rainfall and water storage be doubted, and in paragraph 10 he alludes to damage caused by floods far exceeding any revenue that can be derived from coffee cultivation. The Board need hardly remark that it is on account of the indirect benefits resulting from coffee planting far more than for the mere direct revenue that they would deprecate any uncompromising discouragement of its extension in Tinnevelly. It is only indeed in exceptional cases that they would refuse forest land to coffee planters on considerations other than those connected with the influence of forests on the rain-fall and water-supply, and they observe that the Imperial Forest Act, on which the Local Act will probably be based, does not authorize the interference of Government in private forests for the mere preservation of timber as such (Section 35).

9. In their Proceedings recorded with G.O., dated 25th September 1876, No. 1,335, the Board have remarked that when land is replanted, as in the case of coffee clearings, with shrubs which prevent the evaporation of moisture, the danger to the sources of large rivers does not appear to be such as to justify any heavy outlay, and in their order thereon the Government remark that it is out of the question to incur the very heavy outlay which the preservation of the hill sides all over the country must necessarily lead to. It is also to be noted that this difficulty of expense will not be got over by treating the forests under an Act, unless its provisions are much less liberal than those of Act VII of 1878, Section 37 of which vests in any proprietor, whose forests have been interfered with, the right of compelling Government to take them up under the Land Acquisition Act. It is therefore essential to use great caution in resolving on any measures for the regulation of private forests in demand for coffee planting.

10. Another danger is alluded to by Colonel Beddome in paragraph 7, where he remarks that coffee plantations are often deserted in three or four years " and then the heavy forest can never be renewed, a thorny almost impenetrable scrub which we

call a Kumeri tract through which the fire runs every year, preventing any renewal of soil, take its place." If fire *does* run through every year the renewal of the heavy forest will undoubtedly be indefinitely delayed, but as a matter of fact Kumeri tracts on the western ghauts are usually sufficiently renovated in eight years to make it worth while to burn them again, and the Board are inclined to believe that the state of the jungle in abandoned Kumeri tracts of five or six years' standing is by no means unfavorable to the stay of evaporation, although it may have lost its humus for the retention of moisture and possess greatly deteriorated advantages for the growing of timber. In paragraph 8 of his report, Colonel Beddome suggests that scientific meteorological observations in the forests of the Presidency would well repay Government. The Board are not aware if there is any one in the Forest Department possessed of the requisite qualifications, but they consider it important that the ratio of evaporation at several altitudes should be determined as regards (*a*) evergreen forests, (*b*) deciduous forests, (*c*) coffee plantations in full bearing with the amount of shade now considered necessary, (*d*) abandoned Kumeri tracts of a few years' standing.

11. Information might also be obtained from other parts of India regarding the cases in which it has been considered necessary to interfere to prevent the extension of coffee or tea planting in forests not the property of Government and the measures which have been adopted for the purpose.

12. In paragraph 11 of his report Colonel Beddome refers to Mr. Puckle's plan of cutting a broad ride or fire-trace a little up the mountains running parallel with the base, and considering all below the trace as communal forest and all above it as reserved. Both the Conservator and the Collector deprecate the Order of Government, dated 27th February 1877, No. 849, remarking that His Grace was not aware of any such restrictions having been authorized, and directing that they should be cancelled.

13. This order appears to have been issued under a partial misapprehension, on receipt of a communication from the Conservator's office to the effect that it did now appear from the records that any Government order had been issued authorizing the closing of the forests to cattle. It appears, however, that the Collector reported his action as regards the Tenkasi Taluq in November 1873, the Board entirely approved his arrangements, and in G.O., dated 2nd February 1874, No. 148, his proceedings were highly commended. The Board support the recommendation that Mr. Puckle's method be reverted to subject to such modification in matters of detail as may be found on local considerations to be desirable.

14. Mr. Hayne's extra travelling allowance while engaged on the Travancore boundary settlement should certainly have been debited to that work, and the necessary adjustment should now be made.

15. The Board do not agree with Colonel Beddome in considering it unnecessary to mark out the boundary line between Tinnevelly and Travancore in the more inaccessible parts of the hills. It may be done as inexpensively as possible by raising piles of stones, by marking in a permanent way prominent rocks, particular trees or other natural features easily recognizable, but it ought to be distinctly defined as disputes are always liable to crop up. When there is no active dispute a boundary can be agreed to without difficulty, but if settlement is left till dispute requires it, disposal becomes far less easy.

16. The Board consider that the additional clerk applied for in paragraph 17 may be sanctioned.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J. Tunnell

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" Collector of Tinnevelly.
" Conservator of Forests.

Ead. W. J. Lewis and W. H. French.

1878.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 9TH MAY 1878, No. 1,239.

MAY.

No. 1,239.

Forests.—Reviewing and submitting to Government Inspection Report of Conservator of Forests on the — for 1878 with Collector's remarks thereon.

A declaration
of Timothy Key
late of Hertford
Esqr in the
West Indies now
in the Custody
of the Warden
of the Fleet
for debts exceeding
500 l. the precise
Cause the Said
Creditor is hereby
privately prayed
& it was ordered
declared & ad-
judged by the
Court (vide fam 3
Feb: Reddendo)

Setchell Ld Chandois
has been sued this
Surgeon - & has
Several Speeches
pleaded in private
Court but he doubt
in his conscience
if he should
if so how undertake
Office - Adjourn
the Court.

Now in Mayor Court
Book of Admiralty
Court perused.

Lafont - Col. Pr.
Warrant to Lafont
to attend Court

2.

letter. The letter
Imparts from Ld
Chancellor to Gen Pratt
to desire Commit-
tee attended with
Sr A. Pr. & Dr. Ward
Sr that time the
Lords Depo: Mayor
have attended
at & Mr Attorney
came & so presumed
to be in force & while
Sr Pr. & they were
to take depositions
at Mr. the
is come & attend-
ed after & before to enter
the Recognizance &
Bonds taken

Vi Evade
Renaretion Whitby
Colicle is under
present order
Blee dispensed
with
Cancelled
by
Col
Ware

Vice

Renaretion
Service R. private
Forces in Evacuation
Fortunately our
Losing position
Entitle Letter

Lor Ordnance
Ex Rem to Recommending absolute 9th May 1855
No 123 and Letter from Commanding Royal
dated 2nd July 1855 No 367 Inclosing Report

Inspector Kat Mark. Office
Assistant Quarter Master Gen
Brisbane Qu Forces Adelaide
Gen Hospital - Memorandum of
Dr Lan received Lord J.
Medical Station Hospital Ordered
of Lor. Lad. Adelaide Forces
Under Field & Hospital Tent
Guards - Surgeon Sutton entitled
& not Plus Amounts to a Sup-
plate pal in disbursement of
Forage Ass to Climatic Reasons
Letters Kat Phis is marked a
Letter Kat Phis is marked a
Report & attached Plan
Letter of 1857 & reference to
Letter Received from Plans

Inspector Kat Mark. Office
Assistant Quarter Master Gen
Brisbane Qu Forces Adelaide
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plate pal in disbursement of
Forage Ass to Climatic Reasons
Letters Kat Phis is marked a
Letter Kat Phis is marked a
Report & attached Plan
Letter of 1857 & reference to
Letter Received from Plans

deciduous forests (c) Coffee plantations in full bearing & (d) abandoned Kumri tracts.

There would be interesting and possibly of some practical benefit but, as Govt. have already said, it is out of the question to incur the very heavy outlay which the preservation of the hill sides all over the Presidency must necessarily lead to.

6. It seems a more practical step to ascertain how far felling for tea or coffee plantations elsewhere has affected rivers by causing more frequent or larger floods or a less continuous supply.

If harm is done in either way it seems a question for the Engineers who will then have to provide increased waterway and larger storage by higher or more frequent anicuts (dams).

of the kind — ever had the power.

On the 2nd question I would answer that the order is reasonable & equitable.

No 3. is abstruse & of no practical importance at present.

5/7 [illegible]

I admit that Col. B. is an enthusiast & prone to exaggerate but that denudation of mountain ranges [illegible] the forest [illegible] tends to induce increase of [illegible] floods & to lessen the natural storage of water & its slow circulation & so injuriously to affect agriculture dependent on the monsoon supplies, I think does not fully admit of question — [illegible] the question of rainfall being affected by the presence or absence of forest [illegible] admit of doubt.

[illegible] that the public interests demand the regulation of forest clearing in these [illegible] & that such regulation can be equitably conducted [illegible]. I consider that the question [illegible] for the President.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Proceedings of the adjourned Quarterly Court held at the Court House in Hillsborough on the 16th day of February 1858

Present the Worshipful Justices of the Peace

Present the Worshipful Justices of the Peace

Present the Worshipful Justices of the Peace

taken to check or control the clearing of certain Zemindari forests but immediate action is not imperatively required and Govt. propose shortly to deal with this matter and that of Forest management in a general manner and no interference will at present be attempted.

2. With regard to the removal of the restrictions imposed by Mr. Puckle on entry into the Ghaut forests the Govt. observe that G.O. 27 February 1877 No. 849 need not be held to bar the maintenance of those arrangements for the Tenkasi taluk which were distinctly approved.

In

Wrote to the Zemindari Estates marching on the West to the Ghauts

I do not think [illegible] will do. I [illegible] say [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with claims be [illegible] [illegible] we can

There are [illegible] [illegible] as to defin[e] or mark the boundaries of the Zem[indari] & Govt. lands. I presume the village boundaries define this

G.O. 2nd Feby 1874 No. 148.

G.O. 30 Octr 1874 [illegible]

NOTE. I conclude no notice need be taken of the Board's suggestions at the end of para 10 & in para 11

1580
17

3. In his report on the Tinnevelly forests dated 26 Septr. 1874, Capt. C. Walker the Asst. Inspector of Forests, took exception to some of Mr. Puckle's measures and the Collector was called upon to explain his system. No reply to this reference appears to have yet reached Govt. and the matter may now await Captain Walker's visit to the district under G.O. 20 July 78 No. 1105.

Sd.

Revenue Department

No 1500

1500
18

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Minutes dated the 12th December 1878

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue dated 4th May 1878 forwarding
reviewing and submitting the
Special Report of Conservator
of Forests on the Conservancy Sta-
tion for 1878 with Collectors re-
marks thereon.

In the above Proceedings of
Forests dated 2nd July 1878 they
represent that the Ottapa pa-
ruvathy Forests are Government
property to Government

In accordance of the opinion
of Conservators to forest forests as
the

the Deobrisht of Tenasserim and Martaban have already been surveyed and is now in progress and the question of regulating operations in private forests will be closely connected with the Forest legislation now under the consideration of Government.

2. With regard to the removal of the restrictions imposed by the Tavoyte Rules on entry into the Chaut forests the Govt. observe that Govt. 27th February 1877 No 849 need not be held to bar the arrangements for the Tenasserim forests which were distinctly approved in the Govt. report on the Tenasserim forests dated 28th September 1874, Captain Cobbe the Officiating Conservator of Forests to come to

Govt. 8th May 1878 to Govt 95.

Govt. 39 October 1878 to Govt para 4.

14 Feb. Board of Revenue Proc. No 2 of
21 the Commissioner of Tenasserim

Govt. 2nd February 1878 No 1185

encasures and the Collector was called upon to explain his system. No reply to this reference appears to have yet reached Govt and the records are now sent to Captain Cobbe direct to the Board under Govt 20th July 1878 No 1185.

1500
19

Govt

Vide encl 4162/98

No 5847

Office of Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund, 2nd July 1870.

1500
20

From,

Lieut-Col. R. H. Beddome,
Conservator of Forests.

To,

Lorrain A. Campbell Esquire,
Under Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department
Ootacamund.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith a plan of the Nilambur Teak Forests, and to inform you that the Lawyer Bhadur on whose report the Government ordered the purchase of the Forests mentioned, still belongs to Government, the Teak on standard basis remains the property of Kathay Muthay and the Forests claimed by the Nilgum people by Government.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servt.

R H Beddome Lt Col.
Conservator of Forests.

Colonial Office
Revenue - Forests.
From No 2831
The Governor of Straits.
To The Under Secretary of State
Government
Revenue Report.
Colonial
Dated 1st December 1878

Rec'd 2nd
Regd 2nd
Read 3rd
} Jan 1879.

12 to 36

(Straits Nº 6)
Subject

Informing that the
Rattan gamuttay Forest
in Province Wellesley belongs to
Government.

No 170