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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

2nd August 1899, No. 1,612.

No. 45. READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th February 1879, No. 521.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 17th October 1878, No. 1,104.

REFERRING to paragraph 3 of the G.O., No. 1,105, of the 20th July last, I have the honor to forward the report by Captain Campbell Walker and the Collector of Coimbatore on the question of Forest Reserves in the South Coimbatore Forest Division with the following remarks on several of the paragraphs.

2. *Paragraph 2.*—There should be a regular survey by the Survey Department, at least of the Teak-yielding portion of the Anamalai Forests, and the area correctly ascertained.

3. *Paragraphs 4 and 5.*—I approve of the area which it is proposed to reserve, but I would not lump the Government forest proper and the leased forest together as one reserve; they should, I think, be kept quite distinct. The black dotted line which runs east and west through the centre of the reserve as proposed by Captain Walker and Mr. Webster represents a high range of hills known as the Anagoondy Range; this at its lowest portion (the Anagoondy Pass, the only path across the range) is about 1,000 feet, and along its other portions about 1,500 or 2,000 feet above the Teak forests to the north of it. This range is therefore the southern boundary of the Government Teak forest proper, and it is a well-defined one, requiring no cairns and other boundary marks. North of this range therefore I propose two distinct reserves—

No. 1 *Reserve.*—The Government Anamalai Teak forests (area 18 square miles?) not surveyed.

No. 2 *Reserve.*—The leased Anamalai Teak forests (area 26 square miles) surveyed.

4. The greater portion of these two reserves is fine Teak forests (without doubt the finest in India) interspersed with much fine Blackwood (*Dalbergia latifolia*), Vengay (*Pterocarpus marsupium*), Aathi (*Terminalia tomentosa*) and other jungle trees some valuable as timber and some worthless, and vast quantities of the large Bamboos (*Bambusa arundinacea*). There is only one tract of moist evergreen forest (shola) within it; this lies to the north of Tunacadavu and between it and the Pandarumallai and is several square miles in extent; it contains Poonspars (*Callophyllum tomentosum*), true Ebony (*Diospyros ebenum*), true Gamboge (*Garcinia Morella*), Chittagong wood (*Chickrissia tabularis*), and many little known though valuable timbers such as *Dysoxylum Malabaricum* (Bedd.) species of *Diospyros* and many sorts of gigantic trees the timbers of which are quite unknown, and the trees themselves probably in some cases unknown to science; looking down from the top of Pandarumallai this block of evergreen forests appears to be at least four square miles in extent. The Pandarumallai itself is also within the reserve; it is a large block of mountain rising from the ghat slopes to about 4,000 feet in height and running away towards Tagady, very precipitous in parts and covered with evergreen forest of small growth (like the usual mountain sholas) and much rock and grass land.

5. These Teak forests have been worked by Government for about thirty years, and Teak to the value of many lakhs of rupees has been taken out chiefly for the Bombay Dockyard and Marine, and they were worked previously to a small extent by a contractor; a considerable sprinkling of large mature trees and trees

past their prime still remain (but how many we can scarcely estimate till the forest is blocked out), and there are many many thousands of fine promising young Teak trees 3 to 6 feet in girth and 30 to 50 years old, but an almost entire absence of young seedlings, and as the present crop, or the giants of the forest, are now beginning to disappear, the time has arrived to secure the third crop (the second is secure), and I am of opinion that this cannot be done without excluding fire; in fact, it is apparent from the utter absence of seedling growth for many years, and fire cannot be excluded unless cattle and traders, &c., be also excluded, so, unless the Teak forests are declared a strict reserve, their deterioration must go on; Teak appears to have little chance in the struggle as long as there are annual fires, so its place in time must be usurped by other trees and bamboos and the tract probably cease to be a Teak forest after deterioration of soil and growth has gone on for two or three centuries; it is an old old story, and if we had records and sufficient data going back for several centuries, we should clearly see that vast tracts of poor jungle, scrub, or quite bare hill are only too often the gradual stages of deterioration from good forest and the result of fire, deterioration of soil, indiscriminate cattle-grazing, and the reckless or unsystematic use of the axe. I have nowhere seen this more self-evident and clearly illustrated than in the Jeypore country as lately explained to Government in my report on those forests, but I never go through any of our forest districts now without having it more or less demonstrated.

6. It may be wondered why no attempts have hitherto been made to exclude fire from our Anamalai Teak forests as well as other forests and jungles in this Presidency, but nothing can be done without blocking out and broad fire-paths or rides, and even these would be futile, and the expenditure therefore not authorized unless a Forest Act and much stricter rules for conservancy are introduced into this Presidency; it is only very lately besides that we have begun to realize the damage done by fire; not many years since it was argued that the fires if not really beneficial were not injurious; it was said that none of the large trees were burnt or much injured unless they had arrived at an age that the axe should have anticipated; that the burning of the underwood and rank grass was of real value in letting in light and air and keeping down tigers and wild beasts; and that the forests would become far more feverish if fires were entirely excluded; most Revenue Officers and many forest officers adopted these views; the arguments against fire were less apparent to the casual observer or the untrained and inexperienced Forester; the most important of these appears to have received little or no attention, that is the loss to the soil of all the decaying vegetation which is annually burnt up instead of remaining to enrich and form a humus which, besides enriching the soil, acts more or less as a sponge and prevents washing away of the surface soil by the rain, so that an annual deterioration goes on; none of the dead leaves which nature intended should go to enrich the soil are allowed to be utilized, and a gradual washing away of surface soil goes on slowly but steadily; nor does it appear to have been understood that the slower growing trees, and consequently more valuable timbers, would have less chance in the struggle against fire than the others, nor that by excluding fire forest can in time be brought to such a density that rank grass and brushwood (that require much sun and light for their development) can be kept well in check or driven entirely out of a forest; nor was it understood to what a tremendous extent all large trees had suffered whilst young from the injurious action of fire; if any one doubts this, they have only to walk through the older plantations at Nellambur, now 30—34 years old, from which fire has been excluded, and note the magnificent clean, straight, faultless bolls of the trees, averaging 70 feet in length, but often 85—90 or even 95 feet, and then walk through a Teak forest subject to fire where a clean straight boll is an exception to the rule, most trees being found forked, fluted, or otherwise injured from the action of fire during their infancy.

7. The whole of the Teak tract will shortly require rest, but there are still a good many trees passed their prime which should come out and which are annually deteriorating, and which it could not be conservancy to leave; one cannot walk

through hardly any portion of the forest without seeing trees which should have been cut before this and on which the fires are annually causing much damage, but which the axemen dislike felling unless compelled, as the timber is certain to be more or less faulty; but in the absence of any divisions in the forest and the high rank condition of the undergrowth during the healthy or working season, it is impossible to give an approximate idea of the amount of Teak still available for the axe with due precaution for the future; the forests also abound with very fine Mathi and Vengay timber which has hitherto been little felled as there has been little or no demand in the presence of so much Teak; the large Blackwood has been very considerably worked, but a certain amount still remains.

8. The Karian shola alluded to above has been untouched by the axe, but up to the present there has been no demand for any of the timbers in it; in fact, it may be said that hitherto there has been no demand for anything except Teak and Blackwood.

9. All the Teak forest, Government and leased, should be gradually portioned off into blocks. Six or eight blocks will probably be necessary in each of these two reserves. I went into this question when lately up in the forest and explained to Mr. Williams, the Deputy Conservator in charge, what I thought should be the first block; the blocking will take time and must be done gradually and should not be attempted till the forests are declared reserved and a Forest Act has been passed, and the establishment will also have to be strengthened.

10. The division between the Government and leased portions of the Teak forests (the tracts I propose as two distinct reserves) is clearly shown in Captain Walker's map by a dotted line running north and south from Coochmallai (a high peak) over the top of Pandarumallai to Vengoli, the highest peak on the Anagoondy range.

11. All that portion of Captain Walker's proposed reserve south of the Anagoondy range (i.e., the dotted line from Vengoli to Oomiahmalli) may be formed into a third reserve to be styled.

12. *No. 3 Reserve—The Anagoondy Reserve.*—I do not attach much immediate importance to this reserve. Immediately over the Anagoondy Pass densely heavy evergreen forest is entered which, however, is soon passed through, and there is then some fine Teak forest; a very small bit only of this, however, lies in Government land or within the proposed reserve, though there is plenty to the west or in Cochin limits; this small tract should be blocked off and fire-traced; the rest of this No. 3 Reserve is densely heavy evergreen forest which may become of value some day (but which is of no value just now), vast tracts of reed bamboo, the haunt of elephants, tracts of bamboo, and some deciduous forest without Teak; blocking will not be required in any of this I think.

13. *Paragraph 6.*—I do not think that the Teak forests above ghat can be properly conserved and protected from fire unless the slopes are also included in the reserve as proposed by Captain Walker and Mr. Webster; cattle might generally be admitted to the slopes during the rains (on payment) and also at times during the same season to even portions of the Teak forests, but arrangements of this nature must be entirely under the control of the Forest Department. With the block or division system there will probably be fire-traces along the tops of the ghats, and they will, I think, be advisable even if the slopes be included in the reserve. A wire fence along the limit of cultivation at the foot of ghats will be expensive and not required I think; a small ditch to mark the boundary will be sufficient; cattle will, after the formation of the reserve, be driven to quite a different part of the slopes, and there will be no herds in the vicinity of the reserve, at least at such periods of the year that the Forest Department wish their exclusion.

14. The proposed Goodara valley or Coochmallai reserve below ghat is of great importance and should be a distinct block; it was only the accident of the tract being in dispute between Government and Cochin that it escaped being cleared for cultivation years ago with all the rest of the forest below ghat; it will

be of great value as a feeding ground for our elephants at seasons when they cannot be kept up above ghats. The claim of Ramasawmy Moodelly on 300 acres of this tract was, I believe, finally settled some years ago, and the records will be in Mr. Webster's office; the claimant was, I believe, given land elsewhere in lieu of this.

15. *Paragraphs 8 and 9.*—No mention is made of the free entry of traders into the Teak forests (*vide* G.O., No. 906, dated 13th June 1878, and the documents there recorded); so I suppose no one put forward a claim, but the subject should have been considered by Captain Walker and Mr. Webster. As I have stated on former occasions, I can prove that traders did not enter the forests when I worked them between 1857 and 1860.

16. The ryots of Vetakaranpudur put forward a claim to graze on the slopes and interior of the forests, but admitted that they were stopped by Lieutenant Michael in 1851. When I first took over charge of this forest establishment at Anamalai in 1857, Vetakaranpudur was only a hamlet of a few houses, and the forest and jungle below ghat extended from the timber slip nearly up to that village (or six miles) and no cattle ever came up into the Teak forests (except those I employed for carting purposes), nor did any, as far as I can remember, ever come as far as the slopes, so it is not likely that there was any claim of this nature in previous years when Lieutenant Michael worked the forest under the Public Works Department. Vetakaranpudur has gone on increasing in size till it has now 5,000 inhabitants, and all the forest and jungle has been cleared and cultivated right up to the foot of the timber slip; if people by clearing and cultivating all their grazing grounds can then advance a claim to extend their grazing privileges up into forests which have been considered reserved for many years, there must of course be an end to all conservancy; the disappearance of all our forests must be only the work of time; it illustrates forcibly how necessary a Forest Act and demarcation have become unless our perennial streams are to be allowed to dry up and our timber and fuel supply to be a thing of the past.

17. *Paragraph 9, second portion, and paragraph 26.*—I am of opinion that the slopes outside the proposed reserves will afford ample grazing grounds. I am also of opinion that grazing in mountain forests beyond village limits should be paid for and be under the control of the Forest Department as in Bengal, otherwise the Forest Department is not likely to be able to show a fair return to Government.

18. *Paragraph 10.*—The Kaders do not cultivate or keep cattle; they live by the collection of hill produce; the Forest Department should buy all they collect, and there should be an organized system of collection in this and all reserved tracts; most of the men could be brought on to the strength of the establishment in one way or another, and their condition much improved.

19. *Paragraphs 11 and 12.*—I approve of the proposed Ponachi Teak reserve which was, I think, sanctioned by Government years ago on a report by Colonel Michael. In the extreme western side of this, or in the rich soil under the base of the Pachepalmallai and close under the mountains over which flows the Ponachi waterfall, the tree growth is fine, and there are some fine Teak and Blackwood trees, but over the rest of the proposed reserve the soil is poor and the Teak very stunted and small and not fit for anything scarcely except spokes and felloes; this may be the remains of a once fine forest, but I rather doubt it. A Mr. Lowry, who was the pioneer of the Ponachi coffee estates above the waterfall (or 1,500 feet higher up), felled a few fine Teak trees (paying us seigniorage on the cubic foot) in the portion close under those hills where the growth is fine, but he did not find it worth his while to fell any of the small and stunted Teak growing over the greater portion of the area.

20. I much doubt if it would be worth while to buy out the claims within this reserve; there is the village of Ponachi and a good quantity of irrigated paddy cultivation besides a small coffee estate; they must, I think, be excluded from the reserve.

21. *Paragraph 13.*—I approve of the *Talanjee Reserve* though I expect the amount of cultivation within it has been immensely under-estimated. I have known the tract for years and often visited it, and last month looked down upon it from the extreme western peaks of the Pulney Hills from which every feeder of the Amravati river is visible and their protecting sholas on the eastern slopes of the Anamalais; cultivation has been making great strides of late, though probably much of it is clandestine and not on putta; some of the western slopes of the Pulneys will have to be included in this reserve, but that must be considered with the Madura District. This reserve is chiefly important for the protection of the Amravati river, but the main water-supply of this river comes from Travancore country, *i.e.*, from all the ravines round the Arnimuddi mountain (not marked in Captain Walker's map), and I shall not consider the water-supply of the Amravati at all well protected unless the Travancore Government can be called upon, under the Forest Act, to protect these forests; the tract is quite uninhabited and much out of the way, but in course of time it is very probable that the forests might be destroyed for coffee, tea, or other cultivation.

22. Most of the forests up the Thoracadu valley and the sholas on the higher ranges of the Anamalais protecting the sources of the Thoracadu river should be protected against cultivation as proposed, as this river is the chief source of the Anamalai river which irrigates so much land about Anamalai and Pollachi.

23. *Paragraph 17.*—I approve of restricting coffee cultivation generally to the tract indicated, though I believe certain areas can be given up on the higher ranges for tea and chinchona without any detriment.

24. *Paragraph 19.*—Traders or coolies from the plains should not be allowed the privilege of collecting hill produce; this should be conceded to the hill tribes only, as others can really have no claim, and forest conservancy and forest revenue must suffer to an alarming extent if it is to be allowed.

25. *Paragraph 30.*—Little has been done beyond defining the tracts which it is important to reserve or protect; this I could at once lay before Government for most of our districts, except those chiefly under the conservancy of the Revenue authorities such as North Arcot, as I have an intimate knowledge of all the forests of the Presidency that have been under this Department; further orders appear therefore to be necessary as to what Captain Walker's duties and powers are, as I presume Government do not intend him to quit any particular district he takes up until a definite and permanent settlement of the question of reserves and of all forest rights has been arrived at, and that it is not the intention of Government that his work is only preliminary to be followed up by another officer at a future date. Captain Walker at the same time has not sufficient assistance, whilst in this division his work was much delayed by the Revenue officer accompanying him being obliged to attend to other work. A Revenue officer and a Survey officer should, I think, be permanently appointed to the work for the whole period Captain Walker may be in a district, and the assistance of a junior officer of the Forest Department may also be desirable. Mahomed Ali Sahib, Sub-Assistant Conservator, now in charge of a range in the Salem Division under Mr. Stanbrough, would be admirably qualified for an appointment of this nature.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain C. WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on Special Duty, to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, dated Coimbatore, 9th October 1878, No. 24.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in G.O., No. 1,105, dated 20th July, I have the honor to submit a report on the proposed forest reservations in the South Coimbatore Division drawn up by the Collector and myself, along with a memorandum by the Collector on the claims preferred, and a map showing the boundaries of proposed reserves, &c.

2. With the exception of the leased portion, that sold for coffee cultivation at Ponachi, and the cultivation of the hill villages, including Ponakad, all the forest is Government property. The leased forest has been surveyed and mapped and boundary is shown on the map;

the coffee estates have also been surveyed, but the survey has not been "joined on" to that in the plains. Their situation, as shown in the map, is therefore only approximately correct. The other hill cultivation has not been demarcated or surveyed and cannot therefore be shown.

3. No specific rights have been claimed, but the privilege of grazing cattle more or less over the whole area is stated to have been enjoyed by all comers. I have not, therefore, been able to indicate on the map as directed the Government forests "in which communal rights do not exist" as apart from "those over which such rights are claimed."

4. We solicit early orders and instructions for guidance to enable us to proceed with the work in the North Coimbatore Division in which the preliminary settlement is likely to prove much more difficult.

ENCLOSURE NO. 2.

From A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Collector, and Captain J. C. WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, (through the Conservator of Forests and the Board of Revenue,) dated Coimbatore, 9th October 1878.

G. O., No. 1,105, dated 20th July 1878, directs that we should—

- (1.) Select and demarcate tracts of Government Forest to be constituted *close* reserves.
- (2.) Carefully consider existing communal privileges and future requirements and provide for the extension of cultivation.
- (3.) Mark on the map the boundaries of all Government Forests, distinguishing between (a) those in which communal rights do not exist and (b) those over which such rights are claimed, as well as the boundaries of the proposed close reserves.

2. We have the honor to submit the report for the South Coimbatore Forest Division, together with a map prepared by the Revenue Survey Department, showing the limits of existing cultivation and the boundaries as required above. The map referred to in paragraph 5 of the Government Order under report is not yet complete, and no regular survey of the hills, beyond the portion leased from the Nambiddy, has been made; but the general contour of the hills and principal peaks, rivers, &c., are inserted as accurately as possible from old maps and personal observations.

3. We have conducted the inquiry throughout together, gone through all the old records bearing on the subject, which are voluminous, and with the assistance of the Head Assistant Collector in immediate charge of the taluks of Pollachi and Udumalpetai, in which the forests are situated, endeavored to ascertain and record all existing claims on the part of communities or individuals. A separate memorandum by the Collector on the claims preferred accompanies this report.

4. We propose to constitute three *reserved forests* (adopting the wording of Act VII of 1878), the boundaries of which are shown by broad red lines on the map.

The first or western reserve to include the forest leased from the Nambiddy, the portion of jungle in the valley between the Coochmallai and Pundaravuraymallai known as Goodara Valley (or the Coochmallai open reserve) and all the slopes eastward as far as the foot of Thairmallai, the boundaries then striking southward to the crest of the hills and across Oomiamallai, and thence due south to the Travancore boundary beyond the Sholayaur—the Travancore and Cochin boundary line to form the southern and western boundary of the reserved forest to Vengoli, whence it will follow the southern and western boundaries of the leased forest.

5. The area of this reserve will be about 82 square miles (including 26.34 square miles of the leased forest), but we do not propose that the whole be fire-traced or systematic conservancy attempted over the whole area at once.

This is, of course, mainly matter for the consideration and orders of the Conservator; but, having in view that the Teak forests are situated for the most part in the Tunacaduvu Valley, we venture to express an opinion that it will suffice for the present, if this tract, added to the leased forest, be fire-traced and placed under rigid conservation, leaving the area to the south to be taken up by degrees later on.

We have, therefore, selected an inner boundary line running south-west from Oomiamallai to Vengoli, which is shown on the map by a dotted black line, and to indicate which on the ground, cairns have been, or shortly will be, erected at several points. The area of the reserve to be brought under immediate treatment in this locality will thus be reduced to about 45 square miles, viz., (26.34 leased forest and 18.88 Tunacaduvu Teak forests).

6. It will be observed that we have included in the reserved area all the slopes of the hills from the southern side of Coochmallai to the Thairmallai. It was at first proposed to make the outer crest or ridge the northern and north-eastern boundary; but, after careful consideration and consultation with the Conservator on the spot, it has been deemed advisable to include the slopes.

We find a memorandum of Mr. Wedderburn's on record recommending this course, and it is indeed imperative if fire and cattle and goats are to be excluded at will, without which real conservancy including natural reproduction is impossible. It is doubtful if any fire-trace, however broad, would exclude fire raging up the slopes, and it would certainly not exclude cattle, goats, or men if admitted to the slopes without restriction. As now proposed no fire-trace will be necessary along the northern boundary which will be continuous with the southern limit of cultivation, but we recommend that a broad ditch be dug along the whole line, the earth excavated to form a bank inside, along which a single or double wire should be run (at least until a natural fence can be grown) and boundary pillars erected, so that no doubt may exist as to the exact boundary. By these means the slopes as well as the plateau above will be protected. We include the Goodara Valley or Coochmallai reserve, which is the only fair piece of jungle left on the plains in this direction. It may be treated either as portion of the Teak reserve or separately. There is a claim on it for 300 Bullas of land preferred by Ramasawmy Moodelly, which, if allowed, will seriously circumscribe its limits, but it is hoped that this can be otherwise settled, and the boundary run to the left of the Mungaray road all the way to near the foot of Coochmallai. There is at present a road running through the valley towards Setamudi from the foot of the Tekadi slip. This we propose to close and convert the foot-path, which now runs from the foot of the slip by the base of Coochmallai to the Mungaray road into a cart road available to all. The boundary will then run to the left or east of this road all the way to Tekadi where the road crosses the river. A small portion (Acres 0.60) of the leased forest to the right of the slip and above will thus be left out of the reserve, but this is of no consequence compared with the manifest advantage of having the road which leads to private forests outside our boundary and forming a fire-trace in itself.

7. The line of the ditch and new road are clearly indicated on the map. It will be observed that this line leaves the Coochmallai slopes outside of the reserve. They will be available for grazing, supply of timber for agricultural requirements, firewood, &c., the latter being supplemented by the yield from the Goodara Valley tract, which should be divided into blocks to be worked in rotation on the system of coppice with standards.

8. As regards the leased forest the terms of lease give us full control, the only reservation being the Jenmi right to "ivory, honey, cardamoms, and such like hill produce."

We are not aware that there are any cardamoms in the tract, and arrangements can easily be made for handing over any tasks found in the forests. It may not, therefore, be deemed necessary to take any steps regarding this clause, but we have thought it right to notice it as giving the Nambiddy's servants a potential right to enter the forest which *might* prove inimical to conservancy.

9. So far as the Government forests included in the proposed reserve are concerned, it will be observed that no specific claims of any sort were made either on behalf of communities or individuals. The ryots of Anamalai stated that, prior to the forming of the hamlet of Vetakaranpudur and clearing of the jungle, they had never taken their cattle beyond the base of the hills. The ryots of Vetakaranpudur advanced a general claim to graze on the slopes and in the interior of the forests, but admitted that they were stopped by Lieutenant Michael in 1851, and a reference to the records proves that previous to this grazing fees were levied by the renter of the forests. The survey ayacut of the Anamalai village with its hamlets thirty years ago was 9,194 acres; it is now 37,000 acres (*vide* paragraph 8 of Mr. Wedderburn's letter recorded with Board's Proceedings, No. 4,764, of 17th November 1871).

What might be considered the communal or village jungle has thus all been cleared away and none remains.

The other petitions presented, with the exception of Ramasawmy Moodelly's to the land already alluded to, had reference merely to the ordinary working of the forest rules. In the absence of any specific claims or rights it appears to us sufficiently liberal if grazing and other privileges be permitted outside the boundaries of the reserves under certain restrictions to be alluded to further on, and for this an adequate area not too remote from the villages remains.

10. From information recently collected there should be about 180 Kaders—men, women and children—resident in or near the proposed reserve. The Deputy Conservator, Mr. Williams, states that he can find only one man, but the Deputy Conservator on special duty saw and conversed with several during his recent visit; whatever be their numbers their privileges will in no way be interfered with by the constitution of the reserve.

11. The second reserve proposed is to the east of the road leading to the waterfall coffee estates and may be styled the Ponachi Reserve. This block contains the remains of a fine Teak forest interspersed with Rosewood and Vengay which may be resuscitated by careful treatment, and, being for the most part situated on a comparatively level plateau, offers exceptional advantages for systematic operations. Its area is about six square miles. The Tunacaduvu River forms the boundary on the north and north-east, the Quinnaur from the waterfall to its junction with the Tunacaduvu, the boundary on the west, whilst a line drawn from the waterfall along the slopes of Patchapalmallai to Kundrutimallai, and thence north to the Tunacaduvu will mark

its southern and eastern limits. Instructions have been given to have these boundaries marked by cairns as in the case of the Tunacaduvu reserve, and the limits are indicated by a broad red line on the map.

12. Within these limits there is a small coffee estate, the property of Ramasawmy Moodelly, a small area of irrigated land held by the same party and Messrs. Stanes and Co., and a further area of irrigated land to which we believe no one has a title. As it is important to secure the natural boundary of the Chinnaur on the west, it would appear advisable to buy up these private rights, but if an excessive value be set upon them, the western boundary must, of course, be moved further on so as to leave the coffee estate, &c., outside. There is also a right of way to a small Swamy shrine known as the Ponachi Ummencovil, and beyond which must be respected. In the claims advanced by some of the villagers in the plains the Ponachi forest is mentioned as one in which they have been in the habit of depasturing their cattle; but, in the absence of any specific right, we think the privilege may fairly be restricted to the northern side of the Tunacaduvu river.

A few Kaders, Puliars, and Irulars live in or near the reserve whose privileges can easily be defined and respected.

13. The third reserve proposed is situated in the extreme south-east corner of the division and adjoins what is now known as the Kallapuram firewood reserve, and includes the whole upper portion of the Talangee valley. The boundaries as indicated on the map are as follows:—

North.—From Paumbumallai to the anicut and thence by Kumbuparay to Mukandamallai and the Madura District boundary.

West.—The Madura District boundary from Mukandamallai in the north to the Travancore District boundary in the south.

South.—The Travancore boundary to Payratmallai.

East.—From Payratmallai in the south to Pitchymallai and thence north-west to Paumbumallai.

This would include the whole upper portion of the Unjennad or Talangee valley and the sholals on head waters of the Amravati and its tributaries which are in British territory, the area being about 74 square miles; but some slight deviation from these boundaries may be found necessary on the reserve being actually constituted. The villages of Talangee and Kodandoor are included in this reserve. Their cultivation need not be interfered with, and a margin of waste round each can be marked off for legitimate extension; on the other hand it might be preferable to buy it up and retain it for planting or use of the hill tribes employed in the reserve. The actual cultivation in both villages is only 207 acres of nunjah and 118 acres of punjah, assessed at Rupees 213 per annum. The Puttadars are, as a rule, non-resident, and the cultivation is mainly carried on their behalf for a scanty wage by Irulars and Puliars.

The rights of way to these villages and those in the Travancore country beyond must, of course, be respected. There is at present no cart road beyond the anicut. This tract differs widely from the other two which we propose to reserve. The forest is at present very poor and of quite a different character to that in the two other reserves resembling more that of the Goodara Valley before it was partly protected. There is here and there a stunted Teak tree and Vengay, Vella Naga, &c., in some of the ravines; but the prevailing tree in the valley is the Oosul (*Acacia amara*) which provides firewood only. We believe the growth may be greatly improved by the exclusion of fire, cattle and goats, and systematic conservancy; but we do not anticipate that it will ever prove a really fine forest. It occupies, however, the same position in the east as the Goodara Valley tract in the west, being the only jungle left in the plains. The whole district to the north is singularly devoid of trees; there is therefore a great scarcity of timber for ordinary purposes and firewood, both of which the proposed reserve could supply, and should the Railway come to Udumalpetta, as it certainly will some day, it would prove invaluable. Even now we think that endeavour should be made to throw a supply of comparatively cheap firewood into the markets at Comartlingam, Udumalpetta, &c., not for the sake of direct profit, but in order to stay the burning of cow-dung straw, &c., which now prevails. This might be done by floating down the Amravati or the construction of a good cart road through the forests. The protection of the sources of such of the feeders of the Amravati as are in British territory, and course of the main river will also be ensured, and the reserve probably supplemented by extensive reservations on the Madura side of the valley when the subject is gone into in that district. It is for these reasons and with regard to the future more than the present that we recommend this tract being reserved. It need not, of course, all be taken in hand at once. The tract now styled a reserve near Kulapuram has never been fire-traced or closed, nor any steps taken to improve it. This tract will now be classed as a protected forest, and that immediately adjoining it between the two channels might, with little labor or expense, be converted into an almost impenetrable forest of Babool (*A. Arabica*). Fire-traces cut for the protection of the reserves or any portion of them would require to be at least 80 yards wide to prove really effective. In addition to the three reserves thus indicated it may eventually be considered advisable to place on the reserved list some more of the shola forests at the head

waters of streams on the Government Anamalais in order to ensure their permanent protection. Meanwhile as "protected forests" they will enjoy almost equal immunity from destruction although not closed or conserved in any way which is quite unnecessary. The only applications likely to be received for them would come from parties desirous of planting tea, coffee or chinchona, but against this it should be clearly understood that they are, for the present at least, rigidly protected.

14. Having thus dealt with the question of reserved forests representing an area of 162 square miles out of a total of, roughly speaking, 435 square miles of hill forests and grass in the division, we proceed to Section 2—Existing communal privileges, future requirements and extension of cultivation. We are of opinion that there are no communal privileges at all, nor have any such been claimed, the village forests in which they may have existed having been cleared for cultivation; and that the future requirements are the preservation and improvement of the forests on account of climatic considerations generally, the permanency of the water-supply and that of timber and firewood to meet present and future demands. We are further of opinion that cultivation, in its ordinary sense, has reached its extreme limits and that no further extension, except in the shape of coffee, tea, and chinchona on the hills, should be provided for or permitted.

15. We recommend therefore that the whole remaining area of hill forest in the division outside the permanent reserves be classed and treated as "protected forest" as defined in Act VII of 1878, due provision being made for—

- (a.) The legitimate and *bona fide* extension of the cultivation of coffee, &c., in suitable localities.
- (b.) The Ponakad or Kumeri cultivation of the hill tribes and retention by them of the right of collecting minor forest produce.
- (c.) The supply to villagers in the plains of timber for agricultural purposes, firewood, &c., on free pass under the forest rules, and the depasturing of cattle when such is considered advisable.

16. (a.)—We are strongly in favor of encouraging the development of the industry in tea, coffee, &c., by which capital is attracted to the country, labor employed and resources developed, but cannot recommend that any opening out be permitted under conditions which necessitate the destruction of forests of value, either for the timber they contain or for their influence, direct or indirect, on the climate or water-supply.

The water-supply of the southern portion of the Coimbatore District, in which there is a considerable extent of wet cultivation, depends mainly upon the streams and rivers which issue from the ravines on the northern and eastern water-shed of the Anamalais, whilst the inhabitants of the plains are dependent upon the lower slopes for their supply of timber, firewood, &c. The water-supply is insufficient and not so continuous as it used to be. The supply of timber is barely adequate, and no pains or expense should, we think, be spared to reclothe the hill sides which the heavy demand for timber and firewood of late years, the annual fires and depasturing of cattle and goats have rendered more or less bare. Under these circumstances, we deprecate any further clearing of forest for coffee, &c., on the northern or eastern water-shed or slopes. We would confine operations on this side to the ravine in which the "waterfall" and other estates are situated, and even there restrict clearing to above the waterfall itself and below the very top of the ridge which, in the interests of planters themselves, should be kept covered with heavy forests. By the adoption of these measures the damage to water-supply, if it occur, will be reduced to a minimum and limited to one stream instead of extending all along the line of mountains.

17. If we cross the ridge behind Mr. Walsh's estate, however, we find an extensive area, probably 85 square miles, of heavy forest watered by the Vaitoolyaur, the Sholayaur, and their tributaries, a great portion of which would appear eminently suitable for the cultivation of coffee, &c., and to the clearing of which none of the objections noted above apply. The forest is of little or no intrinsic value and inaccessible, and the drainage being to the West Coast, where the rainfall and water-supply is adequate, no damage is likely to result from considerable clearing. We recommend therefore that the whole of this area as shown in the map from behind Poonachi and Andypara, south to the Travancore boundary and west to the boundary of the Tunacaduvu reserved forest, be gradually made available for sale in suitable blocks under the Waste Land Rules. If Government approve of this suggestion, we consider that a proper road should be opened out and maintained via the waterfall and Mr. Walsh's estate. The general arrangements might be left to the Forest Department who alone have resident establishments.

18. (b.)—On the recommendation of the late Collector (Mr. Wedderburn), Government sanctioned certain arrangements in 1874 (G.O. of 18th April 1874, No. 462, Revenue,) with the object of inducing the hill tribes to adopt more settled habits of life and confine their cultivation to certain localities where an ample margin of land was to be allotted to them. These arrangements, which were partially carried out, have not succeeded, and we do not think any

scheme which interferes with the roaming habits of the hill men is likely to work well. Much more probably the result would be their migration to the forests of the adjoining Native States, which we consider would be a serious loss to the Forest Department who, we propose, should largely utilize their services in the future as Forest Guards.

19. We find that they would be quite content to restrict their Ponakad or Kumeri cultivation to the old clearings which they have made here and there from time to time and abandoned, and we consider it advisable that all those should be demarcated with stones bearing a special mark, surveyed and retained for their special use. Their situation is well known as well as the particular tribe who have been in the habit of cultivating them. No time should be lost in effecting this demarcation and restricting the Ponakad cultivation to their limits, unless special sanction for a new clearing be obtained through the Forest Department.

We have reason to believe that this concession, coupled with the monopoly of the collection of minor forest products, will give the hill men generally great satisfaction, and that, in return, they will be ready to render such services to the Forest Department as they are capable of. Mr. Douglas found the Kaders most useful, and with a little tact and kindness on the part of the Forest Officer and employés, and a small annual present in the shape of money, grain or cloths they can be made most useful auxiliaries.

They complain bitterly of the infringement of late years by coolies from the plains of their privilege of collecting gall-nuts, honey, wax, &c.

20. We think, wherever practical, they should be confirmed and supported in the prior right to collect to the exclusion of all others, and that every facility should be given them to dispose of the produce to the best advantage, whether through the agency of the Forest Department or by direct dealings with merchants. This is the more advisable in that the coolies who come up from the plains do great damage in collecting the myrobalans (fruit of *Terminalia*, *Beleric*, *Chebula*, &c.,) sacrificing hundreds of trees by breaking down and tearing off branches and saplings, whereas the hill men do little or no damage in collecting the produce.

21. We append a census of the different hill tribes resident on the Government Anamalais (including the leased forest) recently compiled by the Forest Ranger in charge of No. 2 Range, which is probably as accurate as can be procured. It will be seen that they number over 1,000 souls, of whom more than one half are Pulars and about one quarter Kaders. The former reside, for the most part, in the outer range of mountains north of the Tunacaduvu river where they have regular villages, such as Poondy, Mavadapcooromallai, &c., whilst the Kaders and Muduvars frequent the inner and more remote localities where they have seldom any settled place of abode.

22. (c).—For the supply of timber, firewood, &c., other than by direct departmental agency the whole area of the protected forests will be available, and the outer slopes and ravines extending from Coochmallai in the north-west to the Talangee or Unjenad Valley in the south-west must provide the main local supply of this part of the district.

23. We have given the question of the depasturing of cattle very careful consideration.

We have already stated that no claims to communal privileges have been preferred, by which we mean that no right held in common by a number of persons against all other persons or the State has been advanced; on the contrary it has been universally admitted that cattle from all parts of this and even the adjoining district are more or less depastured on the hills as well as those from the villages in the immediate vicinity. On the other hand that the privilege or free use of the pasturage has been enjoyed by all comers for periods varying in length according to the extension of cultivation, and consequent disappearance of the village forests in the plains is undoubted. This privilege has virtually extended over the whole area of the hill forests, although prevented from time to time in the neighbourhood of Tunacaduvu in the west, and not, as a rule, extending south of the Tunacaduvu river in the east.

24. This grazing is of two descriptions, viz., first the driving of cattle, goats, &c., in comparatively small numbers from the villages near the hills to the lower slopes from which they return the same evening; and, second, the grazing of large herds further in the mountains where they are kept for weeks or months under the charge of Mulsers. We thought this practice was only usual during a comparatively short portion of the year when but little pasture is available in the plains, but we find it has become more or less the custom amongst the villages situated near the hills to keep all the cattle they do not absolutely require upon the hills during the whole year.

The average number thus permanently depastured from Ponachi eastwards is estimated not less than 12,000 head of cattle.

25. We deprecate both practices most strongly, not only on account of the damage done to the forests and their consequent deterioration, but far more on account of the loss of the manure for which alone many of the cattle have any value; the inducement which the facility holds out to leave no portion of a holding under grass, and consequent impoverishment of the soil. In the course of our inquiries we found some of the richest ryots with holdings of four or five hundred acres, leaving no portion of their land fallow or under grass because they had the hills

within easy reach to which to send their cattle. We found further that it was not uncommon in the Udampalpetai Taluk for ryots to sublet for pasture part of their holding at remunerative rates to others from Palladam, availing themselves meanwhile of the free pasture on the Government hills. We regard the hills as a valuable grazing reserve available in seasons of exceptional drought, but we think everything should be done to discourage their being made use of as a regular practice by ryots who already hold their land on exceptionally favorable rates of assessment, varying from Annas 12 to Annas 8, to the detriment both of the forests and of the fields by the loss of the manure, the cattle whose manure is so absolutely necessary for the soil being kept almost all the year round on the hills.

26. We propose therefore that a payment should be levied on all cattle depastured on the hills, a procedure which is, we believe, common in other provinces. The payment should be fixed with reference to the rates ruling for dry cultivation and area required per head. Thus, if the rate of assessment be taken at Annas 8 per acre and it requires 2 or 3 acres for the feed of a bullock or buffalo, we would fix the annual rate per head at 1 rupee. This would, perhaps, induce ryots to retain a portion of their holdings as pasture, if not it would provide a fund for the protection and reboisement of the hills. The rate should be levied and a license issued prior to the cattle entering the hills by the agency of the Forest Department and Village Monigars. Should it be deemed inexpedient to levy so high a rate as we have recommended some charge at least appears advisable, and in any case the taking out of a license or permit under specified conditions prior to sending cattle into the forests to graze should, we think, be imperative.

The license should state number of head of cattle and the limits within which they may graze and prescribe conditions, such as not setting fire to the grass, cutting or lopping trees, &c., non-observance of which should render the license liable to cancelment and the consequent exclusion of the cattle.

27. We venture strongly to recommend this point to the consideration of the Board and Government, being convinced that it is all-important in the interests not only of forest conservancy but of the people themselves. That the people would gradually acquiesce in such measures is proved by the results of an experiment in the so-called Kullapuram forest reserve for the right of grazing in which the Forest Department have levied Rupees 345-15-0 in two years, representing upwards of 5,000 head of cattle and 1,000 sheep and goats which have been depastured within its limits at the rate of 1 anna per head of cattle and 3 pies per sheep for six months.

We would exclude sheep and goats from the privilege of hill-grazing, as the damage done by them to young trees is incalculable and utterly inimical to any reproduction.

28. We consider that steps are urgently necessary to stay the deforestation of the hill slopes and reclothe them with trees, and with this object propose that alternate tracts should be closed for a term of years rigidly conserved, and, if found necessary, fire-traced to permit of regrowth. This can probably be best effected by a system of blocking out ravine by ravine and closing each alternate one on rotation for a period of years. The ravines are all well known by local names and it would not be difficult to define the limits of the tracts open and closed by natural boundaries.

29. The whole outer boundary of the protected forests where it joins the line of cultivation should be clearly demarcated by stones and a broad inspection path after it has been definitely settled by the Revenue and Forest officials. This will put a stop to the endless question as to what is and what is not forest, and enable the jurisdiction and duties of the Forest officials to be clearly defined. This will be comparatively easy in this division, as the forests are all situated on what may be considered one block or range of hills and not interspersed by cultivation, but it will of course take time and could not probably be carried out by the local Forest establishment without detriment to their ordinary duties.

30. In conclusion we would submit that it will be necessary to give effect to our proposals that a definite settlement be made by an officer duly authorized under the provisions of a legal enactment, and that the sooner this is done and a complete record of such settlement made the better for all parties concerned. It does not follow that because few claims, and those of a very vague description, have been advanced, others more specific and therefore more seriously affecting the question may not be put forward immediately it is sought to give effect to our recommendations and intensify conservancy which is now little more than a name. A legal and permanent settlement is the only course which can prove at once just, binding, and satisfactory to all parties, and it is urgently called for.

31. We would further remark that it will be no use constituting reserves or protected forests unless the protection is adequate and persistent. For this the regular forest establishments are quite inadequate. When the Deputy Conservator on special duty visited Tunacaduvu he ascertained that the whole permanent protective and working establishments, both for the leased and Government reserved forest, consisted of one Ranger, one Forester, and four Forest Guards. To attempt protection with such a staff is but to court infringement of the rules and set a premium on their being ignored.

We are aware that there must be a financial limit to the entertainment of forest establishments, but we venture to recommend that they be kept up to the full sanctioned scale both as regards numbers and emoluments, and supplemented by the enlistment of all the hill tribes whose services, such as they are, may, we believe, be secured with ease by such concessions regarding Ponakad minor produce, &c., as we have already alluded to. Co-operation should also be gradually secured from the inhabitants of villages in and bordering on the forests and those sending cattle into the hills to graze by the conditions under which these privileges may be enjoyed.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

MEMORANDUM.

THE villages from which claims or petitions have been received, and the inhabitants of which have been examined, are the following:—

Pollachi Taluk.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Vetakaranpudur. | 11. Sangampolliem. | 21. Ardanaripolliem. |
| 2. Oodayacolum. | 12. Nulloor. | 22. Pilukampolliem. |
| 3. Anamalai. | 13. Ungalakurichi. | 23. Chittur. |
| 4. Siddandinaikenpolliem. | 14. Bommanaikenputty. | 24. Samathoray. |
| 5. Shirangi Chettipudur. | 15. Jelliputty. | 25. Pooloochinnampolliem. |
| 6. Caliapuram. | 16. Cumbalaputty. | 26. Veeralaputty. |
| 7. Kotur. | 17. Malayandiputnum. | 27. Amarampolliem. |
| 8. Thorayur. | 18. Nulloor. | 28. Thondamoothoor. |
| 9. Munjanaikanur. | 19. Paratur. | 29. Dalavapolliem. |
| 10. Karyandichettipolliem. | 20. Kodangiputty. | 30. Vagapolliem. |

Udamalpetai Taluk.

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|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Dhully. | 9. Udakumpolliem. | 17. Comaralingum. |
| 2. Pallapolliem. | 10. Depalputty. | 18. Ravanapuram. |
| 3. Pallaputty. | 11. Chellapanpolliem. | 19. Periapapanutu. |
| 4. Devanarpudur. | 12. Ereswamputty. | 20. Chinnapananutu. |
| 5. Raratur. | 13. Udakampolliem. | 21. Thimapputty. |
| 6. Pungamuttur. | 14. Kodangiem. | 22. Reddipolliem. |
| 7. Andigoundanur. | 15. Elliamuttur. | 23. Guruvupanaikenpolliem. |
| 8. Kullapuram. | 16. Kurichikottay. | 24. Circurpuddur. |

2. The ryots of Anamalai and the adjacent villages of the Pollachi Taluk (villages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6) claim rights—

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1.) Of grazing. | (5.) Bamboos for basket-makers. |
| (2.) Cutting wood on free licenses. | (6.) Wood for kilns. |
| (3.) Firewood. | (7.) Wood for washermen. |
| (4.) Charcoal. | |

The claims refer to the slopes of the hills leading up to the Government Teak forest at Anamalai, and grazing rights are claimed in the Teak forest itself.

3. I will remark on these claims first, and will then proceed to notice the other claims preferred.

With reference to the claim of grazing rights the Head Assistant Collector, who inquired into these claims, reports—"Ventakaranpudur and Udyacolum are both comparatively new villages, having been built according to the statements of the ryots about thirty years ago. At that time, however, the surrounding country was in a state very different from the present; now cultivation extends to the very base of the hills. Then, as admitted by Tirumalai Gounden, one of the leading ryots, cultivation extended up to Mudiamalai, five miles from the Adivarum (base of hills). Ventakaranpudur and Anamalai were jungle villages, remissions had to be granted on account of the depredations of wild beasts. Grazing ground was at their very doors and there was neither need nor inclination to drive cattle into the hills. The limits of cultivation, however, quickly advanced, and in another ten years, to adopt the reckoning of another ryot (Nalla Carruppa Pillai of Anamalai), grazing ground was sought in the hill forests. It seems therefore that the practice of grazing cattle in the mountains which rise from the south of the Pollachi Taluk is of recent origin, nor has it been uninterrupted. When the contract system was applied to the forests a fee was levied for each head of cattle which graze there. Again, the same Tirumalai Gounden gives a long list of places where grazing has been forbidden for 'the last five or six years.' It is also notorious that the Forest Department have always claimed the right to exclude cattle from certain portions of the forests, and have exercised the right, though with a varying degree of vigilance. It cannot therefore be considered that these

villagers have established their claims to grazing or other rights so far as any particular part of the forests is concerned. At the same time I am not at all inclined to deny the existence of such rights in general and without regard to specific portions of forest territory. This brings on the question which the late Collector submitted to the Board of Revenue, whether grazing and other forest rights advance before the extended limits of cultivation. Without putting the issue in this way, however, I beg to point out that in a taluk where there is no evidence pointing to the existence of village jungles the ryots can claim no more than to graze and cut in so much forest land as is fair and reasonable. Should the result then of Captain Campbell Walker's mission be to leave so much of the hills for the use of the villagers as is reasonably sufficient and reasonably convenient in accessibility and other respects they would, in my opinion, have cause of complaint neither legally nor equitably."

4. Another ryot, Nallakaruppa Pillai of Anamalai, stated that Ventakaranpudur, which is two miles south-west of Anamalai, "was built thirty or thirty-five years ago. Before that the cattle belonging to the Anamalai village could not go up to the hills; that it is only twenty years since cattle first went up to the hills; that 'ten or seventeen years ago' they used to go to Tunacadavu (Government Teak Forest) but were stopped; and that the villagers now take their cattle to the Rajah's (Cochin or Collengode Numbiddy's) forests and pay him 2 Annas per head grazing fee."

5. The other claims put forward by these villagers are to the usual usufruct of jungles for wood and bamboos for agricultural and domestic purposes. The claims do not refer to jungles within their village boundaries, and although they refer to specific localities are supported by much the same arguments as the claims to grazing rights. By the present rules of the Forest Department ryots are allowed, when there is not sufficient forest in their villages, to obtain wood and bamboos for domestic and agricultural purposes on free permits from Government Forests, and what the claimants principally request is that this privilege shall be continued to them.

6. The ryots of the other villages in the Pollachi and Udamalpetai Taluks prefer very similar claims to grazing rights, and the uses of Government jungles for wood and bamboos for domestic and agricultural purposes. The villagers state that they have from time immemorial been in the habit of grazing their cattle on the Anamalai Hills and of obtaining wood and bamboos from the jungles on the slopes. They state that the forest officials have latterly prevented their doing so. The villagers are unable to mention any one forest official by name who has done so, and the inquiries I have made show that cattle are at the present moment on the hills. In proof of their customary rights they point to the numerous cattle kraals existing on the hills. They state that they keep their cattle constantly on the hills only bringing down cows soon after calving, and bullocks at the cultivating season, and that the cattle are sent back as soon as the ploughing is over. The villagers do not accompany the cattle but employ Mulseras to look after them.

7. The villagers of Comaralingum (a nunjah village) state that they have no grazing ground in their village when the crops are growing and therefore have been in the habit of sending their cattle to the hills and request a specific allotment of land on the hills for their cattle.

8. It is admitted by the claimants that the right of grazing claimed by them is not exclusive, and that cattle from other parts of the district, even from the vicinity of Palladam, are sent to the hills to graze.

9. When conducting the settlement of the Udamalpetai Taluk last May, I ascertained that some of the ryots of villages lying near the hills were in the habit of renting out their fields for grazing to people from the centre of the district, and got as much rent as from 3 rupees to 4 rupees per acre for such lands, the assessment being about 1 rupee per acre. Their cattle were sent to the hills to graze for nothing and they derived a considerable income from letting their lands to others not so conveniently situated.

10. The inquiry that has been made shows two things—

1st.—That the claims are not to communal rights or privileges.

2nd.—That the practice of grazing cattle in the existing Government jungles is of comparatively recent origin. By "communal" rights I mean rights common to all the inhabitants of a village and relating to users within the village boundaries. At the time of the settlement certain lands were set apart as common grazing grounds, &c. These were not probably sufficient at the time and the villagers either grazed their cattle on a portion of their putta lands which were lying fallow, or sent them to the nearest Government forest or waste land (not being common land of another village). I do not think that the practice of sending their cattle away from their villages to graze in Government jungles would give the people a right of common in these jungles.

11. In deciding on the future conservancy of the Government forest and grass lands in this division it is, I think, necessary to consider the subject with reference to that part of the

district the inhabitants of which have been in the habit of sending their cattle to the hills, and not with sole reference to the villages lying in the immediate vicinity of the hills. It is not, I think, a question of communal rights, for I do not think such rights exist.

12. The inquiries I have made show that under the present system a vast quantity of manure is lost to the soil. What that loss is is shown in the report of Mr. Robertson, the Superintendent of the Government Farms, for 1876-77, and I think therefore the Government should not throw open gratuitously all the remaining grazing grounds of the district, but should encourage as far as possible grazing within village limits. At present but few lands are allowed to lie fallow. Crop after crop is taken off, no manure or scarcely any is applied (what manure is collected being generally burnt for fuel) and in consequence the soil has deteriorated most grievously. The same thing will happen to the new lands brought under cultivation in the Anamalai Division. The virgin soil is now yielding magnificent crops, but it cannot last for ever and must deteriorate. Private proprietors, and, as admitted by the petitioners, the Collengode Numbiddy charges a grazing rent for cattle brought to their lands, and I do not see why Government should not do the same. If the rights claimed were communal rights the case would be different, but as there are no communal rights I think Government should charge a grazing rent for cattle taken to the hills. This would tend to induce the people to graze their cattle in their own villages. I think, however, that the revenue realized should be appropriated either to improve these forests which may be classed as "protected," or else should be expended as a grant-in-aid towards the formation of village jungles.

13. As regards the claims to user of Government jungles for wood, bamboos, &c., for agricultural and domestic purposes it seems to me that as long as Government allow the ryots to get wood and bamboos on free permits and allot sufficient jungles for the purpose the ryots cannot with reason object to the allotment. In our report we propose to class a large extent of jungle as "Protected Forest," from which the ryots will under certain restrictions be able to obtain all they want. It would be impracticable with due regard to conservancy to allot for all time specific jungles to each village or group of villages.

14. The following is a statement of the number of cattle, &c., in the Pollachi and Udumalpetai Taluks:—

Taluks.	Cows.	Bullocks.	Bulls.	Male Buffaloes.	Young Buffaloes.	Female Buffaloes.	Sheep.	Total.
Pollachi Taluk—								
Villages adjoining Hills	5,451	10,582	2,324	575	478	1,453	19,492	40,355
Other Villages	15,661	17,283	3,042	127	180	1,540	26,008	63,841
Total	21,112	27,865	5,366	702	658	2,993	45,500	104,196
Udumalpetai Taluk	6,196	16,616	..	1,340	..	868	22,181	47,201
Grand Total	27,308	44,481	5,366	2,042	658	3,861	67,681	151,397

12th October 1878.

(Signed) A. McC. WEBSTER,
Collector.

No. 1,105.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Board of Revenue, with reference to paragraph 3 of the G.O., No. 1,105, of the 20th July 1878.

OOTACAMUND,
18th October 1878.

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

THE Conservator of Forests submits a joint report drawn up by a Committee, consisting of the Collector of Coimbatore and Captain C. Walker, on the forests of the South Coimbatore Division, in accordance with G.O., dated 20th July 1878, No. 1,105.

2. This report is apparently the result of personal inspection of the localities referred to, and of a careful inquiry into the rights and privileges therein of the people of the neighbouring villages.

3. The "Hill forests and grass in the division" are roughly computed to measure 435 square miles. Of this extent it is proposed that 162 square miles be constituted "reserved forests" and the rest be treated as "protected forests."

4. The reserved forests are to be divided into three, which may be conveniently termed—

- I. The Anamalai Reserve.
- II. The Ponachi do.
- III. The Talanji do.

5. The extent of No. I is estimated at 82 square miles. It will embrace the whole of the Government Teak forest and that leased from the Nambiddy (26 square miles), but only 45 square miles are recommended for "immediate treatment."

6. The northern boundary of this reserve should, it is considered, be continuous with the southern limit of cultivation and will thus generally include the slopes of the hills.

7. This measure is proposed to secure the upper and really valuable forest from the dangers from fire and cattle to which it would be exposed if the slopes were left open to free entry and grazing.

8. A piece of low-country jungle known as the Cuchmallai reserve is also included as being "the only fair piece of jungle left on the plains in this direction," and the better to protect the whole reserve an existing road is to be closed and another formed outside the boundary. There appears to be no cultivation within the limits, but it is stated that one Ramasami Moodelly has a claim to 300 bullahs of land within the Cuchmallai portion.

9. The Board believe that this claim was investigated some years ago, and Colonel Beddome thinks "it was finally settled." The Collector should report on this point.

No. II. The Ponachi reserve "contains the remains of a fine Teak forest." It consists of a small block of about 6 square miles, but its exact extent will vary according as it may be decided to exclude or buy up a small coffee estate and some unimportant wet cultivation.

10. The IIIrd or Talanji reserve is to be formed, not for its timber which is poor, but for reasons similar to those which induce the Committee to include the Cuchmallai jungle in No. I, viz., to provide for the timber and fuel requirements of the neighbouring villagers. The reservation will also serve to protect some of the sources of the river Amaravati.

11. Its area will be about 74 square miles, and two villages, Talanji and Kodandur, lie within it. Their cultivation and its extension can be provided for, but as it consists according to the Committee's inquiries of "only 207 acres of nunjah and 118 acres of punjah assessed at Rs. 213 per annum," it is suggested that "it might be preferable to buy it up and retain it for planting or use of the hill tribes" who now work for non-resident Puttadars.

12. The Conservator thinks the amount of cultivation "has been immensely under-estimated," but he approves of this and all the reserves proposed by the Committee, though he would divide No. I into—

- (1),—the Government Teak forest;
- (2),—the leased forest;
- (3),—the Anagoondy reserve; and
- (4),—the Cuchmallai reserve.

13. This point and various other questions connected with the future treatment of the reserves are matters of administrative detail and convenience which the Conservator is competent to arrange.

14. The whole of the forests in the division with the exception of the leased portion belong to Government, and the Committee have come to the conclusion that no communal privileges exist in regard to them, inasmuch as "the village forests in which they may have existed" have "been cleared for cultivation."

15. This fact seems fully established by the evidence taken by the Collector and Head Assistant Collector, who inquired into the claims preferred by the neigh-

bouring villages and by Colonel Beddome's own acquaintance with the division over a period of 22 years.

16. The Committee finally deal with the subject of future requirements.

17. They consider that "cultivation in its ordinary sense has reached its extreme limits" on the plains, and would therefore treat all forest not in the reserves as "protected," making due provision for—

- (1),—the extension of tea, coffee, &c., plantations on the hills,
- (2),—for kumeri cultivation of hill tribes; and,
- (3),—for the requirements of villages on the plains for timber for agricultural purposes and fuel on free pass and for grazing.

18. In regard to the *first*, they "deprecate any further clearing of forest for coffee, &c.," on the northern or eastern watershed or slopes in order to secure the water-supply on this side, but indicate some heavy forest, "probably 85 square miles," which might be given away as the drainage is to the West Coast.

Second.—Kumeri cultivation they would confine to old clearings which should be demarcated. The hill tribes whose numbers are put at 1,000 souls would, they consider, readily accept this settlement if "confirmed and supported in the prior right to collect" hill produce "to the exclusion of others." This monopoly is further recommended as the coolies from the plains who collect such produce injure the trees, "whereas the hillmen do little or no damage."

Third.—The fuel and timber requirements of the people will be met from the Talanji and Cuchmallai reserves and the "protected" forest generally. To grazing in the forests the Committee are much opposed, not only on account of the forests, but because the manure from their cattle is thus lost to the people. They would therefore discourage it by levying a license fee "fixed with reference to the rates ruling for dry cultivation and area required per head," and would exclude sheep and goats entirely, as the damage done by them is "utterly inimical to any reproduction."

In conclusion, the Committee urge that to give effect to their proposals "a definite settlement be made by an officer duly authorized under the provisions of a legal enactment," and that ample protective establishments are necessary.

19. The Conservator agrees with the Committee on all three points, and would especially allow only the hill tribes to collect jungle products. He notices that the Committee do not refer to the question of allowing traders to enter the forests and deal with the hillmen, but the Board do not suppose it was the intention of Government that this question

* G.O., 13th June 1878, No. 906.

which they had so* recently settled

should be re-opened. Colonel Beddome thinks the Forest Department should buy all the jungle produce, but he does not say how he would meet the wants of the hillmen which are at present supplied by the traders.

20. The Conservator's remarks in paragraph 25 were made before the matters therein referred to were considered and disposed of in G.O., 26th November 1878, No. 1,918.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 46. From Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 18th March 1879, No. 1,638.

I HAVE the honor to forward the letter and memorandum as per margin from Letter from Captain Walker, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on special duty, to the Conservator of Forests, dated 16th March 1879, No. 67.

2. CONSTITUTION OF THE FOREST SETTLEMENT PARTY.—Three Forest Officers

Memorandum from Captain Walker, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on special duty. besides Captain Walker can, I think, never be required; at any rate Messrs. Peet and Gass could not be spared now, Mahomed Ali Sahib is also just at present in charge of Salem, whilst Mr. Stanbrough is absent on short sick leave, but his services will shortly be available, and Mr. Boileau might be attached to the party on his return from England. I agree with Captain Walker that a small survey party or an officer of the Survey Department is necessary, and I think that a Revenue officer should be permanently appointed in each district who should remain attached to the settlement party as long as it remains in the district.

3. I also approve of the proposal that the party should work in the field from the 1st of June till the 31st of January, and that it should go into cantonment for the other four months, and that for that period Ootacamund may be its headquarters.

4. The party will, of course, work under the orders of the Board and Government, but all reports, returns, &c., should, I think, pass through the Conservator for his remarks.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain J. C. WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on Special Duty, to Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, dated Coimbatore, 16th March 1879, No. 67.

I HAVE the honor to enclose for your consideration and submission to Government a memorandum on the constitution, &c., of a Forest Settlement Party.

2. I have already stated my views on the subject generally (*vide* G.O., Nos. 1,467 and 1,918 of 10th September and 26th November 1878); but the importance of the subject induces me to place the matter before you again in its present form.

3. As matters stand at present I can do little or no good, whereas a real forest settlement, *i.e.*, selection and constitution of reserves, &c., is all important and without it we can have no real conservancy and improvement either in our forests themselves or the revenue derived from them.

4. To effect it, a properly organized party must be put in the field and work steadily and systematically on clearly-defined principles and instructions.

5. A small Demarcation and Survey Party and Special Revenue Officer with some experience are indispensable, and our two trained Assistants with Mahomed Ali Sahib are peculiarly qualified for the technical part of the work. As regards the office establishments, I explained fully what is required in paragraph 6 of my letter, No. 26, recorded with G.O., No. 1,918, paragraph 7 of which curtails it to below that of a Divisional Forest Office (1st Class) as sanctioned by G.O., No. 39, dated 11th January 1876, Revenue Department.

6. I framed my proposals with due regard to economy, and as Government have entrusted me with the special duty of selecting the reserves, &c., I trust they will excuse me if I repeat that what I asked for is absolutely necessary in order to give due effect to their orders. The Sub-Assistant will, of course, have his own office establishment as per sanctioned scale.

Working establishments can be entertained as required according to the circumstances of the division.

MEMORANDUM on the Constitution and Duties of a Forest Settlement Party for the Selection of Reserved and Protected Forests, their Demarcation, Definition of Boundaries and Claims.

Constitution.—The party shall consist of a Deputy Conservator of the 1st Grade or Conservator (in charge), the two trained Forest Officers Messrs. Peet and Gass, and a Sub-Assistant Conservator with adequate working and office establishments, a small Survey and Demarcation party including a Draughtsman under an Assistant Superintendent or Head Surveyor as detailed by the Superintendent, Revenue Survey, will be attached to the Forest Settlement Party, and a Special Revenue Officer of not lower grade than Head Assistant Collector will accompany the party when in the field. The headquarters of the party will be at Ootacamund where the records, maps, &c., will be kept; the ordinary working season will be eight months, June to February, during which the party will be employed in field as distinct from office work, compilation of reports for the year, completion of maps, &c., which will receive special attention during the remaining four months at headquarters.

The party shall work under the immediate orders of the Board of Revenue, (or Secretary to Government, Revenue Department), and in communication with the Collector of the District and Divisional Revenue and Forest Officers, who will give all the assistance and information in their power.

Duties.—The work of the party shall consist in the selection of forest tracts to be classed as reserved, protected, or village, ascertaining and recording their capabilities, and the reasons such as climatic considerations, water-supply, or value of the timber which render it advisable to include them in one or other class; the definition on the ground and on maps of their boundaries and those of private tracts of forest where such can be done without dispute or reference to a Court of Law; and recording all rights or claims in the tracts proposed to be reserved or protected which will be investigated and reported on specially by the Revenue officer.

The party shall work steadily through the forest districts, and when any district is finished, it shall be the duty of the Conservator or Deputy Conservator in charge to submit a full report on the proposed reservations, &c., either jointly with the Collector or through that officer, who will forward it with his remarks to the Board—a copy being also sent at the same time to the Conservator of Forests for the Presidency for his information and approval. On receipt of Government orders the necessary arrangements will be made by the Conservator in charge of Settlement Party with the Superintendent, Revenue Survey, and local officers for the permanent demarcation and survey of the tracts, and subsequently with the Presidency Conservator for their efficient protection, improvement and working. So soon as a Forest Act is introduced and becomes law the party will work under its provisions and these instructions will be modified accordingly.

(Signed) J. C. WALKER, Captain,
Deputy Conservator of Forests.

No. 47. From Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 11th June 1879, No. 456.

I HAVE the honor to forward the report and map as per margin, forwarded by Captain Campbell Walker.

No. 104 of 17th May (despatched 11th June) from Captain C. Walker, to the Conservator of Forests, with a map and copy of a letter from Mr. Peet, Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Coimbatore.

2. Little or nothing can, I fear, be settled as to the reservation of forests protecting the head-waters of the Bhavani until the rights of Government in the tracts in question are settled. It is

presumed that Tract No. IV on the map "the Siruvani Valley," Tract No. VI "the Gopaneri Valley," and Tract No. V called "Attapadi," all belong to the Coimbatore District as the water-shed is to the east, and I am of opinion that Government should dispute all claims of the Malabar Nairs to any of these tracts. For many years it was supposed in this Department that all the Siruvani Valley belonged to Government, but the late rectification of the Malabar and Coimbatore boundaries, and the handing over of this tract to Malabar has complicated matters, and invited claims from the Nairs of Malabar, and large timber operations have lately been commenced by contractors under one of these Nairs in tracts of Attapadi to the west of Gopaneri, where the water-shed is to the east. I think in the interests of conservancy that it is now all important that the question of Government rights should be settled, and that all those tracts belonging to Government within the eastern water-shed should be retransferred to the Coimbatore District.

3. I submit the following remarks on the proposed reservation:—

Tract No. III; "The Bolampatti Valley."—The greater portion of this is in the plains, and has been cleared for permanent cultivation. What forest remains near the base of the ghats and the slopes of the hills, which are well wooded, should all be reserved partly for climatic reasons (the water-supply of the Noel river, which feeds so many tanks in and around Coimbatore), but equally for the value of the timber, for which there will always be a market, as there is much Rosewood and many other valuable timbers on the slopes.

Tract No. IV; "The Siruvani Valley."—All the southern portion of this (the Pambar shola and the forests around the Mooti Kolum) should be reserved as protecting the head-waters of the Siruvani river; the timber is of no value at present as too distant from a market.

Tract No. V in part; called "Attapadi."—The valley itself is very generally cultivated, and much of the jungle poor and scrubby, from having for many

rotations been felled and burnt for temporary cultivation. There are, however, tracts valuable for timber (Rosewood, Teak, Karamaradah, &c.); but reservation is most necessary for all the heavy forest on the slopes of the different hills and on the higher plateau, as almost every ravine here protects one of the many ramifications of the sources of the Bhavani.

4. The "Silent Valley," a splendid valley, due north of Manar and west of tract No. V (which is, I believe, the Attapadi of the hillmen), has its water-shed to the west, and is most admirably suited for a coffee district. If it belongs to Government, which Mr. Logan has informed me is the case, I should like to see it well roaded, and thrown open to coffee and Chinchona cultivation; there could scarcely be a more favorable situation for the cultivation of *Chinchona succirubra*.

5. As intimately bearing on the question of reservation in all these tracts, I would draw your attention to portions of my inspection reports recorded in G.O.s., No. 298 of the 23rd January 1877, and No. 1,336 of 19th August 1878.

6. As to reserves in Tract V, the eastern portion, and Tract VI, Gopaneri, &c., and away further east to the Moyar river, proposals for reservation are before Government in reports from Mr. Morgan, the Deputy Conservator, and Mr. Wedderburn, the Collector, recorded in G.O., No. 443, of 30th March 1876, (*vide* also paragraphs 24 and 25 of Conservator's report recorded in G.O., No. 298, of the 23rd January 1877).

7. Referring to paragraph 4 of Captain Walker's letter, I must remark that unless he is accompanied by a Revenue officer and a Survey officer who can point out the boundaries, and who have power to settle boundary disputes or to bring them forward in such a way as to ensure their speedy and final adjustment, his work will be of little avail. It also appears to me a waste of his time that he should be employed in districts like Coimbatore where, from the great importance of the question, the whole subject has been thoroughly gone into and digested long before he has taken it up, the very ground he has gone over and much more has been very thoroughly explored on many occasions, and reports and maps, showing what is required, could be sent in from this office without his visiting the forests.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain J. C. WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on Special Duty, to Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, dated Wellington, 17th May 1879, No. 104.

I HAVE the honor to report that, in accordance with orders, I have just concluded an inspection of the Bolampatti valley, head-waters of the Noel river, and mountain forests above, on the head-waters of the Siruvani and Bhavani rivers, and their tributaries.

2. I submit a map enlarged from the Ordnance Sheet No. 61, on which I have indicated in a general manner the tracts which I recommend should be reserved in those localities. As the Collector of Coimbatore was unable to depute a Revenue officer to accompany me, and a great proportion of the proposed reservations are at present within the boundaries of the Malabar District, I was unable to work in accordance with the instructions conveyed in G.O., No. 1,105, dated 20th July 1878, as regards District Committees or preliminary inquiry into claims, privileges, &c.

3. I have no knowledge nor information as to what proportion of the tracts indicated is private or public forest, what cultivation exists nor what rights, &c., may be claimed within their boundaries, but I believe the whole area outside the boundaries of Coimbatore District is claimed by Malabar proprietors.

I merely submit the map in accordance with verbal instructions as to what is required of me, received from the Revenue Secretary.

4. Should this be found all that is necessary I would submit that with the benefit of your advice and extensive knowledge of the forest districts, and the reports of the Divisional Forest Officers, we might finish the work in consultation in office, and submit the required maps within a very few weeks. How far this would tend to really settle the question and constitute the forest reserves, Government are best able to judge. I fail to see that much good will be done by such a general designation of proposed reservations.

5. You will observe that I make no distinction at present between private, reserved, protected or village forests. The two latter classes would include a large proportion of the

total area, but it is clearly impossible for me without the requisite information, or machinery for acquiring it, to attempt to define and classify them even in the most general manner.

6. A comparison of this report and map with that submitted on the proposed reservations, &c., in the South Coimbatore Division, will, I trust, place Government in a position to decide which course is best calculated to further the selection, settlement and constitution of State reserves, &c. The South Coimbatore report may be considered a sample of what I would respectfully suggest as the proper procedure prior to the notification of intention to reserve and the appointment of a Forest Settlement Officer.

That division, I consider, is now ready for this action.

Note—The submission of this Report has been delayed pending receipt of the Map from the Revenue Survey Office, Coimbatore. I only received it to-day and lose no time in submitting it along with copy of a letter in explanation from Mr. Peet, who attended to its preparation during my absence on leave.

11th June 1879.

J. C. W.

ENCLOSURE in No. 1.

From A. W. PEET, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Coimbatore Division, to Captain CAMPBELL WALKER, Deputy Conservator of Forests, on Special Duty, dated Coimbatore, 6th June 1879, No. 232.

I HAVE the honor to make a few remarks in forwarding to you the map of the Bhavani, Siruvani, Bolampatti, Walliar, and Gopani valleys in North Coimbatore District.

2. I have entered numbers I to VI on the map for the sake of somewhat facilitating references that may be made in your report, and have marked the so-called Mettapolliem Reserves H. K. and M.

I.—This is the Sholakarray reserve in the plains, as bounded on three sides by a ditch.

The hills at the back are Government property; but the forest in the plains to the west of the ditch I am rather doubtful about. It is held to belong to the Perud Devasthanam, but there are points so peculiar about the putta holdings here that I should like to have your assistance in going into the question. I think at any rate that it would be worth consideration whether the whole extent west of the Sholakarray reserve as far as the river, if held to belong to the Devasthanam, should not be purchased by Government, so as to form a block abutting on the Walliar reserves in Malabar. The timber stealing now so prevalent in this direction would be far more readily checked if Government had our extended reserve, including all the sketch of low land bounded by the river on the west and the hills on the north.

II.—This proposed extension of the Sholakarray reserve is in the land about this number.

III.—This is the upper end of the Bolampatti Valley. Here I should propose a strict reservation of the forest both on the hills and on the plain, drawing a line straightly across from the small spur that runs into the plain at the foot of Konja Malei on the north, to the small nameless spur by which we descended from the highlands on the south. This would protect head-waters of the Noel to some extent; and a fringe of forest along the further course, as proposed in the Forest Act, would be an additional protection. This part of the country is painfully dry.

IV.—This is the Siruvani (Seru Bhavani or small Bhavani) valley. The importance of reserving this and V (the head of the Bhavani valley to a dry country like Coimbatore) is incalculable. The catchment of these valleys is immense and forms a marked contrast to that of the head-waters of the Noel river (No. III). The Collector of Malabar is now disputing the whole of this tract on behalf of Government, but why and where these valleys formed part of Malabar at all is worth inquiry. I believe the tenure is not that of Malabar; and geographically they should undoubtedly form part of Coimbatore. If these valleys could be shown to be originally not a part of Malabar, I presume that the claim of the Aracoorchy Nair, a low-country Malabar proprietor, would fall to the ground. A gigantic timber trade on the Nair's licenses is going on even now from these valleys.

VI.—About the question of reserves in this Gopani valley I am doubtful. The country is very dry, and forms a marked contrast to the Malabar tract west of Gopani.

I think that the II reserve might be again made a close reserve, and extended westward.

The spurs of the Lambtor's Peak, or Karady Malei Range, that are not wanted for cultivation might form another reserve H.K.M. These reserves are reserves only in name, but should be again proclaimed reserves.

No. 43.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd August 1879, No. 1,612.

Forests, No. 3.

THE Conservator of Forests having been invited by the Government (in G.O., of May 10th, 1878, No. 727), with refer-

ence to a suggestion made by him relative to Captain Campbell Walker's being placed in charge of a demarcation branch of the Forest Department, to submit proposals for his employment for their consideration, proposed, in a letter dated the 13th May 1878, No. 274, that that officer should be employed on the selection and demarcation of Government Forests, district by district, to be formed into close reserves for climatic and other considerations. At the same time he pointed out the importance of having a Forest Act under which Captain Walker could be empowered to consider the reservation and proper treatment of private, as well as State, forests, remarking that any well-considered system of close reserves from which fire and cattle could be excluded could not be in force many years without its beneficial results being apparent to every one. Colonel Beddome proposed that Captain Walker should indicate what tracts should be constituted close reserves, what should be treated as open forests in which grazing might be allowed, and what areas should be set aside for village requirements in respect of fuel and timber, the whole to be delineated on maps on a scale of 400 yards to an inch.

2. The Government in passing orders on the Conservator's letter approved his suggestion that Captain Walker should be employed in selecting and demarcating what tracts of Government Forest were to be constituted close reserves, and they accordingly directed that he should take the place of the Conservator on the District Committees ordered to be formed (in G.O., No. 1,662-A of the 19th November 1875), for the purpose of demarcating State reserves, but in respect of which, owing to the Conservator not having had time to devote to the work, no systematic action had been taken. At the same time Captain Walker was directed invariably to place himself in communication with the Collector of the district in which about to work, and the joint proposals of the two officers were ordered to be forwarded to the Conservator, who was to submit them to Government through the Revenue Board. Existing communal privileges and future requirements were to be carefully considered and extension of cultivation provided for. Captain Walker was further directed to commence operations in the Anaimalai forests.

3. In accordance with these instructions Mr. Webster, the Collector of Coimbatore, and Captain Walker formed themselves into a Committee and proceeded to the Anaimalais and, after personal examination of the forests on those hills, submitted a report which, with the Conservator's remarks thereon, is embodied in the first of the Board's Proceedings above read. Delay unavoidably occurred in the submission of the report to Government by the Board, owing to the map, which was intended to accompany it, having been lost.

4. The proposals of the Committee in respect of reserves are, briefly, to form three reserved forests as defined in Act VII of 1878. These are (I) a reserve, consisting of about 82 square miles of Teak forest, including 26 square miles leased from the Kolangód Nambidi and a tract of forest to the south-east of it extending up to the Travancore and Cochin frontiers; (II) a reserve, called the Ponachi reserve, containing an area of about 6 square miles of fine forest; (III) a reserve, containing about 74 square miles, to the west of No. II and comprising the whole of the upper portion of the Anjenad or Talangi valley in British Territory.

The Conservator approves of the proposed reserves Nos. II and III, but would divide No. I into four, viz:—

- (a) The leased Teak forest reserve.
- (b) The Government Teak forest reserve (north of the Anagundi range).
- (c) The Anagundi reserve (south of that range).
- (d) The Coochmalai Reserve.

The Government think it will be simpler and more effectual to make these four blocks into one large reserve, and approve the Committee's selections, subject to the settlement of Ramasami Mudali's claim in the Coochmalai Forest, alluded to in paragraph 6 of the report, if it has not already been settled; and as it appears that no communal rights exist in the said forest tracts and that the grazing of cattle in them is of comparatively recent origin, they authorise the exclusion of cattle and persons from them unless permitted to enter by the Forest Officer in charge under a pass, and they will be prepared to declare the six tracts of forest above specified to be reserved forests as soon as they have been demarcated and surveyed. The Conservator will, of course, see that the terms of the lease of the Teak forest, rented from the Kolagóð Nambidi, are not such as in any way to militate against the formation of the said forest into a reserve by Government.

5. The Government concur with the Conservator as to the inexpediency of buying up the coffee and irrigated lands (alluded to in paragraph 12 of the Committee's report) situated in the limits of the Ponachi Reserve, which limits must therefore be so modified as to exclude those properties. The proposals to demarcate the northern limits of the Coochmalai Reserve with a ditch and boundary pillars, and to close the road leading from the foot of the Tekadi Slip to Setamudi, substituting for it a cart road from the Slip by the base of Coochmalai to Mungarai, are approved, if, on inquiry, it can be closed without public inconvenience. The erection of the wire fence proposed by the Committee is not considered necessary.

6. The recommendation contained in paragraph 15 of the Committee's report relative to the classification and treatment of all the remaining hill forests in the division outside the permanent reserves can only be dealt with after the Forest Act, now under consideration, has become law, but the Government note particularly the conclusions arrived at by the Committee, viz.—

- (1.) that no communal privileges exist in respect of the forests on the Anaimalai Hills;
- (2.) that none have been claimed; the village forests in which they existed having been cleared for cultivation;
- (3.) that cultivation in its ordinary sense has reached its extreme limits and, except in the shape of tea, coffee or chinchona planting, should not be permitted to be extended over the said hills;

and seeing no reason to doubt their justice or correctness, approve and confirm them and look to the Collector to give effect to them by withholding sanction to any grants of land whatever and by prohibiting any clearings on Government waste, until the passing of the Forest Act enables the Government to lay down regulations having the force of law.

7. The Committee's recommendations in paragraph 16 relative to the prohibition of all further clearings on the northern and eastern slopes of the Anaimalais are approved.

8. The remainder of the Committee's proposals relate to the questions of the treatment of the hill tribes; the collection of minor forest produce; the depasturing of cattle on the hills; the supply of timber and firewood otherwise than by direct departmental agency; and the adequate protection of the reserves.

9. The questions of the treatment of the hill tribes and the collection of minor forest produce are intimately connected with the question of the exclusion of traders from State forests. On these points much discussion has taken place and much difference of opinion has existed. The Governor in Council has again given the whole question his attentive consideration, and is convinced that in the interests of the community it is essentially necessary that the free ingress of all persons, whether traders or others, into the State forests should be restricted. The Government are further satisfied that while they have as good a right to the minor, as to the major, products of their forests, the hill tribes of the Anaimalais alone have any prescriptive right to gather the former in the forests on those hills and that in their interests, while their prescriptive right should be preserved no

extension thereof to others should be allowed. The hill tribes should be permitted to dispose of the minor produce they gather to traders, as they please, at places selected for the purpose and conveniently situated in respect of the different reserves. Traders should be allowed to purchase from them at these places, but will not be allowed to wander at pleasure through the forests. The recognition of the prescriptive right to gather and dispose of jungle produce, as against all outsiders, does not, of course, bar or in any way interfere with the right of the Government also to gather such produce in such manner as they may from time to time decide.

10. With regard to the depasturing of cattle on the hills and hill slopes outside the reserved forests, the Committee recommend that a fee of one rupee per annum should be levied on each bullock or buffalo driven into the hills to graze. The Government consider that for grazing on Government waste land on the hills, a grazing fee of 2 annas per head per annum for cattle may fairly be levied seeing that such a fee (or even a higher rate) is readily paid to the Travancore and Cochin Sirkars and to private proprietors. The grazing of sheep and goats should be confined to the hill slopes.

11. The Committee's proposals in paragraph 23 of their report relative to the rigid conservancy of alternate tracts of the hill slopes by blocking the ravines out singly and closing each alternate one in rotation for a series of years are approved and should be given effect to by the local officers with due regard to local requirements.

12. The Government not only see no reason to interfere with the liberty of continuing Ponakad cultivation by the hill tribes within the limits of their old and new existing clearings, but, on the contrary, would secure that privilege to them. This concession will probably be found to be a valuable assistance in securing their co-operation in protecting the forests from unauthorized cattle-grazing and other trespass.

13. The third of the papers above read is a letter from the Conservator, forwarding a report by Captain Walker on the proposed formation of forest reserves in the Bhavani, Siruvani, Bolampatti, Wallar, and Gopaneri valleys in North Coimbatore, accompanied by a map on a scale of 1 inch to a mile, with some remarks by the local forest officer Mr. Peet. The map shows clearly the general limits within which reserves are proposed to be formed. No attempt to inquire into or determine private or communal rights, or to divide the selected areas into reserved, protected or village, forests has been made, but the map gives a good general idea of the limits within which a local Committee or a forest settlement officer would have to work in order to determine these points, and, so far, the Government consider it is all that could be wished. They approve the formation of reserves within the limits of the areas therein delineated as proposed by Mr. Peet, subject, of course, to proper inquiry into and settlement of private and communal claims hereafter by a local Committee, and, in respect of the Bhavani valley, to the effect of the final decision on the claim of Government to the proprietorship of that portion of it which is disputed by certain Malabar land-owners. Captain Walker does not think that the map and report now submitted are of much use, preferring the more elaborate system of proposals for the Anaimalai forests already reviewed. The Conservator on the other hand seems to consider both sets of proposals as merely defining the tracts to be reserved, and both in his letter forwarding the report now under notice and in paragraph 25 of his letter of the 17th October 1878, No. 1,104 (recorded in the Revenue Board's Proceedings of 27th February 1879), says that he is in a position to lay before Government maps of this description for most of the districts of the Presidency, and as in the latter letter he requests further orders as to what Captain Walker's powers and duties are, and assumes that the Government do not wish Captain Walker to leave any district he takes up till a definite and permanent settlement of the question of reserves and of all forest rights has been arrived at, the Government consider it advisable to define more exactly the scope of Captain Walker's duties and the method of procedure to be followed by him in their discharge.

14. The main object which the Government have in view is the immediate selection and definition of all those tracts of State forest in the Presidency, which, either on account of their containing valuable timber or for climatic considerations should be constituted reserved forests, and in which, after they have been once declared reserved forests, no felling is to be allowed except under the immediate supervision of the Forest Department and from which cattle and fires are to be excluded. It is, of course, an essential condition precedent to the final constitution of a tract of forest into a Forest Reserve that its limits should be surveyed and demarcated, and that a careful record of all rights admitted or claimed in respect of such tracts should be made; but the first point requiring decision is what forest areas ought to be so reserved, and it is to ascertain this point that Captain Walker has been selected as a Forest Officer of great experience. It is not necessary that this officer should personally supervise the demarcation or survey of any particular selected tract, and the Government do not contemplate his doing so. This duty will be performed by the local Forest Officer and one or more officers deputed by the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

15. The first requisite therefore, in any case, is that Captain Walker should be furnished with a good map. The Superintendent of Revenue Survey is accordingly requested to supply as soon as possible, for Captain Walker's use, to the Conservator of Forests, maps on a scale of 1 inch to a mile showing the topographical features of the hill tracts of the district where he is about to work. The Conservator's intimate knowledge of the forests of the Presidency will enable him to roughly sketch in on these maps the positions of the various forests he considers should be examined, in view to being formed into reserves and having done this he will forward the map to Captain Walker. The instructions, laid down in his Circular No. 2 of the 7th January 1876, will have greatly facilitated and expedited Captain Walker's work.

16. Captain Walker will proceed to examine the forests in each district in company with the local Forest Officer, a Surveyor, and the Collector or other officer deputed by the Collector for the purpose, and these three officers will form the District Forest Committee. The position and approximate limits of the forests proposed to be reserved will be marked by them on the map above alluded to, and they will report on the following points:

- (1.) The existence of any private forests within the selected area.
- (2.) The existence of any rights of way, pasturage, cutting timber or fuel, gathering minor forest produce or making charcoal, within the limits of the proposed reserve.

17. The report, in respect of each reserve, will be forthwith forwarded by Captain Walker to Government through the Conservator, and after the general limits of the reserves have been decided by Government, the local Forest Officer and the Surveyors will proceed to demarcate and survey them. The local Forest Officer will make a brief memorandum of the general character of each reserve, as it is demarcated, noting the class of trees most common in it with any other noticeable natural features. A copy of this memorandum with the Surveyor's field-book will be forwarded to the Office of the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, where a map of each reserve on a scale of 4 inches to the mile will be prepared. This map will show the details of the demarcation, the village boundaries, the character of the different parts of the forest, the roads and streams and the rights of way or user as set forth in the report of the District Committee, a copy of which will be furnished to the Superintendent by Government. The 1 inch to a mile maps will then have the areas as surveyed plotted on them and the record will be complete. Nothing will then be wanting to constitute the selected areas reserved forests but the declaration of Government. Copies of the maps on both scales will be furnished to Government, to the Conservator of Forests, and to the Collector and Forest Officer of the district concerned.

18. It is not intended that Captain Walker should now go into questions of fuel supply or rights of pasturage outside the limits of the proposed forest reserves, or in small woodlands coming properly within the scope of the Village Jungle Conservancy Fund.

19. Captain Walker's head-quarters will be at the head-quarters of the district wherein he is for the time being employed.

20. His office establishment* has been sanctioned by G.O., No. 1,918, of the 8th November 1878, but if experience proves it to be insufficient application for an increase may be submitted. The Government see no necessity for placing a special Forest Officer under Captain Walker as his Assistant while on this special duty.

* 2 Clerks and 4 Peons.

21. Collectors will give Captain Walker every assistance in their power, and on his intimating his readiness to commence operations in any division of a district, will direct the Divisional Officer in charge, or the officer specially selected for the duty, to accompany him in his inspections and to act as laid down in paragraph 16 *supra*. Collectors will make such arrangements for the discharge of the current duties of the officers so detached as may be requisite. It is to be understood that the selected Revenue Officer is so to devote himself to assisting Captain Walker that the duty may be conducted carefully without loss of time.

22. In the event of the Conservator finding that Captain Walker's employment on this special duty is likely to entail additional expense, he will submit a proposition statement in the usual form showing the details of the additional establishment deemed necessary at its cost.

23. The Superintendent of Revenue Survey will arrange for detailing one or more Surveyors to be attached to Captain Walker's party in each Revenue Division of the district in which he may be employed for the time being.

24. Action will be first taken by Captain Walker under this order in the Tinnevely and Madura Districts and then in Coimbatore, unless the Conservator is able to deal with the two former districts himself, when Captain Walker will commence operations in Coimbatore, the reserves on the Anaimalai hills, as well as the Ponakad tracts to be reserved for the Kadars, being demarcated and surveyed and memoranda of rights and claims being recorded. The reserves proposed in the Bolampatti, Bhavani, Sivur Walliar and Gopaneri valleys will next be taken up and similarly treated, and then the forests in Collegal and Satyamangalam, after which Captain Walker will proceed to North Arcot and Salem.

25. With regard to the encroachments on Government forests on the slopes of the Nilgiri Hills, the Government have ordered all such forests to be unconditionally reserved, and resolve hereby to constitute the said slopes part of the charge of the Forest Officer in charge of the Nilgiri Division who will hereafter be responsible for their maintenance and protection.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests.
" the Board of Revenue.
" the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.
" Captain C. J. Walker.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. W. H. French.

No 1638.

Office of Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund 18th March 1879

No 116 From

Colonel R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests.

To

J. H. Garstin Esquire
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
the letter and Memorandum as per ma-

1 Letter from Captain Walker
By Conservator of Forests on
Special duty to the Conservator
of Forests dated 16th March
1879 &c.

1 Memorandum from J. H.

= given from Captain
Campbell Walker
with the follow-
ing remarks on
the latter.

2. Constitution of the Forest Settlement party.
Three Forest Officers besides Captain
Walker can I think never be required, at any
rate Messrs Peet and Gass could not be spared
now, Mahomed Ali Paib is also just at present in
charge of Salem whilst Mr. Stambrough is absent
on short sick leave but his services will soon
be available and Mr. Baileau might be attached
to the party on his return from England. I
agree with Captain Walker that a small survey
party or an officer of the Survey Department is
necessary and I think that a Revenue Officer
should

Colt. of 1879

REVENUE.

THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,

Ec, Ec, Ec,

Dated August 2nd 1.

Printed 13th.

Recd.

Decl.

AUGUST.
Nos. 45-48.

Reserved Forests.—Passing orders on the
subject of —; regarding Captain Campbell
Walker's employment; and on his reports on
South Coimbatore and Bolampatti Forests.

should be permanently appointed in each District who should remain attached to the settlement party as long as it remains in the District.

3. I also approve of the proposal that the party should work in the field from the 1st of June till the 31st of January and that it should go into cantonment for the other 4 months and that for that period Cotacamund may be its head quarters.

4. The party will of course work under the orders of the Board and Government but all reports returns &c. should I think pass through the Conservator for his remarks.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant
H. B. Brown Colonel
Conservator of Forests.

Comptroller /
16 March 1879

N^o 67

From

The Dy Conservator of Forests
on Special duty

To

The Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund

Sir

I have the honor to enclose
for your consideration & submission
to Government a memorandum
on the constitution &c of a Forest
Settlement Party.

2/ I have already stated my
views on the Subject generally
(vide G.O. N^o 1467 & 1918 of 12th September
& 26th November 1878) but the importance
of the Subject induces me to place
the matter before you again in
its present form.

3/ Its matters stand at present
I can do little or no good whereas
a real Forest Settlement, i.e.
Selection & constitution of Reserves
&c, is all important & without
it we can have no real
Conservancy

4010 6/11/79 555-56
26/11/79 555-56
11/12/79 80-81

1879 23/12/79
Revenue Secretary
No 2487.

From
The Conservator of Forests

To
The Secretary to Govt.
G.O.

Dated 18th March 1879
Received 21st do

1879 11/12/79
Enclosure 1

Subject

Towards a better and
Memorandum from Dy
Conservator, regarding
constitution of the Forest
Settlement Party
with Memorandum

2-7-79 23-7-79 23-7-79
2-10-79 13-11-79 23-7-79

conservancy, & improvement either
in our Forests themselves or the
Revenue derived from them.

4/ To effect it, a properly orga-
nized party must be put in the
field & work steadily & systematically
on clearly defined principles and
instructions.

5/ A small demarcation &
Survey party & Special Revenue
Officer with some experience
are indispensable & our two trained
assistants with unbounded ally Sahib
are peculiarly qualified for the
technical part of the work.

As regards the office Establishment
I explained fully what is required
in para 6 of my letter No 26
recorded with G.O. No 1918 para
7 of which contains it to below that
of a Divisional Forest office (1st Class)
as sanctioned by G.O. No 39 dated 11th
January 1876 P. D.

6/ I framed my proposals with
due regard to economy & as Govt
have entrusted me with the
special duty of selecting the Reserves
&c. I trust they will excuse me
if I repeat that what I
asked

asked for is absolutely necessary
in order to give due effect to their
orders. The Sub-~~officer~~¹⁷ will of
course have his own office ~~Estt~~
as per sanctioned Scale.

Working Establishments can be entertained as required
according to the circumstances of the Division

Have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obt. Servant

Humphreys Walter Captain
Dy. Conservator of Forests.

Memorandum on the Constitution
 & duties of a Forest Settlement
 party for the Selection of Reserved
 & Protected Forests, their demarca-
 -tion, definition of boundaries &
 claims.

Constitution.

The party shall consist of a
 Deputy Conservator of the 1st grade
 or Conservator (in charge), the two
 trained Forest officers, Super. Peet
 & Gies, & a Sub-staff Conservator
 with adequate ^{working staff} office establishments
 a small survey & demarcation
 party including a draughtsman
 under an ~~staff~~ ^{sup} or Head
 Surveyor as detailed by the ~~sup~~
 Rev. Survey will be attached to the
 Forest Settlement party & a special
 Revenue officer of not lower grade
 than Head ~~staff~~ Collector will
 accompany the Party whenever
 the field. The Head Quarters of the
 Party will be at Otacamunda where
 the records, maps &c. will be kept -
 the ordinary working season will be
 eight months June to February during
 which the party will be employed in
 field, as distinct from office work,
 compilation of Reports for the year,
 completion

Constitution

1879

Approved

Wm. D. Brown Esq.
 Secy. Secy. Secy.

To the Conservator of the
 Forests

Ordered 16th March
 1879

Subject

Enclosing for consi-
 -deration & submission
 to Govt. as necessary
 to the Constitution
 of a Forest Settlement
 Party.

completion of maps &c which will receive special attention during the remaining 4 months at Head Quarters.

The party shall work under the immediate orders of the Board of Revenue. (or Secretary to Govt Revenue Department?) & in communication with the Collector of the District & divisional Revenue & Forest officers who will give all the assistance & information in their power.

Duties. The work of the party shall consist in the selection of Forest tracts to be classed as Reserved, Protected, or Village, ascertaining and recording their capabilities & the reasons such as climatic consideration water supply, or value of the timber which render it advisable to include them in one or other class; the definition on the ground & on maps of their boundaries and those of private tracts of forest where such can be done without dispute or reference to a Court of law; and recording all rights or claims in the tracts proposed to be reserved or protected which will be investigated & reported on specially by the Revenue officer.

The party shall work steadily through the Forest Districts & when any District is finished it shall be the

the duty of the Conservator or Dy Conservator in charge to submit a full report on the proposed reservations &c either jointly with the Collector, or through that officer who will forward it with his remarks to the Board - a copy being also sent at the same time to the Conservator of Forests for the Presidency for his information & approval - on receipt of Govt orders the necessary arrangements will be made by the Conservator in charge of Settlement Party with the Supdt Rev. Survey & local officers for the permanent demarcation & survey of the tracts & subsequently with the Presidency Conservator for their efficient protection, improvement & working. So soon as a Forest Act is introduced & becomes law the party will work under its provisions & these instructions will be modified accordingly.

Hampden Walter Captain

Dy Conservator of Forests.

No 104

Camp Wellington
17th May 1879

From

20

The Dy Conservator of Forests
on Special duty

Col R. H. Beddome
Conservator of Forests

Sir

I have the honor to report
that in accordance with the orders, I have
just concluded an inspection of the
Bolnaispatty valley, head waters of the
Kool river; and mountain forests
above, on the head waters of the Siver-
mani and Bhowmy rivers, and their
tributaries.

2/ I submit a map enlarged from the
Ordnance Sheet 861-00 which I have
indicated, in a general manner, the tracts
which I recommend, should be reserved in
those localities. As the Collector of
Coimbatore was unable to depute a Revenue
officer to accompany me, & a great proportion
of the proposed reservations, are at present
within the boundaries of the Malabar
District, I was unable to work in accordance
with the instructions conveyed in G.O. No 1105
dated 20th July 1878 as regards District
Committee, or preliminary enquiry into
claims

Enclosure

In a letter from the
Governor of Forests
to the Secretary to Govt
dated 18th March 1879
No 1638

File

No 2487/79

claims, privileges &c.

3/ I have no knowledge nor information as to what proportion of the tracts indicated, is private or public Forest, what cultivation exists nor what rights &c. may be claimed within their boundaries, but I believe the whole area outside the boundaries of Coimbatore District is claimed by Malabar proprietors.

I merely submit the map in accordance with verbal instructions as to what is required of me received from the Revenue Secretary.

4/ Should this be found all that is necessary I would submit that, with the benefit of your advice & extensive knowledge of the Forest Districts, and the reports of the Divisional Forest officers we might finish the work in consultation in office, and submit the required maps within a very few weeks. How far this would tend to really settle the question, & constitute the forest reserves, Government are best able to judge. I fail to see that much good will be done by such a general designation of proposed reservations

5/ You will observe that I make no distinction at present between Private, Reserved, Protected or village forests. The two latter classes would include a large proportion of the total area, but it is clearly impossible for me without the requisite information, or machinery for acquiring it, to attempt to define and classify them even in the most general manner.

6/ A comparison of this Report and map with that submitted on the proposed reservations &c. in the South Coimbatore Division, will I trust place Govt in a position to decide which course is best calculated to further the Selection, Settlement & Constitution of State reserves &c. The South Coimbatore report may be considered a sample of what I would respectfully suggest as the proper procedure prior to the notification of intention to reserve and the appointment of a Forest Settlement officer. That division, I consider, is now ready

40

By Conservator of Forests.

Jul 18 19.
The submission of this Report has been delayed pending receipt of the Map from the Revenue Survey Office Coimbatore. I only received it to day & have no time in submitting it along with copy of a letter in explanation from Mr. Peet also attended to its preparation during my absence on leave. J. C. W.

Wellington
1879

From
The Secretary of the
on Spide duty

To
The Secretary of the
Department of Education
200 of the 1st June 1879
Received 11th June 1879

No 104. Cont. 17
Subject: 17th June 1879

Submitting a report
on the proposed
= see p. 10 in relation
in the enclosed map,
on the Department's
valley, and waste
of the coal mine
of the Department
of the Department

Enclosure in letter
no: 456 dated 11th June '99
from the Conservator of
Forests to the Secretary
to Government, R.D.

11-6-99

N. Coimbatore Division
N^o 232 Dy. Conservator's Office
Coimbatore
6th June 1879
Sir

J. W. Telf Esq.
Dy. Conservator of Forests
N. Coimbatore Dy.

To
Captain Campbell Waller
Dy. Conservator of Forests
On Special Duty
Sir.

I have the honor to make a few
remarks in forwarding to you the maps
of the Khairi, Sircari, Kolumputty
Waller and Sopocury Valleys in the
North Coimbatore.

I have entered numbers I to VI
on the Map for the sake of somewhat
facilitating references that may be
made in your report; and have marked
the so-called Mithapollam reserves
H K & M.

I This is the Shalattur reserve in
the plains, as bounded on three sides by
a ditch. The hills at the back are
Government property; but the forest
in the plains to the West of the ditch
I am rather doubtful about. It is
held to belong to the Peria Maruthan

but

but there are points so peculiar about
the puttab's holdings here that I
should like to have your assistance
in going into the question I think
of any state that it would be worth
consideration whether the whole extent
West of the Shalakaray Theerod, as far
as the river is held to belong to the
Devas them and should not be purchased
by Government; so as to form a block
abutting on the Wallia Reserves in
Malabar. The timber stealing now so
prevalent in this direction would be
far more readily checked, if Government
had an extended reserve, including all the
stretch of low land bounded by the river
on the West and the hills on the North.

II This proposed extension of the
Shalakaray Theerod is in the land
about this number:-

III This is the upper end of the Holampully
valley. Here I should propose a strict
reservation of the forest both on the
hills and on the plain, drawing a line
straight across from the small spur
that runs into the plain at the foot
of Konyakkal on the North, to the
small nameless spur by which we
descended from the highlands on the
South. This would protect head
waters of the Nool to some extent;
and a fringe of forest along the
further

further course, as proposed in the
Forest Act would be an additional
protection. This part of the country
is painfully dry.

24
This is the Seravandi (Seravandi
or small Shavandi) valley. The in-
-probability of reserving this & V (the
Head of the Shavandi valley to a
dry country like Coimbatore) is
inevitable. The catchment of
these valleys is immense and forms
a marked contrast to that of the
head waters of the Nool River (see III)
The Collector of Malabar is now dis-
-puting the whole of this tract on
behalf of Government, but why and
when these valleys formed part of
Malabar at all is worth inquiry.
I believe the truth is not that of
Malabar; and geographically they
should undoubtedly form part of
Coimbatore. If these valleys could be
shown to be originally not a part
of Malabar, I presume that the
claim of the Aracooray Nair, as her
country Malabar proprietor, would
fall to the ground. A gigantic
timber trade, on Government licenses,
is going on even now, from these valleys.
II About the question of reserves

in this gopamary valley I am
doubtful. The country is very dry,
and forms a marked contrast
to the Malabar tract West of gopamary.
I think that the H. Reserve might
be again made a close reserve, and
extended Westward.

The spurs of the Lenciton
Peak or Marady Malai Range, that
are not wanted for cultivation might
form another reserve H.K.M. These
reserves are reserves only in name:
but should be again proclaimed reserves.

I have the honor to

~~Sign of W. F. F.~~

W. F. F. Conservator of Forests

(Two Copies)

Humphrey Walker

W. F. F. Conservator of Forests
on Special Duty

No. 456.

Office of Conservator of Forests,
Ootacamund, 11th June 1879.

No 456. From,
Colonel R. T. Reddome,
Conservator of Forests.

To, J. T. Garstin Esquire, C.S.O.
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Ootacamund.

Sir,
I have the honor to forward the
report and Maps, as per margin, forwarded
No. 104 of 17th May (despatched by Captain Campbell
11th June) from Capt. L.
Walker to the Conservator of Forests - with a map
and copy of a letter from Mr. F. F. F. Conservator of
Forest, Coimbatore. Can I fear be set-
tled as to the

preservation of Forests protecting the head
waters of the Bhovani until the rights
of Government in the tracts in question
are settled. It is presumed that tract
No. IV. on the Map "The Sivavani Valley";
tract No. VI "The Gopinary Valley"; and
tract No. V called "Attapadi" all belong
to the Coimbatore District as the water
shed is to the East, and I am of opinion
that Government should dispute all
claims of the Malabar Nairs to any of
these

these tracts. For many years it was supposed in this Department that all the Siruvani valley belonged to Government, but the late rectification of the Malabar and Coimbatore boundaries, and the handing over of this tract to Malabar has complicated matters, and invited claims from the Nairs of Malabar, and large timber operations have lately been commenced by Contractors under one of these Nairs in tracts of Attapadi to the West of Kopinay, where the water shed is to the East: I think in the interests of Conservancy that it is now all important that the question of Government rights should be settled, and that all those tracts belonging to Government within the Eastern watershed should be retransferred to the Coimbatore District.

3. I submit the following remarks on the proposed reservation.

Tract No. III The Polampatty Valley. The greater portion of this is in the plains, and has been cleared for permanent cultivation, what forest remains near the base of the ghats, and the slopes of the hills which are well wooded, should

should all be reserved partly for climatic reasons (the water supply of the Noel river, which feeds so many tanks in and around Coimbatore), but equally for the value of the timber, for which there will always be a market, as there is much rose wood and many other valuable timbers on the slopes.

Tract No. IV The Siruvani Valley. All the Southern portion of this (the Pambar Shola and the forests around the Mooti Kolum) should be reserved as protecting the head waters of the Siruvani river, the timber is of no value at present as too distant from a market.

Tract No. V in part, Called Attapadi. The valley itself is very generally cultivated, and much of the jungle poor and scrubby, from having for many rotations, been felled and burnt for temporary cultivation, there are however tracts valuable for timber (rose wood, teak, Karamarada &c.) but reservation is most necessary for all the heavy forest on the slopes of the different hills, and on the higher plateau, as almost every ravine there protects one of the many ramifications of the sources of the Bhovani.

The

4. The "Silent Valley" a splendid valley, due north of Manar and west of tract No. V (which is I believe the Atkapadi of the hill men) has its watershed to the West, and is most admirably suited for a Coffee District; if it belongs to Government, which Mr. Logan has informed me is the case, I should like to see it well roaded, and thrown open to Coffee and Cinchona cultivation, there could scarcely be a more favorable situation for the cultivation of Cinchona succumbra.

5. As intimately bearing on the question of reservation. In all these tracts I would draw your attention to portions of my Inspection reports recorded in the Government Orders No. 298 of the 23rd January 1877, and No. 1336 of 19th August 1878.

6. As to reserves in Tract V the Eastern portion; and tract VI, Copinany &c; and away further east to the Moyar river, proposals for reservation are before Government in reports from Mr. Morgan, the Deputy Conservator, and Mr. Wedderburn, the Collector, recorded in G.O. No. 443 of 30th March 1876 (vide also paras 24 and 25 of Conservator's report recorded in G.O. No. 298 of

of the 23rd January 1877).

7. Referring to para 4 of Captain Walker's letter I must remark that unless he is accompanied by a Revenue Officer and a Survey Officer, who can point out the boundaries, and who have power to settle boundary disputes or to bring them forward in such a way as to ensure their speedy and final adjustment, his work will be of little avail; it also appears to me a waste of his time that he should be employed in Districts like Coimbatore where from the great importance of the question the whole subject has been thoroughly gone into, and digested long before he has taken it up; the very ground he has gone over and much more has been very thoroughly explored on many occasions and reports and maps showing what is required, could be sent in from this Office without his visiting the forests.

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your most obed^t. Servt.

R H D. D. D. Colonel,
Conservator of Forests

The Government think it will be simpler and more effectual to make the blocks into one large reserve, and approve the Committee's selections, subject to the settlement of Ramasami Mudali's claim in the Coochmalai Forest, alluded to in paragraph 6 of the report, if it has not already been settled; and as it appears that no communal rights exist in the said forest tracts and that the grazing of cattle in them is of comparatively recent origin, they authorise the exclusion of cattle and persons from them unless permitted to enter by the Forest Officer in charge under a pass, and will be prepared to declare the six tracts of land above specified to be reserved forests as soon as they have been demarcated and surveyed. The Conservator will, of course, see that the terms of the lease of the Teak forest, rented from the Kolangód Nambidi, are not such as in any way to militate against the formation of the said forest into a reserve by Government.

5. The Government concur with the Conservator as to the inexpediency of buying up the coffee and irrigated lands (alluded to in paragraph 12 of the Committee's report) situated in the limits of the Ponachi Reserve, which limits must therefore be so modified as to exclude those properties. The proposals to demarcate the northern limits of the Coochmalai Reserve with a ditch and boundary pillars, and to close the road leading from the foot of the Tekadi Slip to the Sengudi, substituting for it a cart road from the Slip by the base of Coochmalai to the Sengudi, are approved, if, on inquiry, it can be cleared without public inconvenience. The erection of the wire fence proposed by the Committee is not considered necessary.

6. The recommendation contained in paragraph 15 of the Committee's report relative to the classification and treatment of all the remaining hill forests in the division outside the permanent reserves can only be dealt with after the Forest Act, now under consideration, has become law, but the Government note particularly the conclusions arrived at by the Committee, viz.—

- (1.) that no communal privileges exist in respect of the forests in the Anaimalai Hills;
- (2.) that none have been claimed; the village forests in which they existed having been cleared for cultivation;
- (3.) that cultivation in its ordinary sense has reached its extreme limits and, except in the shape of tea, coffee or chinchona planting, should not be permitted to be extended over the said hills;

and seeing no reason to doubt their justice or correctness, approve and confirm them and look to the Collector to give effect to them by withholding sanction to any land grant whatever and by prohibiting any clearings on Government waste, until the passing of the Forest Act enables the Government to lay down regulations having the force of law.

7. The Committee's recommendations in paragraph 16 relative to the prohibition of all further clearings on the northern and eastern slopes of the Anaimalais are approved.

8. The remainder of the Committee's proposals relate to the questions of the treatment of the hill tribes; the collection of minor forest produce; the depasturing of cattle on the hills; the supply of timber and firewood otherwise than by direct departmental agency; and the adequate protection of the reserves.

9. The questions of the treatment of the hill tribes and the collection of minor forest produce are intimately connected with the question of the exclusion of traders from State forests. On these points much discussion has taken place and much difference of opinion has existed. The Governor in Council has again given the whole question his attentive consideration, and is convinced that in the interests of the community it is essentially necessary that the free ingress of all persons, whether traders or others, into the State forests should be restricted. The Government are further satisfied that while they have as good a right to the minor, as to the major, products of their forests, the hill tribes of the Anaimalais alone have any prescriptive right to gather the former in the forests on those hills and that in their interests, while their prescriptive right should be preserved no

grants of land

closed

selected

extension thereof to others should be allowed. The hill tribes should be permitted to dispose of the minor produce they gather to traders, as they please, at places ~~situated~~ for the purpose and conveniently situated in respect of the different reserves. Traders should be allowed to purchase from them at these places, but will not be allowed to wander at pleasure through the forests. The recognition of the prescriptive right to gather and dispose of jungle produce, as against all outsiders, does not, of course, bar or in any way interfere with the right of the Government also to gather such produce in such manner as they may from time to time decide.

10. With regard to the depasturing of cattle on the hills and hill slopes outside the reserved forests, the Committee recommend that a fee of one rupee per annum should be levied on each bullock or buffalo driven into the hills to graze. The Government consider that for grazing on Government waste land on the hills, a grazing fee of 2 annas per head per annum for cattle may fairly be levied seeing that such a fee (or even a higher rate) is readily paid to the Travancore and Cochin Sirkars and to private proprietors. The grazing of sheep and goats should be confined to the hill slopes.

11. The Committee's proposals in paragraph 28 of their report relative to the rigid conservancy of alternate tracts of the hill slopes by blocking the ravines out singly and closing each alternate one in rotation for a series of years are approved and should be given effect to by the local officers with due regard to local requirements.

12. The Government not only see no reason to interfere with the liberty of continuing Ponakad cultivation by the hill tribes within the limits of their old and new existing clearings, but, on the contrary, would secure that privilege to them. This concession will probably be found to be a valuable assistance in securing their co-operation in protecting the forests from unauthorized cattle-grazing and other trespass.

13. The third of the papers above read is a letter from the Conservator, forwarding a report by Captain Walker on the proposed formation of forest reserves in the Bhavani, Siruvani, Bolampatti, Walliar, and Gopaneri valleys in North Coimbatore, accompanied by a map on a scale of 1 inch to a mile, with some remarks by the local forest officer Mr. Peet. The map shows clearly the general limits within which reserves are proposed to be formed. No attempt to inquire into or determine private or communal rights, or to divide the selected areas into reserved, protected or village, forests has been made, but the map gives a good general idea of the limits within which a local Committee or a forest settlement officer would have to work in order to determine these points, and, so far, the Government consider it is all that could be wished. They approve the formation of reserves within the limits of the areas therein delineated as proposed by Mr. Peet, subject, of course, to proper inquiry into and settlement of private and communal claims hereafter by a local Committee, and, in respect of the Bhavani valley, to the effect of the final decision on the claim of Government to the proprietorship of that portion of it which is disputed by certain Malabar land-owners. Captain Walker does not think that the map and report now submitted are of much use, preferring the more elaborate system of proposals for the Anaimalai forests already reviewed. The Conservator on the other hand seems to consider both sets of proposals as merely defining the tracts to be reserved, and both in his letter forwarding the report now under notice and in paragraph 25 of his letter of the 17th October 1878, No. 1,104 (recorded in the Revenue Board's Proceedings of 27th February 1879), says that he is in a position to lay before Government maps of this description for most of the districts of the Presidency, and as in the latter letter he requests further orders as to what Captain Walker's powers and duties are, and assumes that the Government do not wish Captain Walker to leave any district he takes up till a definite and permanent settlement of the question of reserves and of all forest rights has been arrived at, the Government consider it advisable to define more exactly the scope of Captain Walker's duties and the method of procedure to be followed by him in their discharge.

14. The main object which the Government have in view is the immediate selection and definition of all those tracts of State forest in the Presidency, either on account of their containing valuable timber or for climatic considerations should be constituted reserved forests, and on which, after they have been declared reserved forests, no felling is to be allowed except under the immediate supervision of the Forest Department and from which cattle and fires are to be excluded.

It is, of course, an essential condition precedent to the final constitution of a tract of forest into a Forest Reserve that its limits should be surveyed and demarcated, and that a careful record of all rights admitted or claimed in respect of such tracts should be made; but the first point requiring decision is what forest should be so reserved, and it is to ascertain this point that Captain Walker has been selected as a Forest Officer of great experience. It is not necessary, and the Government do not contemplate this officer personally supervising the demarcation or survey of any particular selected tract. This duty will be performed by the Forest Officer and one or more officers deputed by the Superintendent of Revenue Survey. The first requisite therefore, in any case, is that Captain Walker should be furnished with a good map.

The Superintendent of Revenue Survey is requested to supply as far as possible, for Captain Walker's use, to the Conservator of Forests, maps on a scale of 1 inch to a mile showing the topographical features of the hill tracts of the district where he is about to work. The Conservator's intimate knowledge of the features of the Presidency will enable him to roughly sketch in on these maps the portions of the various forests he considers should be examined, in view of being formed into reserves. The instructions, laid down in his Circular No. 2 of the 7th January 1876, will have greatly facilitated and expedited Captain Walker's work.

15. Captain Walker will proceed to examine the forests in each district in company with the local Forest Officer, the Surveyor, and the Collector or other officer deputed by the Collector for the purpose, and these three officers will form the District Forest Committee.

The position and approximate limits of the forests proposed to be reserved will then be marked on the map by the Committee who will report on the following points:

- (1.) The existence of any private forests within the selected area.
- (2.) The existence of any rights of way, pasturage, cutting timber or fuel, gathering minor forest produce or making charcoal, within the limits of the proposed reserve.

17. The report, in respect of each reserve, will be forthwith forwarded by Captain Walker to Government through the Conservator. After the general limits of the reserves have been decided by Government, the local Forest Officer and the Surveyors will proceed to demarcate and survey them. The local Forest Officer will make a brief memorandum of the general character of each reserve, as it is demarcated, noting the class of trees most common in it with any other noticeable natural features. A copy of this memorandum with the Surveyor's field-book will be forwarded to the Office of the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, where a map of each reserve on a scale of 4 inches to the mile will be prepared. This map will show the details of the demarcation, the village boundaries, the character of the different parts of the forest, the roads and streams and the rights of way or user as set forth in the report of the District Committee, a copy of which will be furnished to the Superintendent by Government. The 1 inch to a mile map will then have the areas as surveyed plotted on it and the record will be complete. Nothing will then be wanting to constitute the selected areas reserved forests but the declaration of Government. Copies of the maps on both scales will be furnished to Government, to the Conservator of Forests, and to the Collector and Forest Officer of the district concerned.

2/ and the Govt. don't
contemplate his doing so.

N.P./15.

having done his bit with
furnish the map to Capt Walker

16.

17.

He-1

the Govt. should

and they

and they

and they

16. It is not intended that Captain Walker should now go into quest fuel supply or rights of pasturage outside the limits of the proposed forest re or in small woodlands/ coming properly within the scope of the Village Conservancy Fund.

17. Captain Walker's head-quarters will be at the head-quarters of th trict wherein he is for the time being employed.

18. His office establishment* has been sanctioned by G.O., No. 1,9 the 26th November 1878, but if e

* 2 Clerks and 4 Peons.

ence proves it to be insufficient appli for an increase may be submitted. The Government see no necessity for a special Forest Officer under Captain Walker as his Assistant while c special duty.

19. Collectors will give Captain Walker every assistance in their power, at on his intimating his readiness to commence operations in any division of a distric will direct the Divisional Officer in charge/ or the officer specially selected for th duty, to accompany him in his inspections and to act as laid down in paragraph 1 supra. Collectors will make such arrangements for the discharge of the cur duties of the officers so detached as may be requisite. It is to be understood the selected Revenue Officer is so to devote himself to assisting Captain W that the duty may be conducted carefully but without loss of time.

20. In the event of the Conservator finding that Captain Walker employment on this special duty is likely to entail additional expense, he submit a proposition statement in the usual form showing the details of additional establishment deemed necessary and its cost.

21. The Superintendent of Revenue Survey will arrange for detailing one more Surveyors to be attached to Captain Walker's party in each Revenue Divis of district.

22. Action will be first taken by Captain Walker under this order in Tinnevelly and Madura Districts and then in Coimbatore, unless the Conserv tor is able to deal with the two former districts himself, when Captain Walker v commence operations in Coimbatore, the reserves on the Anaimalai hills, as w as the Ponakad tracts to be reserved for the Kadars, being demarcated a surveyed and memoranda of rights and objections being recorded. The reser proposed in the Bolampatti, Bhavani, Siruvani, Walliar and Gopaneri valleys next be taken up and similarly treated, and then the forests in Collegal and S amangalam, after which Captain Walker will proceed to North Arcot and Salem.

23. With regard to the encroachments on Government forests on the slop of the Nilgiri Hills, the Government have ordered all such forests to be unce ditionally reserved, and resolve hereby to constitute the said slopes part of t charge of the Forest Officer in charge of the Nilgiri Division who will hereafter responsible for their maintenance and protection.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Acting Secretary to Government

To the Conservator of Forests.

„ the Board of Revenue.

„ the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

„ Captain C. J. Walker.

„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. W. H. French.

Spare Copies.

in which he
is employed
may be the time he is.

Revenue Department.

No 1612

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 2^d August 1879

Read the following

- Revenue Board's Proceedings of February 27th 1879, No 521.
- Instructions of Forests No 1630 of 18th March 1879.
- do - do - do - 456 of 11th June 1879.

The Commissioner of Forests having been invited by the Govt (in L.O. of May 10th 1878, No 1079) with reference to a suggestion made by him relative to Captain Campbell Walker's being placed in charge of a demarcation branch of the Forest Department, to submit proposals for his employment for their consideration,

Has the Dept. but I think the conditions of the lease from the Government, Embodi and the whole into. There may be some

except the 1000 acres of the dept for the Govt. I think the Govt. can be removed from the

17-31/7/79

proposed, in a letter
dated the 13th Dec. 1878
No 274, that that officer
should be employed
in the selection and
demarcation of forest
tracts, district by
district, to be formed
into class reserves for
climate and other
considerations. At
the same time he pointed
out the importance
of having a Forest Act
under which Captain
Walker could be em-
ployed to consider
the reservation and
proper treatment of
private, as well as
State, forests, remark-
ing that any well
considered system
of class reserves from
which fire and cattle
could be excluded
could not be in force
many years without
its beneficial results
being

be an in the right
in making it a reserve
Also I think it is very
relative to the climate
which must be taken
into account the distance
about the community
in the L. District
It is stated that the
Govt. claims advice
of the District
Jumma

39
being a permanent survey
and Col. Waddell pro-
posed that Captain
Walker should indi-
cate what tracts
should be constituted
class reserves, what
should be treated as
open forests in which
grazing might be
allowed, and what
areas should be set
aside for village re-
quirements in respect
of fuel and timber;
the whole to be delineated
on maps on a scale of
400 yards to an inch.

2 The Govt. is passing
an order on the Conservator
after approving his
suggestion that Capt.
Walker should be
employed in selecting
and demarcating
what tracts of Govt.
forest

first were to be consti-
tuted close reserves,
and they accordingly
by directed that he
should take the place
of the conservator on
the District Committee
ordered to be formed,
(in G. O. No 1662 A of the
19th November 1875) for
the purpose of demar-
cating State reserves,
but in respect of which,
owing to the conservator
not having had
time to devote to the
work, no systematic
action had been taken.

At the same time Capt^r
^{Walker} was directed invariably
to place himself in com-
munication with the
Collector of the district
in which about to
work and the joint
proposals of the two
officers

officers were ^{ordered} to be for-
warded to the conservator
who was to submit them
to Govt through the
Revenue Board. Existing
communal privileges
and future requirements
were to be carefully con-
sidered and extension
of cultivation provided
for - Capt^r Walker was
further directed to con-
-mence operations in
the Anaimalai forests.

5 In accordance
with these instructions
Mr Webster, the collector
of the district, and Capt^r
^{formed themselves into a Committee and}
Walker proceeded to the
Anaimalais and after
personal exam-
-ination of the forests
on those hills submitted
a report which, with
the conservator's remarks
thereon, is embodied
in the first of the Madras
Proceedings above cited.
~~Great~~ Delay unavoid-
-ably occurred in the
Submission.

4. The proposals of the committee in respect of reserves are, briefly, to form three reserved forests as defined in Act VII of 1870. These are (I) a reserve, consisting of about 82 Square miles of tax forest, including 26 Square miles leased from the Kolangod Mamtidi and a tract of forest to the Southeast of it, extending up to the Tarancoe and ~~Cochin frontiers~~
II) A reserve, called the Ponachi Reserve, containing an area of about 6 Square miles.

The sewer water appears
of the proposed reserves.
Nos. II and III, but would
divide I into four-

(d) the Cochin Malai Reservoir.
The Govt. ^{think it will be simpler & more effective}
~~to make the same as those in other parts of the~~
~~Empire and approve the Com-~~
~~mittee's Selection,~~
subject to the ~~provisional~~
~~indications and to the~~
settlement of Ramasami
Mudali's claim in the
Cochin Malai ^{forest.} ~~reserve al-~~
~~-luded to in para 6 of the report;~~
if it has not already
been

I suppose I shall
 then. I think all
 spoke made in
 these rooms as a
 sample room —
 different number

He

John Victor

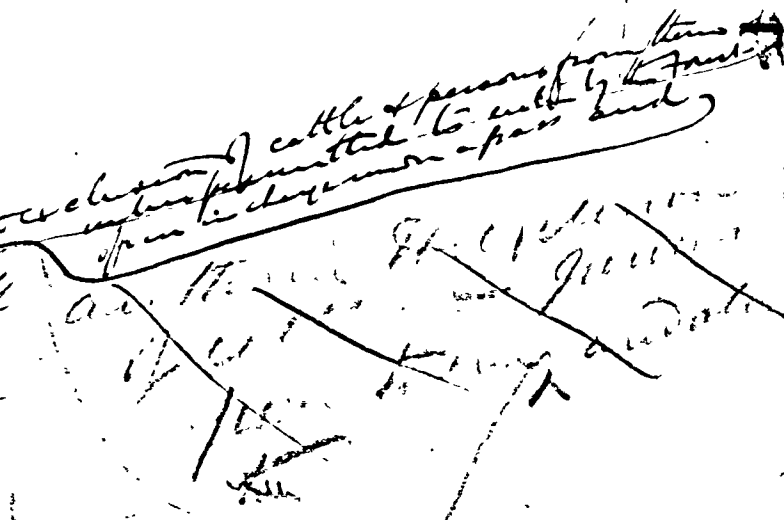
been settled - and as it appears that no communal rights exist in the said forest tracts and that the grazing of cattle in them is of com-

paratively recent origin they ~~will~~ be prepared to declare the 6 tracts of forest above specified to be Reserved Forests as soon as they have been demarcated & surveyed.

~~Cattle and men will thereafter be excluded from these~~

unless permitted to enter by the Forest Officer in charge under a pass.

The Govt. Council with ~~the~~ ^{the} Commissioner as to the expediency of buying up the coffee and irrigated lands alluded to in para 12 of the Committee's report.



The Commissioner with reference to the line of the forest from the Volungo road as in any way 5 miles as the forest into a reserve.

The Commissioner

Situated in the limits of the Perachi Reserve, which limits must therefore be so modified as to exclude those properties. The proposals to demarcate the better limits of the Cochmalai reserve with a ditch and boundary pillars and to close the road leading from the foot of the Tekadi slip to Setamudi, substituting for it a cart road from the slip by the base of Cochmalai to Mangarai, are approved.

The erection of the wire fence ^{proposed by the Committee} is not considered necessary. [By the Commissioner and the Forest Officer in charge at this point.]

§ 6 The recommendations contained in para 15 of the Committee's report relative to ~~forests~~ ^{forests} can only be dealt with after the Forest Act, now under consideration.

if, in any case, it is not considered necessary to erect a fence in the reserve.

The classification and treatment of all the remaining hill forests in the Division outside the permanent reserves.

consideration, has be

- Come Law - but the Govt not particularly the conclusion arrived at by the Committee viz

¶ 7. The ^{recommendations} in para 16 relative to the prohibition of all further clearings on the northern and eastern slopes of the Mainimatis, and to making available the whole of the forest area watered by the Vaitulijar, the Shukijar and their tributaries, for the plantation of Coffee, tea &c, are generally approved.

p. 8. The remainder of the committee's proposals relate to the questions of the treatment of the hill tribes; the collection of minor forest produce; the depasturing of cattle on the hills; the supply of timber and firewood otherwise

particularly the conclusion arrived at by the Commission viz:

- (1) that no Communal lands exist in respect of the forests on the main mountain hills.
- (2) that none have been claimed; the village forests in which they existed having been cleared for cultivation.
- (3) that cultivation in its ordinary sense has reached its extreme limits and except in the shape of tea, coffee or Chinchora planting should not be permitted to be extended over the said hills -

and seeing no reason to doubt their justice or correctness approve and confirm them and look to the Government to give them effect until the passing of the Forest Act enables the Govt to take up its present decision. The Government are hereby requested to issue orders accordingly.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. M. S. free

By authority of the
 Army Board, General
 and by J. P. ...
 ...
 ...

otherwise than by direct
departmental agency
and the adequate pro-
tection of the reserves.

¶ 11 - The questions of the treatment of the hill tribes and the collection of minor forest produce are intimately connected with the question of the exclusion of traders and ~~others~~ ^{State} from the forests. On these points considerable correspondence took place in the year 1874. The Govt were then of opinion that the ^{then existing} restrictions placed upon the entry of traders into the Mairwalai forests should be removed as any interference with long existing rights of way was undesirable on grounds of public policy. (G.O. 925 May 1874 vol 2) and in September of the

Greek literature
 was to be placed
 ()

that year they
rescinded the per-
mission granted in
the preceding month
of February to the
Collector of Salem to
purchase the forest
produce collected by
the Hill tribes in that
district, on behalf of
Govt. and directed
that no restriction
should be "at present
placed on the privilege
of entry into the forests
hitherto enjoyed by
the traders" - At the
same time they
ruled with reference
to the Annamalais
that the general
principle to be observed
with respect to the rights
of Govt. and the jungle
tribes, in respect of
jungle produce, was
that the Govt. will not
interfere

At present
the permission was
granted

interfere with rights
hitherto enjoyed or
trade hitherto conducted
in respect to forests
throughout the Presi-
dency (G.O. Nos 1107
and 1115 of September
1st 1874). The decision
of Govt. of May 26th,
1874 was earnestly
protested against
by Captain Walker
(then Secy. Conservator
of Forests) in a forcible
letter dated August
14th 1874, No 741 - and his
arguments were ^{warmly} sup-
ported by the Revenue
Board, who urged that
the hillmen should
be allowed the alternative
of disposing of the
forest produce gathered
by them either to traders
or to the Forest Dept.
and that it was the
duty of a civilized
Government to prevent
the oppression of the
defenceless

defenseless hill tribes
whenever they fall
into the clutches of
the traders from the
plains (Wds Proc
of 30th Sept 1874, No 2813
Forst No 189) - The Wds
Proc together with
a letter from the Col
of Fortinatore were
only disposed of in
June 1878 along with
2 letters from Colonel
Weddome (dated Aug
24th 1876 No 71 and 30th
May 1878 No 300) who
advocated the purchase
by Govt of the forest produce
from the Nadars of the ^{Animals} and
its resale by auction
or by tenders, and
urged the prohibition
of the entry of traders
into the forests between
the 1st December and
the 1st June, or that
the ingress of all
outsiders should at
least

the State forest
* of all persons, whether traders or
others, into these reserves should be
restricted [and otherwise it is im-
possible to prevent the risk of damage
from fire. His Grace in Council has
no wish to interfere with the free ac-
tion of traders but considers that
that action is not in any way
hampered by their exclusion from
the reserves into a through which
there is no public or prescriptive
right of way.] The Govt are further
satisfied that while they

in this manner
right should be preserved -
no extension of right

least be under the
control of the forest
officer - The Govt in
passing orders on the
correspondence stated
that they saw no reason
"at present" for modi-
fying the decision
conveyed in G.O. No
634 of May 26th 1874.]
The Governor informal
has, however, again
given the whole question
his attentive consider-
ation and is convinced
that in the interests of the ^{State}
~~reserves~~ it is essentially ne-
cessary that the ~~free ingress~~
have as good a right
to the minor, as to the
major, products of
their forests, the hill
tribes of the Animals
alone have a
prescriptive right
to gather the former
in the forests on those
Hills and that in
their interests ^{this}
right should be ~~preserved~~
= exclusively

Exclusively reserved
to them the produce
gathered by them
being purchased
from them by the
Forest officers of
Govt. at fair rates
and sold for the
benefit of Govern-
ment, or else that
the hillmen should
be allowed to sell
the produce they
gather at ^{from} ~~the~~ places appointed
for sale to the Government
reserved forests.
Such recog-
nition of the ~~exclusive~~
right to gather and
dispose of jungle
produce, as against
all other outsiders,
does not, of course, bar
the right of the Forest
officers of Govt. to
gather such produce
[Departmentally]

The Committee
has recommended to Govt. of India
that the hillmen should be allowed to
gather and dispose of the produce of
the reserved forests at fair rates
and sold for the benefit of Govern-
ment, or else that the hillmen should
be allowed to sell the produce they
gather at the places appointed for
sale to the Government reserved
forests. Such recognition of the
exclusive right to gather and
dispose of jungle produce, as
against all other outsiders, does
not, of course, bar the right of
the Forest officers of Govt. to
gather such produce. [Departmentally]

9th Dec 1875
Govt. No 69 of 11 Jan 1876

~~Departmentally~~
[Such a policy appears
to be in accordance
with the views of the
Govt. of India, who in
their letter of the 6th
Decr 1875 No 1262 pre-
sumed that the ad-
ministration of the
revenue derived from
minor forest produce
and miscellaneous
recripts in demarcated
forests, and probably
in others also, was
in the hands of the
officers of the Forest
department.]
With regard to
the depasturing of
cattle on the hills and
hill slopes outside the
reserved forests the
Committee recommend
that a fee of 1 Rupee
per annum should
be levied on each bullock
or buffalo driven into
the hills to graze -

They ^{further} deprecate
the grazing of cattle
or goats on the hill
slopes in the neighbor-
hood of villages being
permitted. [This
latter suggestion
the Govt. cannot
entertain, but] for
regards grazing on
the hills [they think]
a grazing fee of ^{Rs. 2} annas
per head per annum
for cattle may fairly
be levied. Seeing that such
^(or even higher rate) is readily paid
to the Gavaducae and
Cochin Sirkars and
other private proprie-
tors. [Similarly, when
the Forest officers see
no objection to cattle
grazing within the
limits of the reserved
forests and permits
it at the fee may be
levied.] The grazing
of sheep and goats
should

be allowed only under
the strict supervision
of the Forest officers
in the reserved forests.

It is not to be
allowed in the reserved
forests.

It is not to be
allowed in the reserved
forests.

should be confined
to the Hill slopes.

11. The Committee's
proposal in para 20
of their report relative
to the rigid conservation
of alternate tracts of
the hill slopes by
blocking the rivers
out singly and closing
each alternate one
in rotation for a series
of years are approved
and should be given
effect to by the local officers.
[With respect to the

adequate protection
of the reserved forests
the Govt. consider
that the first step
that is necessary to
be taken is their de-
marcation and survey.
If the full sanctioned
strength of Forest Estab-
lishments be then inter-
-lined, and the services
of the hill tribes secured
by granting to them
the

It is not to be
allowed in the reserved
forests.

"Protection" for the
and "Reviews"

9. *Hand*

formation of ^{no} forest reserves in the Shivan, Sivurani, Udampatti, Malliar and Gopareni valleys in North Coimbatore, accompanied by a map on a scale of 1 inch to a mile, with some remarks by the local Forest officer Mr. Pet. The map shows clearly the general limits within which reserves should be formed. No attempt to regulate into or determine private or communal rights, or to divide the selected areas into reserved, protected, or village forests, has been made, but the map gives a good ^{general} idea of the limits within which a local Committee or a forest Settlement officer would have to work in order to determine these points.

points, and so far, the
Govt. consider it
is all that could
be wished. They ap-
-prove the formation
of Reserves within
the limits of the areas
therein ^{as proposed by Mr. Oest.} already
-proposed, of course, to ^{proper} forming
into and settlement
of private and com-
-munal claims here-
-after by a local com-
-mitter, (Captain Walker
does not think that
the map and report
now submitted are of
much use, preferring
the more elaborate
system of proposals
for the Arainalai
forests already re-
-served. ~~But~~ ^{on the other}
hand seems to con-
-sider both sets of
proposals as merely
defining the tracts
to

and, in respect of the ^{Shyam}
valley, to the effect of
the decision on the land
of for the proprietorship
of the portion of it which
is ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~disputed~~ ^{disputed}
Indalun Landowners.

7/ (Commencement)

to be reserved, and
both in his letter
forwarding the report
^{now} under notice and
in para 25 of his letter
of the 17 October 1878,
No. 114 (recorded in the
Revenue Board's Proc.
of 27 Feb'y 1879) says
that he is in a position
to lay before Govt. ^{maps}
of this description for
most of the districts
of the Presidency -
and as in the latter
letter he requests for
further orders as to what
Captain Walker's
powers and duties
are and assumes
that the Govt. don't
wish Captain Walker
to leave any district
he takes up till a
definite and per-
-manent settlement
of the question of
reserves and of all
forest rights has
been

been arrived at, the
Govt. consider it
advisable to define
more exactly the
scope of Captain
Walker's duties and
the method of pro-
cedure to be followed
by him in their discharge.

The main object which the
Govt. have in view is the
selection and definition
of all those tracts of
State forest in the Prov.
which, either on account
of their containing
valuable timber or on
account of their being
situated in the vicinity of
settlements, should be constituted
Reserved Forests, and
in which, after they
have been once declared
Reserved Forests, no
felling is to be allowed
except under the im-
mediate supervision
of the Forest Dept. and
from which cattle and
fires are to be excluded.

It

It is, of course, an es-
sential condition pre-
-cedent to the ^{final} constitu-
-tion of a tract of forest
into a Forest Reserve
that its limits should
be ascertained and
surveyed, and that a
careful record of all rights
claimed in respect of such
tracts should be made,
but the first point to
decide is what forests
ought to be reserved,
and it is to ~~ascertain~~
this ^{fact} that Captain
Walker has been selected,
as a Forest Officer & not
as a Surveyor. The Govt. do
not contemplate his
performing the duty of
ascertaining the demar-
cation or surveying any
selected tract. This duty
will be performed by
the local Forest Officer
and the ^{officer in charge} ~~officer in charge~~
of the ~~district~~ ^{division}.
[Deputed to each district]
[for the purpose] The first
requisite therefore, in
any case, is that Captain
Walker should be fur-
nished with a good
map

map on a scale of 1 inch
to a mile showing the
topographical features
of the hill tracts of the
district where he is about
to work. ~~Such maps~~

The Supd. of Revenue
Survey is requested to
supply as soon as possible
to Captain Walker ~~the~~
the conservator of forests,

who before forwarding
them to Captain Walker
will roughly sketch in
the positions of the
various forests which
he considers should be
examined in view of
being formed into
reserves. With ~~done~~ ~~the~~

the Director's intimate
knowledge of the forests
of the Presidency, ~~it~~
this will be an easy
task to him, and if
The conservator in-
structions, as laid
down in his Circular
No 2

of any
of the forests
examined in view
of being formed into reserves.

No 2 of the 7 January
1876, has been acted
up to. Captain Walker's
work ~~should~~ ^{have} be greatly
facilitated and accel-
erated.

15. An extract of the
map Captain Walker
will proceed to examine
the forests in the District
in company with the
local forest officer, the
Surveyor and ~~the~~ ^{Collyer}
the ~~other~~ ^{officer} ~~representing~~ ^{representing} the
the ~~Collyer~~ ^{for the purpose} ~~of~~ ^{and}
these two officers into further ~~the~~ ^{the}
situation of the forests
and determination of

The position and ~~the~~ ^{proposed}
of the forests to be reserved
they will be marked
on the map and ~~the~~ ^{by the conservator who}
with report on the ~~the~~ ^{the}
plans; ~~the~~ ^{the}
held into the ~~the~~ ^{the}
by a committee
consisting of Captain
Walker, the Revenue
officer and the local
Forest officer.

1) The

(1) The existence of any private forests within the selected area.

(2) The existence of any rights of way, ~~pasturing~~, ~~cutting~~, ~~timber or fuel~~, ~~gathering~~ ~~minor forest produce~~, or making charcoal, within the limits of the proposed reserve.

Due notice of the intention of making such a survey will be given by the Revenue Officer who will record notes of the evidence on each point.

A memorandum including the result of the investigation.

and the opinion of the Committee will then be recorded. A copy of the Memorandum

so recorded in respect of each Reserve, will be forwarded by Septa

Walker to Govt. ~~for the~~ ~~Department of Revenue~~

After the limits of the reserves have been settled the Local Forest Officer

and

decides of forest

210 - not included in the area

47/15
and the Surveyors will proceed to demarcate ~~them~~ and ~~the latter~~ ~~officer will survey~~ them, ~~being careful~~ that private forests ~~are excluded from the~~ ~~Survey~~. The Local Forest officer will ~~then~~ make a brief Memo. of the general character of each reserve, as it is demarcated, noting the class of trees most commonly ~~growing~~ in it ~~and~~ any other noticeable natural features; ~~and a copy~~ of this Memo. with the Surveyor's field-book will be forwarded to the office of the Super. of Revenue Survey where a map of each reserve on a scale of 4 inches to the mile will be prepared. The map

James

September 18-8-

Isa no nishiki
vishu - anan
upamantata

1. In the course of the Committee
finding that Capt. Waller's
employment on his special duty
is likely to entail additional expenses he
will submit a proposition statement
in the course of one showing the
details of the additional establishment
desired necessary with cost -

I do not understand the
case it is not like
I ask a H. Elliott
Jury duty & I have
had before attend
him again & I
don't know if

X

I think the French are
 at the expense of
 the world. The only thing
 we could say is that we
 take up that - then the day

the spirit there the
the name of the
The Union in hand
the solemn pact -
the people of the world
the Union the Constitution
the people do the work

Some North American
trees are particularly
conspicuous in staying
green in winter. But
not that long that are
common to the
is still being carried
under leaves from
a tree like this.

It should be looked
2. *Handwritten signature*

49 18

of rights and objections
recorded. The reserves
proposed in the Holam-
spatti, Bhavani, Sru-
vani, Wallar and
Gopandri valleys
~~being~~ ^{be} next taken up
and similarly treated
and then the forests
in Collagal and Salga-
mangalam, after
which Captain Walker
will proceed to ~~H. B.~~
~~The need not concern~~
~~himself to inquire~~
3. ~~Further into~~ the en-
croachments on
Government forests
on the slopes of the
Nilgiri Hills the Govt.
have ordered all such
forests to be uncondi-
tionally reserved
and ~~are pleased~~ ^{would like} hereby
to constitute the said
slopes part of the charge
of the Forest Officer in
charge.

charge of the Kilgore
 Division who will
 hereafter be responsible
 for their maintenance
 and protection.

27/6/22 *[Signature]*

[Faint handwritten notes]

- 21. Sole Conservator of Forests 1910
- 14. The Board of Revenue
- 13. The Dept of Revenue Survey
- 1. Capt. G. J. Walker
- 6. The Commandant General

150
 10

[Faint handwritten notes and signature]

Depy Secy

Revenue
To.

Capt. C. Walker
Bengal

for copy in ...
for ...

Genl. Secy

for ...

3rd August 1877

for ...

20/6/77 left ...
22/7/77 to Mr. ...
23/7/77 ...
24/7/77 ...

20/6/77

No. 2487.
From the Conservator of Forests of 18th March 1877.
and
para band of Secretary of State
Dispatch of 20 February 1877, No. 10 Revenue
(Forests).

Dated

1877

FOR ORDERS.

Submitted that
Colonel Baddome be

directed peremptorily
to require Captain
Walker to proceed with

the work on which he
has been deputed, and
for which arrangements

of a detailed nature
have been made in

the ...
G.O. dated 26th ...
November 1878. No. 1103

and to report at an
early date what is
being done in this

highly important
underlying

It is proposed
in future because
Capt. W. finds practical
difficulties & he does not
easily acquiesce but
I think that the hardship
in L. form being very
much more severe
is a preliminary.

To give practical
effect to his proposals
he probably needs
some definite & not
the ad hoc hints

I do not feel B.L.
attach importance to
him at once & to
submit in the paper

undertaking. Captain
Walker is doing
nothing.

2 Submitted
that Captain Walker's
proposal to corres-
pond with Govt
independently of the
head of his depart-
ment be negatived.

3. Captain Walker's
present letter amounts
to a request for
Govt. to reopen the
questions decided
in G.O. above
quoted. The Secretary
of State's despatch
advocating

tabular form the proposal
for the office established
necessary for them -
including such a Forest
Survey & education
party. Aspl. Scott may
approve for the purpose.

I think the proposition
that 2 G.O. 1st include
Capt. W. as a special
app't. for this duty - so as
to know for temporary
adv't. & the Forest Dep.
in his stead for
ordinary duty.

Also the am't. making
to allow of an acting
Asst. Secy. being
employed in each St.
in place of the St.
Officer & be associated
with Capt. W. in each
St. as he enters it.

57
I have printed out in
my work on the Indian
report that our Draft
Forest Act will need to
be modified as regards
conditions for reserves
but bearing this I
think Capt. W. suggested
"duties" of the branch
Dept. are appropriate
which the Govern-
ment is to what a dis-
turbance - assuming
that there may be
for Forest - as well as
"Chimanie" considers -
advocating a proper
staff for the Forest
reserve branch comes to
in at the same
moment. The G.O.
above quoted gave
Captain Walker all
the staff and powers
which the Govern-
ment thought
necessary - for per-
sonal purposes &
clerks and 4 prom.

The proposal for Govt. Colonel Scott was to
send some one to help with the survey
forces one can judge of the
the map. & Dr. Scott
Capt. W. & proceed to
to carry them out by
means of survey. &
proceed to the work in forest officers were
H. Joiner. The bill will
be passed by meeting
by before it is necessary

FOR ORDERS:

to be at Captain
Walker's disposal.

Also 1 revenue
officer in each
district to co-operate.

Mahomed Ali was

to be deputed to

help if Colonel

Braddome could

spare him; he

will be available

in a month or

two, when Mr

Stanborough re-

verts from leave.

Submitted

I will the instructions
established & I give
the rules for the plan.

I will associate the
Asst. Commr. in each
dist. for this work
& replace him by a special
appt. I think the 4 Nos.

on the hills in each
year is not unreasonable
for looking up plans
& reports & examining
from Benhill & a
trying operation in many
cases.

Submitted that
no orders are now
necessary, except to
refer to the G.O.
above quoted.

4. The Govt. of
India and the
Secretary of State
are impatient.

The Government
have made an
adequate programme.

The person at fault
is Captain Walker,
who will not set
to work to carry
that programme out.

Submitted

31.8.79
Capt. Walker

consider that the estate
has been placed at
his disposal by J.S.
No 1910 of Nov. 26th 1920
is sufficient. Col.

Biddone wishes he
as he was for too much.

I think that the Forest
Office, a revenue office
& a survey & demarcation
party, should be placed

at ^{Capt. B's} disposal at once
with the necessary

to be taken from him for
not carrying out the
demarcation of the
rivers.

The Secy of State is
evidently ready to
sanction any amount
of cost the Government
probably will know
this. I think
continues to ask for more.

I ~~think~~ suggest that a
Revs office & Forest
office be associated
home at once with
Capt. B. & that Col.
L. & L. be directed to

place a survey & demar-
cation party under Capt.
his order for the work at
once. This party need

only consist of a native
surveyor at 2 or 3 places
the former of whom should
be capable of ^{using a spirit level}
compass. — an outline
survey is all that is necessary
& the boundary marks
might be made of the
houses.

1/4/29 J.H.P.

Am- for orders
Capt Walker and the
demarcation of forest
lands.

In case of order

Cave

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2278.

51

From Board of Revenue

Dated 27th February 1879.

FOR ORDERS.

The papers before me
simply a piece of the
the papers. They express no
opinion on the proposals &
I really doubt whether
orders can pass on these
details. It is impossible to
form much opinion about them
without the map (of N. Lane
told me is inadequate)
but I have full confidence
in Mr. Webster & Capt. H.
Walker & provide for the
needs of Egypt. But the
papers were sent to raise
a very important question
relative to the draft
Forest Bill in N. It is
proposed that "Reserved"
forests shall be constituted
only for climate

This being the first
of Captain Walker's forest
reserve reports, orders are
requested.

2. The report has been
some time in the Board's
Office.

3. The map is under-
stood to be with His Grace.

27.3.79

It is difficult to understand
the report or to dispose of
it without the map -
which I fancy was
left at Ootah as Capt.
Hawkins comes here
he has hunted everywhere

In it has seemed
find it -
The report only reached
the office on the 14th
last pg I of
1/4/29

I object to the statement
made that the map
was with me -
Capt. Walker himself
came to see it -
I thoroughly searched
for it - last year before I left the
as well as search of Capt.

Waters & pursue water
supply. It seems to me
evident from these papers
that he must "show"
for considerations of
timber supply & that
it will not suffice to
constitute "cloud" forests
for limited periods or
to call on "Protected"
forests for these timber
or purposes, without
reserves. I don't see that
we can do anything with
these papers beyond
approving the proposals
generally. & desiring
that effect be given to

Hankin -
It was in a large tin
can - and was never
sent me after the second
day after Capt. C. W. had
himself gone over his
notes & explained the
points to me - on
which day I went over
the map again - This
search was merely (Capt. C. W.
& known -
It is most probable that
it was (as Capt. C. W. informed
me the can was not marked
with an address) missorted
& placed with other irregular
or other plans which were
at that time passing in
connection with famine

Projects & estimates in
great numbers -
As regards the points raised
by Mr. H. H. Hutton. He
will find that the bill
does, as drawn, provide
sufficiently (I think) for
protection for emergency
&c -

W.H.

then as far as possible
in anticipation of the
enactment of the Forest
Bill in accordance with
its general principles -
adding that the need of
reserving forest for
other than climatic
reasons, as well as
temporarily converting
cloud forests, with the
purpose of providing
for the selection on
the bill - or in the
Legis Dept.

Proposals relating to
the methods of forest
working - & related
for Capt. C. W. to be
submitted separately.

W.H. 1/4

FOR ORDERS.

Capt. William H. ...
Resident ...

Dec 7-77, Dec 7-77, Dec 7-77
C. P. Appleby, Returned, Dec 7-77
C. P. Appleby, Returned, Dec 7-77

Sumner 21/11/78
802278.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated February 27th.

Printed March 3rd.

Received

La Prairie

PROCEEDINGS, 27TH FEBRUARY 1879, No. 521.

Feb. 13/3179
FEBRUARY.

FEBRUARY.

No. 521.

Feb. 1612: 22 Aug 1879

Forrests—of the South Coimbatore Division.—
Reviewing the joint report drawn up by a Com-
mittee consisting of the Collector of Coimbatore
and Captain C. Walker on the—

capl/9 Returned R50-7-767

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government Records.

Revenue Department.

G. O. (Printed).

Dated 2-8- 1879.

No. 1612

22-11-12
14-12-12

29-10-15
6-3-16
14-6-16

3717
23/10/19

9-8-33 II
8-1-37 II
3-3-38 II

13 $\frac{10}{72}$ | 54