Archives 1—10,000—6-10-78.

(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair 10.7.86

(3) Initials of the Referencer [illegible]

# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

| G.O. No. / B.P. No. | 2569 | Press. / Mis. |
|---|---|---|
| Dated | 19.7.1879 ~~3.3.1879~~ | ~~197~~ |

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

From H. Forest Reserve Commission
appointed under G.O. dated 16th January 1877 No 82.
To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

In accordance with our Report dated August 1878, we have the honor to submit a map of the Nimbal Division showing the woodland which we would propose to reserve and those which might in our opinion be rendered available for sale to the public.

2. This Division is bounded on the South by the Jeramalletta and Belmond ranges of hills which divides it from Sodanad; on the East by the Nimbal river, separating it from Inchinnad; and on the West and South by the crest of the Ghats, below which lies Malabar.

3. The approximate area embraced within these limits is 95 square miles or 60800 acres, divided as follows.

| | Acres |
|---|---|
| Occupied land | 5770 |
| Unoccupied grass & Scrub | 42030 |
| Unoccupied Forest | 13000 |

Of the unoccupied Forest we have proposed to reserve 4500 acres, and the growth on the margins

of

of streams and roads will also be reserved as would be the case if our proposals be adopted, about one half of the whole forest land area of the Kundah will be reserved.

4/ All the occupied land lies in the Eastern section of the Kundah, where that is protection from the extreme violence of the South West Monsoon; it is probable that land will be applied for in the neighbourhood alone. The section to the west of a line through Pimmond Bear Hill and the head of the Avalanche flat, and extending to Kispara, embraces the Kadrani swamp, the head of the Rhavani and the Valley of Death. Throughout this tract the grass land seems absolutely valueless, rock or slab rock underlies it nearly everywhere, and for some months of the year the weather so inclement that neither man nor beast can live there.

There appear therefore little prospect of planting extending in this direction.

5/ We have carefully inspected the whole of the Kundahs, and have given due consideration to every point that could be urged for and against reservation in each case; one member of our Commission considers that the extent proposed to be reserved is unnecessarily large, the majority however are of opinion that even with the reservations proposed



proposed the water supply will be to some extent injuriously affected, if all the Sholas now proposed to be given up are felled; and they feel assured if felling were extended over the wood land which they have recommended to be reserved, that no advantages, direct or indirect, which might accrue from Tea & Coffee gardens alone, would compensate Government for the serious damage which denudation of the Forests at the Corner of the Rhavani river would cause to the irrigation works below.

The fact that all interested in the Cuckerlany Valley were extremely anxious that the Sholas at the head of that Valley should be strictly reserved, supports the view of the majority that wood lands so situated do materially influence the supply of water.

6/ We would in conclusion suggest that definite rules be laid down with reference to the reserves necessary on the margin of streams and roads through land resumed under the Wast Land Rules.

7/ We consider also, as soon as Government have determined what reserves are necessary that active steps should be taken to ensure actual reservation; the property should be given over to the Collector of the Revenue or Forest Department who, being furnished with the means and authority

authority, would be held responsible for damage or destruction.

We have the honor to be

Sir

Your most ob. Servants

W Morton
~~Asst~~ Commissioner

J Rae Asst C.C.
Depy Surveyor Dundurn.

R. I. Fox Major
Depy Superintendent Forestry.

Recd at the Forestry Branch Commissioners Office 2 Mar 20



## Memorandum

I concur in this portion of the report, though I consider that even more Skola might be thrown open on the Kinudaks without harm Enough, however, considering the nature of the locality - has probably been given to satisfy requirements for many years to come. I wish, further, to record in continuation of my memorandum of dissent appended to the former portion of this Report, published in G.O. No 1852, dated 20th November 1878, but not yet disposed of by Government, that in my opinion more Skola might be granted in the Division already settled than was conceded. These made

were

were either inspected by my predecessor Mr Webster, and the Assistant Commissioner Mr Johnson, or visited by me early in the year, when I had had little or no experience of the District and its wants. I am of opinion that in localities where there is a strong demand for Shola, and such little of it rendered, limited experiments might be made with advantage by granting forest to planters of Standing and repute, on condition of their planting a portion - equal to the forest conceded, and in the immediate vicinity - with Eucalypts, or any quick growing tree approved of by Government,

though in a higher and less mo-
ist locality. Such conditions could
easily be incorporated in the
grant, and would not be
difficult of enforcement, should
occasion arise.

2. There is another im-
portant point on which I would
solicit definite orders, when this
report is disposed of - In the
Nilgiri Division, such inspected,
the Commissioner have, at my
suggestion, marked in the plans
all the Sholas reserved, so the
question as regards availability
is settled for ever, every thing
else being open for occupation,
and it only remains for the
Commissioner on receipt of
applications

applications to decide - in
consultations, when in doubt,
with the Forest Department -
whether the land should bear
the rate of 2 Rupees or 8 annas
per acre. In the other divisions,
however, the Forest Commission
has indicated only what may
be given, the result being that
doubts must constantly arise -
as to whether scrub, though not
marked as Sholah available
to the public, is really forest or
not. This difficulty has arisen
even in Merkumad, where
Government has already reserved
all Forest, without reference
to this Commission and Shaw
addressed the Board in my

No. 33 dated 17th Instant asking
that the Forest Commission should
be ordered to mark on the plans
what is to be considered Forest
there, to avoid continual references
and disputes, and I think
this should most certainly be
at once done for all the other
Divisions. As an instance of
the difficulty I mean - A mixed
plot containing grass, Scrub, and
Shola is applied for - the Sholas
available in the Division have
been marked out, it is true,
and the Sholah within the
application is not to be marked,
as available, yet the difficulty
remains as to how much of it
is mere scrub, and therefore to
be

be given, and how much is forest to be reserved. If the forest is referred to subordinates of the Revenue, Forest or Survey Department for disposal, all the doubts and opportunities for fraud remain pretty much as before the sitting of the Commission, whereas if all Sholahs reserved and their extent are known, and defined, such questions cannot arise. The settlement of the question for ever is quite as necessary to prevent future improper alienations of Sholahs, as to facilitate the interests of intending applicants.

3. I would further urge



that the earliest possible orders may be passed, so that Waste Land Rules may no longer be held in abeyance. The frauds recently brought to light, and reported on by me, have not occurred since applications have been preferred under these Rules, but under fictitious pattahs and fraudulent sales have been had recourse to, to evade them altogether, and so long as these Rules are in abeyance, there will be an additional strong temptation to such frauds.

Nilgiri Commissioner's Office
Coïmbatore 21st February 1879

Signed/ R.W. Barlow.
Commissioner

/True Copy/
Rayd Benson.
Asst Commissioner

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

Ootacamund, 3rd March 1879

Cir. No. 31

FROM R. S. Benson Esqr.
COMMISSIONER, NILGIRIS.

TO The Secretary to Government
Revenue department
Fort St. George.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith ~~10~~ copy of the report of the Forest Reserve Commission, appointed under G.O. No. 82 of the 16th January 1878, on the Kundah Division together with its enclosure — a memorandum of Mr. Barlow's own views on the subject —

2. The original report with Mr. Barlow's memo and the map of the Division showing the proposed reserves have been sent to the Board of Revenue —

I have the honor to be
sir,
your most obedt. servt.

Rogs Kerr
Ag Commissioner

Mis
Revenue 1879. Despatch
No. 31 of 2079.
Date— 3rd March 1879

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
Red 6 —do— Cootacamund.

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St. George

Enclosures. 2

Forest Reserve Commission

SUBJECT.

Submitting Report
of ... on the
Kmudah Reserve
together with Sketch Plan

Ref Con 5-6-79 No 229

Rec'd 10-3-79
Answered
Sent