

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 99-88 52
(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 99.88
(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் 6/1/2

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

உருவம் துறை

அரசாணை எண். <u>78 (202-203)</u> மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.	அச்சகம் பலவகை
நாள் : <u>13.1.1879.</u>	<u>198</u> .

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

13th January 1879, No. 78.

Read the following paper:—

No. 202. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th November 1878, No. 3,029.

Read the following letter from W. H. COMYN, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Goorpoor, 9th September 1878, No. 1,715:—

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in the endorsement passed by Government under date 19th July last on a letter from the Conservator of Forests regarding the temporary revision of the Forest Establishment and the control of that establishment and of the forests in South Canara.

2. The Government have directed me to report on Colonel Beddome's proposals contained in paragraph 2 of his letter, and to state when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed and what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment.

3. Colonel Beddome's letter to Government above referred to had reference to certain proposals submitted by Mr. Cherry, the late Deputy Conservator of Forests, on his departure from the district for the reduction of the present forest establishment employed in this district.

4. On the ground of the uncertainty of the speedy termination of the enquiry into forest claims now in progress and of the early settlement of the forest question in this district, as well as the uncertainty of the extent of forests that are likely to be saved to Government, Colonel Beddome proposed that until some settlement is arrived at all the forests in the district should be placed entirely under the Collector to be controlled as he may think fit by a local establishment, but should the Government wish the Forest Department still to keep up an establishment, he (the Conservator) was of opinion that the reduced establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry will be quite sufficient. Colonel Beddome could not, however, support Mr. Cherry's recommendation for an increase of pay to some of the more responsible subordinates to be retained on the district staff.

5. Before commenting on Colonel Beddome's proposals, I will briefly state the position of affairs. The most important point to note is that the future of South Canara Forest administration depends on the decision that may be arrived at on the forest question now pending. Until this question is settled, unless indeed the Government are prepared to sanction a proposal, I shall submit, for the exceptional treatment of certain tracts to be referred to hereafter, nothing definite can be done in the way of demarcation and remunerative conservancy of forests declared to be the property of Government, or towards formally surrendering to the ryots such forests as may be excluded from demarcation, and the only thing to do in the meantime is to continue and complete the enquiry into forest claims now in progress on the principles laid down by Government in their Orders, 23rd October 1874, No. 1,361, and 20th February 1875, No. 271.

6. The results of this enquiry, so far as it has proceeded, show that there is ample material ready for demarcation, i.e., there are large tracts of valuable forests, which have been found to be Government property, and for the demarcation of which sanction is only awaited. Long before the demarcation of these tracts can be completed, the enquiry into claims still pending, or that may be hereafter preferred, will be furnished, and such other tracts as may be declared to belong to Government will be available for demarcation. There will therefore be ample and continuous employment for a district forest staff of the full sanctioned strength first in demarcation and then in conservancy as each tract is demarcated and brought under control, and conservancy once started there is no apparent limit to its duration, so that the forest establishment will necessarily become permanent.

7. The question is when is all this to begin? I think that it will be admitted that the sooner some settlement is arrived at the better it will be both for the people and the State, for I can scarcely conceive anything more unsatisfactory than the present state of suspense. Everything is held in abeyance, nothing is settled, the rights of Government and the people in the forests are undefined, so that neither the Government or the people know what their rights are; the forest revenue suffers, so much so that there is a large yearly deficit, and Forest Officers, not excluding the Head of the Department, are naturally disheartened. I do not wonder, under these circumstances, at Colonel Beddome's seeking to be relieved of the forest control of this district until matters are placed on a more satisfactory footing. The only satisfaction is that the work of the last few years will not have been done in vain, for whatever the ultimate settlement of the question may be, the minute enquiry now in progress will have brought together much useful information regarding the chief forest tracts in the district and regarding claims to the same, which will form a valuable record for future reference. With the settlement of the forest question all the difficulties above noted will vanish. We have an establishment on the spot and plenty of work for them to do, and all we want is sanction for action. I think therefore it is eminently desirable that the early orders of the Government of India on the papers already submitted to them should be solicited.

8. Now with regard to Colonel Beddome's suggestion that the control of the forests should be transferred to the Collector until some settlement is arrived at, I may state at once that I do not see that any advantage either to the State or to the people will result from the change. By adopting this course, things would not become any more settled than they are now, and so long as the present uncertainty continues the Collector would no more be able with the help of a local establishment to inaugurate and carry out any system of true conservancy than the Conservator of Forests can hope to do with his present district staff.

9. Colonel Beddome says that in the event of the charge of the South Canara forests being retained by him, the reduced establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry will be sufficient. It is not, however, clear from Colonel Beddome's letter whether in the event of the control of the forests being temporarily vested in the Collector, aided by an establishment, he contemplated the transfer of the present district staff establishment, subject to the reductions proposed, to the Collector to work under his orders, or would abolish this establishment and leave the Collector to make his own arrangements for forest control. I presume that Colonel Beddome meant the latter, for, if the present forest establishment were to be retained (although under a new master), its cost would, I take it, still be debitable to "Forests," and in this case it might as well remain under the orders of the head of the Forest Department; but I would beg to observe that whether the control of the forests remained subject to the Conservator, or whether it were transferred to the Collector, the work of the establishment would be the same, and whatever establishment Colonel Beddome might find necessary to retain under present circumstances would be required by me in the event of my assuming charge, for neither my ordinary office establishment or that employed in the taluka, which are already overworked, would be able to attend to duties connected with forest administration. If then Colonel Beddome's object in resigning control over South Canara forests is to save a charge on forest revenue, to what head of revenue should the cost of the forest establishment be controlled by the Collector be charged? If to "Forests," where is the benefit of the charge? If not to "Forests," to what? Jungle Conservancy Fund? The Fund would be bankrupt in six months and then? The conclusion that the only head of revenue to which an establishment of this kind can be charged is "Forest" is inevitable. Financially, therefore, the change would be attended by no advantage.

10. Nor do I think that any disturbance of existing control in this matter is for the good of the public service. Far from conducing "to the settlement" of affairs the change would have the effect of making things, already sufficiently unsettled, more unsettled still, for it would involve a further change at no distant period. It is not likely that the control of the forests would rest with the Collector long, the proba-

bilities being in favor of an early settlement of the forest question, when the forests would be again transferred to the control of the Conservator and the establishment would be re-employed under the proper head of its department. The change would thus necessitate a transfer and retransfer of charge within a short period, and, in the meantime, instead of one forest administration under a general head for the whole Presidency, there would be two administrations, two sets of accounts, two sets of reports.

11. Were there indeed any prospect of the final settlement of the forest question being indefinitely postponed, or were there any reason to suppose that that settlement, is speedily arrived at, would result in the total negation of the rights of Government in South Canara forests, or in a recognition of their rights to so small an extent of forest as to make its conservancy not worth the expense, then there would be an argument in favor of abolishing the local forest establishment altogether; but, as I have already stated, there is every probability of large forest tracts being secured to Government and brought under proper control, and this being the case I do not see on what principle the Head of the Department should be temporarily relieved of all responsibility and concern in the matter, merely because temporarily, and owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, the forest administration of the district is not a success. On the above considerations, I would deprecate any disturbance of existing arrangements, but should the Government consider that the temporary transfer of forest control to the Collector is for the public good, and desire me to take charge, I am of course perfectly ready to do so.

12. In forwarding to the Conservator Mr. Cherry's letter proposing a reduction in the existing establishment, I gave it as my opinion that, until the work of demarcation commences, the services of a Deputy Conservator are not necessary for the district, and that until such time the establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry will meet all requirements. I still think that for the present there is no call for the services of a Deputy Conservator. By placing a First-class Ranger as proposed in temporary charge of the Forest Department, there will be a considerable saving to the State in the salary of a Deputy Conservator. In the event of the control of the forest being for the time being transferred to me, I should require the services of an officer of this grade to be my Assistant in forest matters, so that whether the control be vested in me or not, the proposal to keep a First-class Ranger on the establishment would hold good.

13. On further consideration of the whole subject, I see reason to modify my opinion as regards the sufficiency of the remaining establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry. His scheme provides for the retention of a certain number of men whom he styles forest guards, but I find on closer examination of his proposals that he would really employ them as peons to be attached to the officer in charge of the district and to the proposed foresters. When I consider the large extent of valuable forests that will be awarded to Government I think that it would be very doubtful economy to reduce the number of forest guards at present employed, and I would keep them employed on their legitimate duties. Though the local forest establishment may not, under present circumstances, be able to effect much in the way of actual and immediately remunerative conservancy (in the professional acceptance of the term), still there is no doubt that its retention hitherto has exercised a wholesome check on the destruction of valuable forests, many of which are undoubtedly Government property. The mere presence of a staff of forest guards and watchers has a good moral effect, for it act as a preventive against indiscriminate felling and mischief by fire, and thereby conduces to the general prosperity of the district. If these guards were entirely withdrawn, it is probable that felling of valuable timber and denudation of hill slopes would be the result, and owing to the present uncertainty as regards forest rights, it might not always be possible to prosecute offenders to conviction. Village officers no doubt afford assistance to these guards in the work of preservation, and they probably act as a kind of check on each other, but I do not think that in the event of the forest guards being withdrawn, the village officers could be relied on to protect the forests from damage or injury. If the guards are withdrawn, their

services up to date will have been thrown away, and their cost will have been so much loss to Government. Although the forests have not hitherto proved remunerative to the State, they contain sources of great wealth, and the retention of an adequate establishment is necessary, if for no other reason, as an insurance against loss of prospective forest revenue.

14. Colonel Beddome, in considering that the reduced establishment as proposed by Mr. Cherry would be sufficient, evidently wrote in ignorance of the extent of forest that will be eventually secured to the State, and he seems all along to have taken a desponding view of South Canara Forest prospects. That such gloomy anticipations are not likely to be realized I think I shall be able to show. I would not therefore reduce the number of forest guards now employed, though I still think with Mr. Cherry that the establishment is otherwise susceptible of reduction. I beg to enclose a statement showing the sanctioned strength of the district forest establishment, the establishment as it stood up to the time of Mr. Cherry's departure, the establishment he would propose, and the establishment that, I think, should be retained, whether the forest control is retained by the Conservator, or temporarily transferred to me. According to the scheme I now put forward, there will be a saving of 765 Rupees per mensem on the sanctioned strength.

15. Now, with reference to the query of Government as to when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed, I have the honor to state that in reporting on the progress of the forest enquiry in 1877, I stated that I hoped to be able to complete the inquiry by the end of March 1878. At the time I wrote

Report, dated 19th March 1877, embodied in Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, 20th June 1877, No. 2,055.

the number of forests pending disposal was 426. In addition to these forests comprised in blocks already selected by the Deputy Conservator, it was expected that several other blocks would be selected and brought within the scope of the enquiry, but it was not thought that they would be very extensive. In point of fact, however, no less than 23 additional blocks have been selected containing 1,541 jungles, or nearly four times the numbers pending disposal at the time of my last report. Numerous petitions have been received claiming many jungles bearing distinct local names and coming within the boundaries of these blocks, but not named or numbered in the lists submitted to me by the Deputy Conservator. It is probable that the addition of these latter jungles to those named in the lists will considerably swell the total number of jungles to be disposed of. Hitherto 830 claims have been registered in respect of these 23 blocks. Notices have been served on the parties concerned, and the claims received are now mostly under preliminary investigation with the Tahsildars. It is probable that the number of claims will be largely increased both before my enquiry into those blocks commences, and that many will be received when I come to hold enquiry on the spot. I have learnt from experience that many people having valid claims to jungles hold back until the last moment, notwithstanding the issue of notices inviting claims within a stated period, and in fact do not in many instances come forward until the Collector has actually arrived in the village to hold local enquiry. There are cases in which I have found on personal inspection of the locality undoubted Kumaki and Nettikut right and enjoyment of jungles adjoining cultivation regarding which no claims have been preferred, but which in accordance with the principles laid down for my guidance I have felt bound to recognize. Under no pretence could the jungles in such cases be held to be the property of Government or be reserved for demarcation.

16. After inspecting and holding inquiry regarding the jungles in several isolated blocks during the early part of last year, I devoted six months almost without a break (from October 1877 to March 1878) to local enquiry into claims to jungles situated for the most part in the valuable tracts lying under the ghats. I have completed the enquiry into 440 claims to 383 jungles (chiefly in the old blocks) situated in 136 villages, in addition to those disposed of by my predecessor.

17. I had hoped to be able to do more in the time, but I had no idea of the difficulty of the work, and found that the enquiry if hurried or superficial would be

unsatisfactory as tending to lead to future complications. I found that the reports of the Mahazerdars and the papers of the preliminary enquiry were often inaccurate and sometimes misleading, both in cases of wurg claims asserting private rights to jungles based on Mulputtas, Sasanums and the like, and of "Nettikut" claims to wooded hill slopes, the validity of which in a great measure depends on the proximity of the slopes to the cultivation on account of which they are claimed. I therefore found the best course was to personally inspect the jungles in all cases where this was possible, and to satisfy myself as to the identity of the boundaries shown in the documents relied on, or to the lie of the cultivation in relation to the watersheds claimed. I have thus inspected nearly all the jungles and forests with which I have had to deal, and this method of procedure, which involved constant travelling and much hard riding and walking, necessarily took up a good deal of time. I was generally accompanied by the Deputy Conservator of Forests and the Tahsildar, and always by the village officers and claimants, so that I had the advantage, not only of being able to form an opinion as to the value and capabilities of the forests, but of hearing what all parties concerned and interested in the enquiry had to say on the spot. This is obviously far better than taking down a lot of depositions at a distance without any means at hand of testing their accuracy.

18. The investigation of claims in all the blocks in the Udipi and Mangalore Taluks has been completed, with the exception of one block in the latter taluk near this place (Goorpoor) in which I am now engaged. Only a small extent of forests has as yet been selected in the Cassergode Taluk where the jungles are for the most part private property, and the remaining jungles to be enquired into lie in the Kundapur and Uppinangudi taluks, in which however a large number of blocks has already been disposed of.

19. There now remain 1,584 jungles to which 542 claims have already been registered, and it is probable that many more claims will be brought forward. Most of these jungles lie in the unexpectedly large blocks recently selected and in an out-of-the-way part of the country with which I am not as yet personally acquainted. I am not therefore at present in a position to say when the investigation of these claims will be completed. I purpose visiting that part of the district and taking up these claims during the approaching fair season, but I shall not be able to leave headquarters for any length of time until I have brought the License Tax Act into full operation by disposing of appeals against the assessment of the tax by subordinate officers. From what I have written above the Board and Government will readily understand that the disposal of the remaining forest claims will necessarily take some time, but they may rely on my completing the investigation within as short a time as possible.

20. I now come to the question what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment. Of the total number of 2,870 jungles and forests selected the enquiry into 1,286 has been completed. Of the latter number about 378 or nearly one-third will, in accordance with the principles laid down, be awarded to Government, the remainder being recognized as private property or treated as village reserves. These 908 jungles proposed to be excluded from demarcation are not, all of them, entire forests, i.e., they do not embrace the whole forest tract in their vicinity. A good proportion of them consist of wooded hill slopes which adjoin cultivation and which are all that the ryots have claimed, or by the custom of the country are entitled to. These portions only will be excluded from demarcation, the remaining parts of the forest-covered hills being available as Government reserves. The portions thus reserved are not included in the 378 entire forests alluded to as being awarded to Government. Of these 378 forests the majority are unclaimed and 110 of them are included in the forests returned to Mr. Harris in 1823 as Government property. It is quite possible that many more jungles will be awarded to Government in disposing of the remaining claims.

21. Above I have only given the *numbers* of the jungles that are likely to be awarded to Government and to the people respectively. The numbers do not afford any index to their relative extent, but the jungles to which private claims have been admitted being for the most part (except in cases of wurg claims) mere hill slopes, the aggregate extent of jungle to be awarded to Government is undoubtedly larger than would appear from a comparison of the figures. It is not possible to give their extent with any approach to accuracy. Many of them are scattered about in different localities, and no survey having been made their extent is not known. The most important forests to be awarded to Government are those lying on, or close to, the face of the ghat range which runs along almost the whole length of the district. It is along this range that "Mr. Harris' jungles" above referred to are for the most part situated. Their extent was entered in the returns submitted to Mr. Harris as 562 square miles, the extent being ascertained by eye measurement, but as measured on the map their extent is 250 square miles—*vide* Mr. Webster's letter, No. 2,080, in G.O., 21st March 1877, No. 1,173.

22. The history of these forests was given in my letter (paragraphs 9—12) embodied in Proceedings of Government, 20th June 1877, No. 2,055; and whatever may be the case as regards the other jungles in the district, there is no doubt that these forests are, as they have always been regarded, the property of Government. They are extremely valuable both on account of their timber-producing capabilities and because they clothe the water-shed of important rivers and fertile tracts of country. Having been all along recognized as State property they have escaped the Kumeri cutter's axe, and have for the most part been allowed to flourish undisturbed by the people. As, however, in the case of other property there are people who take what does not belong to them, so in these forests there have been cases of surreptitious and unauthorized felling, but the recognition of Government rights therein—kept alive by the presence of Forest Guards—has preserved them from wanton destruction.

23. I have stated in the earlier part of this letter that nothing can be done in the way of demarcation of the forests by Government in this district until the forest question has been decided, and this remark holds good in its general sense; but I venture to suggest that an exception may be made as regards these "Harris' jungles" and for the following reasons. It may safely be affirmed that nothing, short of utter abandonment of Government rights in the forests, could be more favorable to the claims of the ryots than the orders of the Madras Government on which this inquiry proceeded, and I do not think that when the results of this inquiry have been made known, there will be found a single case in which a jungle where to any valid private claims have been preferred has been reserved for demarcation as Government property. Whatever then may be the final settlement of the question, it is clear that no orders of the Government of India can secure fuller recognition of private rights in the forests than that accorded by the Madras Government on the principles already laid down. On the other hand, should the Supreme Government, accepting Sir Thomas Munro's famous dictum that "the only land in Canara that can in any way come under the description of Circar land is unclaimed waste" in the modified sense apparently assigned to it by the Bombay Government, proceed on other lines, and thus necessarily arrive at a settlement more favorable to the interests of Government as opposed to private claims, then the result will be not the surrender to private individuals of jungles that have been declared to be Government property, but the possible reservation to Government of jungles to which (hypothetically on a wrong basis) private claims may have been admitted. Now the decision in the case of "Harris' jungles" is that they are the property of Government, and under no circumstances that I can foresee will they ever be surrendered to private parties. There, therefore, does not appear to me to be any valid reason why the demarcation of these jungles should not be immediately proceeded with in view to their being brought under proper conservancy. I am aware that the above argument if pushed to its legitimate conclusion would apply equally to all jungles which may have been declared to be Government property, but I think that the decision in all such cases (except

"Harris' jungles") may well await the final settlement of the general question. In the case of "Harris' jungles" the rights of Government are so clearly defined that I think they may without hesitation be demarcated by Government.

24. Should the Government agree in this view and resolve to commence operations, I can at once give enough work to the District Forest staff, headed by an officer of the Deputy Conservator's grade and aided by extra hands, in the demarcation of these jungles alone, to last them for at least two years. When the large extent of the jungles in question, the shortness of the working season owing to monsoon and fever periods, and the fact that the establishment will have other work to attend to are considered, it seems probable that a longer time will be required. Before the demarcation of these tracts can be completed, the forest question will probably have been settled and other jungles declared to be Government property will be available for demarcation. Should the Government, on the other hand, not see their way to ordering the immediate demarcation of the tracts above referred to, I would still recommend the retention of a District Forest staff of the strength indicated in the enclosed statement, and will leave it to the Government to decide whether the interests of the public service will be best consulted by temporarily transferring the forest control to me or by leaving it as heretofore in the hands of the Conservator.

25. I beg to return the endorsement of Government under reply, together with its enclosures.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 4th June 1878, No. 419.

I HAVE the honor to forward a letter* from Mr. Cherry, Deputy Conservator, lately in charge of the South Canara Forest Division, submitting proposals for a reduction in the forest establishment of that division with an endorsement by the Collector.

2. Up to date only one small forest tract, about 300 acres, called Pillar Khan, has been handed over to this department, and there are private claims even in this; the present inquiry has been going on for a long time, and there appears to be no chance of its being brought to a conclusion at present, and I have no idea what extent of forest, if any, will be saved to Government. I am therefore inclined to advise that until some settlement be arrived at that all the forests should be placed entirely under the Collector to be controlled as he may think fit by a local establishment, but should Government wish this department still to keep up an establishment, I think that proposed by Mr. Cherry will be quite sufficient; only I cannot recommend that the increase in the pay of the different grades be given; the Rangers and Foresters are in a regular graded list and become entitled to promotion in due course; the monthly cost of this establishment would then be Rupees 225 against Rupees 414, cost of the present establishment.

REFERRED to the Collector of South Canara who will report on Colonel Beddome's proposal in paragraph 2 and state when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed and what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment.

OOTACAMUND,
19th July 1878.

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

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Canara (on leave), to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, Madras, (through the Collector), dated Bombay, 18th May 1878, No. 305.

I INTENDED before leaving the district to make the following proposals regarding the South Canara establishment.

2. The strength is already much below the scale sanctioned by Government, and though I have had no opportunity when such occurred, I hesitated to force further reductions so long as there seemed a fair chance of forest settlement being pushed to an early end.

3. The position however appears now so hopeless of speedy conclusion that I think it best to advise a complete re-arrangement.

4. My own absence on furlough will simplify this, and I now propose that the distribution of "ranges," "sub-ranges," and "beats" be broken up, and that the district be placed under the charge of a 1st-Class Ranger, who with a sufficient office and field staff to keep things going, and to be in readiness to take up tracts as they may be handed over, should be able to control all our operations pending a more general settlement of the differences now existing in the matter of forest rights.

5. The work in hand at present is, assistance to the Collector in inquiry into claims (which will last till the end of this official year or more), the selection and preparation of further blocks for tracts which the above investigation may show to have been omitted, the preparation of a map embodying for the whole district the information already collected for the several blocks at present roughly drawn, the care of those forests that may from time to time be handed over, and further the disposal of all our timber and produce stock.

6. On all these points I have instructed Mr. Ranger Carroll, and on the last head I will add a few remarks at the close of this letter.

7. To carry out this arrangement there will be no occasion to transfer from other establishments. Of course a number of hands here must necessarily be dispensed with; but in the following list of those to be retained, I have selected those best fitted to the work and have every confidence in recommending them for approval.

8. The subordinate establishment sanctioned by Government amounts to Rupees 483 a-month. The entertained establishment until very recently (when I forfeited three or four appointments) cost Rupees 414 a-month.

9. I now propose the following costing Rupees 280. You will observe that I have contemplated an increase of pay to some of the hands retained, and I strongly urge that this may be allowed in consideration of the increased responsibilities, besides additional expenses in extra travelling that will be entailed:—

Proposed Establishment.	Names and Pay.	Former Posts and Pay.	Present Duties.
1st-Class Ranger	W. Carroll	2nd-Class Ranger	To be in charge of the district.
Head Forester	Fixed horse allowance	Fixed horse allowance	For field work and demarcation.
Forester	J. M. D'Souza	Deputy Conservator's 2nd Clerk	Do. do.
Head Clerk and Accountant	G. Narayana	Ranger's Clerk	In charge of office work at head-quarters.
2nd or Travelling Clerk	P. M. Monteiro	Deputy Conservator's Head Clerk	2nd Vernacular and Travelling Clerk.
1st Head Guard	A. M. Mathias	Deputy Conservator's 3rd Clerk	
2nd do.	Sadroo Saldanha	Deputy Conservator's Peon	
3rd do.	Miguel Miranda	Do. do.	
4th Forest Guard	Miguel D'Souza	Head Guard	A staff of six hands for the general assistance of field and office work allowing two for the officer, two for the clerks, and one for each Forester.
2nd do.	Hyath Khan	Do.	
3rd do.	Parmeshawara	Deputy Conservator's Office Peon	
	Rosario Souza	Guard	
	280	225	

10. With reference to my paragraph 6, I would call your attention to my letter, No. 255, dated 18th April 1877. I have received no instructions on the point therein noted, and a large stock of timber continues to deteriorate in the forests; if we may undesirably dispose of the stock then it should be collected and sold off by auction. I have failed to secure purchasers by advertisement for tenders so we must be prepared to lose considerably; the truth is the market is now overstocked with Kumaky timber, which the merchants have obtained for next to nothing.

11. In conclusion, I have instructed Mr. Carroll to make a fair copy of this and sign for me by order.

FORWARDED to the Conservator of Forests. I concur in Mr. Cherry's proposals as regards reduction of establishment.

2. Until the work of demarcation of forest tracts commences the services of a Deputy Conservator of Forests are not, in my opinion, necessary for the district, and I think that until such time the establishment proposed by him will suffice for all requirements. I would support his recommendations for increased pay.

MANJESHWAR,
26th May 1878.

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.
Statement showing the Sanctioned Strength of the District Forest Establishment, the Establishment as it stood up to the time of Mr. Cherry's departure the Establishment he would propose, and the Establishment proposed by the Collector.

Sanctioned Scale for the District.	Salary.	Existing Establishment.	Salary.	Establishment proposed to be retained by Mr. Cherry.	Salary.	Establishment proposed by the Collector.	Salary per Mensem.	Total.	Remarks.
Deputy Conservator, 500 + 100	650	Deputy Conservator	650	Ranger, 100 + 25	125	1 Ranger, 1st Class, pay 100*	125	125	* Present pay Rs. 80 + 20 allowance. To hold charge of the district. The present 2nd-Class Ranger Mr. Carroll is eminently fitted for the post both on account of his knowledge of office work, long experience of the forests and acquaintance with the details of this district. + All on the sanctioned scale.
1 Head Clerk	30	1 Head Clerk	30	1 Head Clerk	40	Allowance	25	192	
1 Second do.	20	1 Second Clerk	20	1 Second do.	20	1 Head Clerk	15	135	
1 Third do.	15	1 Third do.	15	2 Head Peons or Guards on Rs. 8.	16	1 Peon	8	151	
1 Head Peon	8	1 Head Peon	8	2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	14	84	
2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Guards on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Guards on Rs. 7 each	14	141	
Northern Range.		Northern Range.		Northern Range.		Northern Range.			
1 Ranger, 60 + 15	75	1 Ranger, 60 + 20	80	1 Head Forester	30	1 Head Forester	30	30	
1 Clerk	15	1 Clerk	15	1 Peon	8	1 Peon	8	38	
1 Peon	6	1 Peon	6	3 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	24	3 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	24	62	
1 Head Forester	30	1 Forester (on reduced pay).	20	1 Head Forester	30	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	35	
3 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	24	3 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	24	1 Head Guard	8	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	35	
5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	1 Head Guard	8	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	35	
Southern Range.		Southern Range.		1 Head Guard	8	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	35	
1 Ranger, 60 + 15	75	1 Ranger, 60 + 15	75	1 Head Forester	30	1 Head Forester	30	30	
1 Clerk	15	1 Clerk	15	1 Peon	8	1 Peon	8	38	
1 Peon	6	1 Peon	6	2 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	16	2 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	16	34	
1 Head Forester	30	1 Forester (on reduced pay).	20	1 Head Forester	30	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	35	
2 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	16	2 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	16	1 Head Guard	8	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	35	
5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	1 Head Guard	8	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	35	
Total	1,139	Total	1,094	Total	280	Total	280	9,180	

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,
Collector.

Gootoor,
9th September 1878.

COLONEL BEDDOME having proposed that pending settlement of the forest enquiries now progressing in Canara, the forests should be placed under the Collector to be managed with a small local establishment, or, if that arrangement were not approved, that the existing establishment should be very much reduced, his letter was referred by endorsement of the Secretary to Government, dated 19th July 1878, to the Collector of Canara in order that he might report on Colonel Beddome's proposal, and also state when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed, and what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government, and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment.

2. In the letter above recorded the Collector reports exhaustively on the points above noted. For reasons fully detailed in paragraphs 15 to 19 Mr. Comyn shows that the settlement of the remaining claims will necessarily take a much longer time than he had anticipated when he last reported on the subject, and that in fact he is not in a position to fix on any particular time within which he can say that it is likely that the investigations will be completed.

3. With regard to the extent of forest likely to be awarded to Government, Mr. Comyn reports that out of 2,870 jungles and forests selected enquiry into 1,286 has been completed, and that of these about 378 will, under the principles laid down for his guidance, be awarded to Government, the remainder being recognized as private property or treated as village reserves. He also adds the very important fact that the tracts awarded to Government are as a rule very much more extensive than the others, which are for the most part (except in cases of Warg claims) mere hill slopes adjoining cultivation. Besides the 378 forests awarded to Government in their entirety, it appears that as private claims in many cases were made only to portions of the selected jungles, the remaining portions will still be available as Government reserves. With regard to the remaining 1,584 blocks, the claims to which have yet to be enquired into, no estimate is formed by the Collector of the number which are likely to be awarded to Government, but nothing is brought forward to show that it is improbable that the proportion will be less than in the cases already settled.

4. Mr. Comyn does not attempt to estimate the area of the 378 tracts which have never been surveyed, and are scattered about in different localities, but he states with regard to 110 of them known as "Mr. Harris' jungles" that in the returns submitted to Mr. Harris the area was entered as 562 square miles, but that from the map their actual extent appears to be not more than 250 square miles. They are stated to be extremely valuable both for climatic and timber-producing purposes, and having always been recognized as State property, they have escaped the Kurnari-cutters' axe, and have for the most part been allowed to flourish undisturbed by the people.

5. In paragraph 23 Mr. Comyn proposes that the demarcation of the "Harris' jungles" should be at once taken in hand, and to this the Board can conceive no possible objection. It was only with the view of preventing what they feared to be abandonment of Government rights that the Government of India interfered, and the policy of the Madras Government will be in no way prejudiced by the demarcation of the jungles to which it has been decided that no valid claims have been adduced.

6. If the demarcation is to be commenced there will be no room for reduction in the forest establishment of the district, but if nothing is to be done in that way, the Board would accept the modification of Mr. Cherry's reduced scale advocated in paragraph 14 of Mr. Comyn's letter. Under no circumstances do the Board think that anything would be gained by placing the forests under the Collector as suggested by the Conservator.

7. In paragraph 7 Mr. Comyn dwells on the exceedingly unsatisfactory nature of the present position of affairs, and the Board would be glad to learn when a deci-

sion is likely to be passed in the appeal case before the Bombay High Court referred to in the Despatch from the Secretary of State recorded with G.O., dated 3rd February 1877, No. 505.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 203.

ORDER THEREON, 13th January 1879, No. 78.

Forests, No. 4.

THE Government concur with the Board in considering that there is nothing to prevent the immediate demarcation of the forests which the inquiry made has established to be unquestionably at the disposal of Government.

2. The work should be at once undertaken, and the Conservator will be instructed to resume operations in these tracts.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. S. THOMAS,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

Law of the land and
respect the properties
and rights of their subjects,
an idea which quite
transcends this gentleman
and what that law
and those rights are.

The conditions of property
in this District have
been the subject of careful
and conscientious
investigation during
the past three-quarters
of a century and the
fact remains beyond
doubt or contradiction
that Camara is a pure
proprietary or Zamindari
District - bearing the
deferred issue of
Zamindari - i. e. without interest.

The.

The forests therefore
as a rule belong to the
Ancient proprietors
and their descendants
where such exist - and
cannot be Equitably
interfered with by the
State except in case
of grant to the State
or other title capable
of being established.
The establishment of
these rights & claims
has to be awaited.

The Collector should
be urged to complete
this investigation.

8/7 M. W. B. S. S.

Indians

Mr. Brewster of ?
 wrote 4th June 78
 No 419.

The Report-Inspector
 of the Canada
 proposes a reduction
 in the subordinate
 Arch-Spellbinders
 in that District & an
 increase of pay to
 the servants who
 are retained.

It is reported that
 J. H. Thompson for his services
 with respect to the
 investigation of the
 most facts is likely to
 be completed. It is thought
 of Jones is likely to be
 of the present under
 consideration to the
 as to the immediate supply

The collector supports
 both propositions but
 the Inspector only
 the former. Col. Bell
 remarks that
 rangers are on a
 graded list & become
 entitled to promotion
 in due course. This

is the case & the
Ranger in question
being after 2 days
cannot be promoted
unless there is a
vacancy & then only
after consideration
of the claims & merits
of others.

The collector (Mr.
Cough) opinion
that a Deputy
Conservator is not
at present desired
for this District is
somewhat at variance
with that expressed
in his L.O. with
D.O. 22 Aug 77. No
2554.

In a D.O. from Mr.

the

17
Minister, also with
that of D.O. it is stated
that a forest officer
particularly one who
knows the District is
desired to close the
Sieved forest & that
then the forest would
be in charge of
a subordinate officer
or the collector for
conservation.
Mr. Cough now states
two officers being needed
until the work of
demarcation of forest
tracts is completed.
He then shows the
postponed, as in his
D.O. nearly a year
ago, he said that
the inquiry
so far has shown
that these admitted
forest forests of considerable
value & extent.

not apparent.

It is he seen
that Col Beal has
has "no idea what
extent of forest is
with he saved to
for" & as he has
only had ^{about} 300 acres
as yet handled
over to him would
place the whole
forest under the
collector's "blue control"
as he may think
fit by a local statistic
:ment."

Lee
W.

Revenue Department

For Orders in Proceedings.

Board of Revenue dated 12:

November 1878 No. 3029.

Colonel Beddome sug-
gested the reduction of the Forest
establishment in South Canara
as he could not tell when
sufficient Forest to occupy
it was likely to be made
over to the Department.

I entirely agree with
the Col. Mr. B. that
the Census. may at once
resume operations in
the Forests. The Enquiry
made has established
the unquestionably at
the disposal of Govt. Mr.
Inspector (Col. Beddome).

Mr. Longyn the Col.
lector being asked for a report
is of opinion a temporary reduc-
tion is possible if the demar-
cation of Forests admitted by
the property of Government
are not to be proceeded
with

C1-7-78
R18-7-78

with but he thinks this
a mistake and it is sub-
mitted that there is nothing
in the Government of India's
instruction (vide in G. O. 1st
November 1876 No. 1558) to
prevent this action. All they
require is that decisions to
yield lands may not be made
or until further notice.

In this case "Harris
Jungles" may be alienated
and the whole staff will
then be required.

It should apparently
whether retained or not remain
under the Conservator.

1878
The Board
Established at
be maintained in
South India
—

1878
R.D.
No 78
Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 10th January,
1879

Read Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue,
dated 12th November 1878,
No 3029.

The Government
Concur with the Board
in considering that
there is nothing to
prevent the immediate
demarcation of the
forests which the
enquiry made has
established to be un-
questionably at the
disposal

disposal of govern-
ment.

The work should
be at once undertaken,
and the Conservator
will be instructed
to resume operations
in these tracts.

dispatch.

and Capt. F. H. O. D. of Revenue 809/11.
of the Conservator of Forests on
to the Revenue General

and the

98
Dumantia 4th
Thur. 13th May 1879
South Canara

Recd Dept

13th May 1879

B. No. 203

Letter No 305

19
Camp Bombay
18th May 1879

By: H. Cherry Begg
Conservator of Forests
South Canara
(On Leave)

For
Lt Colonel R. A. Beddome
Conservator of Forests
Madras Presidency
Ootacamund.
(Through the Collector)

I intended before leaving the District
to make the following proposals regarding the South
Canara Establishment.

2. The strength is already much below
the scale sanctioned by Government, and though I
have lost no opportunity when such occurred, I hesitated
to force further reductions, so long as there seemed a fair
chance of Forest ^{settlement} ~~Establishment~~ being pushed to an
early end -

3. The position however appears now so hope-
less of speedy conclusion, that I think it best to

advise a complete rearrangement.

4. My own absence on furlough will simplify this, and I now propose that the distribution of "Ranges", "Sub Ranges", and "beats", be broken up; and that the District be placed under the charge of a 1st class Ranger, who with a sufficient office and field staff to keep things going, and to be in readiness to take up tracts as they may be handed over, should be able to control all our operations, pending a more general settlement of the differences now existing in the matter of Forest rights.

5. The work in hand at present is - assistance to the Collector in enquiry and claims (which will last till the end of this fiscal year or more) - the selection and preparation of further blocks for tracts which the above investigation may show to have been omitted - the preparation of a map embodying, for the whole district, the information already collected for the several blocks, at present roughly drawn - the core of these forests that may from time to time be handed over - and further, the disposal of all our timber and produce stock.

6. On all these points I have instructed Mr. Ranger Carroll, and on the last head I will add a few remarks at the close of this letter.

7. To carry out this arrangement, there will be no occasion to transfer from other Establishments. Of course, a number of hands here must necessarily be dispensed with; but in the following list of those to be retained, I have selected those best fitted to the work, and have every confidence in recommending them for approval.

8. The subordinate Establishment sanctioned by Government amounts to Rs 489 a month. The entertained Establishment until very recently (when I forfeited 3 or 4 appointments) cost Rs 414 a month.

9. I now propose the following costing Rs 280. You will observe that I have contemplated an increase of pay to some of the hands retained, and I strongly urge that this may be allowed, in consideration of the increased responsibilities, besides additional expenses in extra travelling that will be entailed.

Proposed Establishments	Names and pay	Former posts and pay	Present duties
1 st Class Ranger	H. Carroll 100	2 nd Class Ranger 85.00	in ch. of the Dist.
	- Fixed horse allowance 50	Fixed horse allowance 25	
Head Forester	J. M. D' Souza 50	Dep. Comr 2 nd Class 40	field work and demarcation -
Forester	G. Barroffa 25	Rangers clerk 15	ditto

(continued)

Proposed establishment	Names and pay	Former posts and pay	Present duties
Head Clerk and accountant	P. M. Montano 40	Dy. Com. 225	in ch. of office work at 2nd quarters
2nd or travelling clerk	S. M. Mathias 20	Dy. Com. 95	2nd Vice-master and travelling clerk
1st Head Guard	Ladron Aldanba 8	Dy. Com. 225	Attache of 6
2nd do	Minguel Miranda 8	do	hands for the
3rd do	Minguel Pizarra 8	Head Guard	general assistance of field and office work
4th Forest Guard	Luath Pahan 7	do	following 2 for the office, 2 for the office, and 1
5th do	Jameshawara 7	Dy. Com. 95	for each forest
6th do	Relario Lanza 7	Guard	
	220		225

With reference to my para 6, I would call your attention to my letter No 255 dated 18th April 77. I have received no intimation on the point therein mooted, and a large stock of timber continues to deteriorate in the forests; if we may undesirably dispose of the stock then it should be collected, and sold off by auction. I have failed to secure purchasers by advertisement for timbers - so we must be prepared to lose considerably - the truth is the market is now overstocked with Kumaky timber, which the merchants have obtained for next to nothing.

In conclusion I have instructed Mr Carroll to make a fair copy of this, and sign for me by order.

/By order/

W. Carroll
Forest Ranger in ch.
Dy. Com. 95

Office of Commr of Forests.
Co'sacamund, 4th June 1878,
No. 419.

From,
Lieut. Col. R. B. Peddome,
Conservator of Forests.
To, C. G. Master Esquire,
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department,
Co'sacamund.

Sir,
I have the honor to forward
a letter from Mr. Cherry, Deputy
Conservator, Cutch,
Bombay, 19th May 1878, in charge of the
South Canara Forest Division sub-
mitting proposals for a reduction
in the Forest Establishment of
that Division with an endorsement
by the Collector.

2. Up to date only one small
forest tract, about 300 acres, called
Pillar Khan has been handed
over to this Department, and there
are private claims even in this,
the present enquiry has been go-
ing on for a long time and there
appears to be no chance of its
being brought to a conclusion.

Enclosure
The letter from the
Conservator of Forests
Office Co'sacamund, 4th June
1878, No. 419.

In No. 305
from Mr. 1878
The Deputy Conservator
of Forests
South Canara

New Sheet
Off recd 13th Aug 79
Encls in No 1000

The Conservator of Forests
Co'sacamund

Received by Mr. Cherry
Dated 18th May 1878
Dated 27th May 1878

Original Seal of Production
of Establishment
of 8th Division

at present, and I have no idea
 what extent of forest, if any, will
 be saved to Government, I am
 therefore inclined to advise that
 until some settlement be ar-
 rived at that all the forests
 should be placed entirely under
 the collector to be controlled
 as he may think fit by a local
 establishment, but should
 Government wish this depart-
 ment still to keep up an estab-
 lishment I think that pro-
 posed by Mr. Cherry will be
 quite sufficient only I cannot
 recommend that the increase
 in the pay of the different grades
 be given, the Rangers and Foresters
 are in a regular graded list and
 become entitled to promotion in
 due course, the monthly cost of
 this establishment would then
 be Rs: 225 against Rs: 144 cost of
 the present establishment.

I

280	25
35	10
245	5

280
245

I have the honor to be
 Sir,
 Your most obed^t Serv^t
 J. B. Smeeth
 Conservator of Forests.

Handwritten notes and signatures on the left page, including "No. 3,022" and various illegible scribbles.

*Received by the Collector of South Canara
 13th Aug 1879
 No. 3,022*

No. 3,022.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th November 1878.
 Read the following letter from W. H. COMYN, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to
 C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated
 Goorpoor, 9th September 1878, No. 1,715 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in the endorsement passed by Government under date 19th July last on a letter from the Conservator of Forests regarding the temporary revision of the Forest Establishment and the control of that establishment and of the forests in South Canara.

2. The Government have directed me to report on Colonel Beddome's proposals contained in paragraph 2 of his letter, and to state when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed and what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment.

3. Colonel Beddome's letter to Government above referred to had reference to certain proposals submitted by Mr. Cherry, the late Deputy Conservator of Forests, on his departure from the district for the reduction of the present forest establishment employed in this district.

4. On the ground of the uncertainty of the speedy termination of the enquiry into forest claims now in progress and of the early settlement of the forest question in this district, as well as the uncertainty of the extent of forests that are likely to be saved to Government, Colonel Beddome proposed that until some settlement is arrived at all the forests in the district should be placed entirely under the Collector to be controlled as he may think fit by a local establishment, but should the Government wish the Forest Department still to keep up an establishment, he (the Conservator) was of opinion that the reduced establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry will be quite sufficient. Colonel Beddome could not, however, support Mr. Cherry's recommendation for an increase of pay to some of the more responsible subordinates to be retained on the district staff.

5. Before commenting on Colonel Beddome's proposals, I will briefly state the position of affairs. The most important point to note is that the future of South Canara Forest administration depends on the decision that may be arrived at on the Govt forest question now pending. Until this question is settled, unless indeed the Government are prepared to sanction a proposal, I shall submit, for the exceptional treatment of certain tracts to be referred to hereafter, nothing definite can be done in the way of demarcation and remunerative conservancy of forests declared to be the property of Government, or towards formally surrendering to the ryots such forests as may be excluded from demarcation, and the only thing to do in the meantime is to continue and complete the enquiry into forest claims now in progress on the principles laid down by Government in their Orders, 23rd October 1874, No. 1,361, and 20th February 1875, No. 271.

6. The results of this enquiry, so far as it has proceeded, show that there is ample material ready for demarcation, i.e., there are large tracts of valuable forests, which have been found to be Government property, and for the demarcation of which sanction is only awaited. Long before the demarcation of these tracts can be completed, the enquiry into claims still pending, or that may be hereafter preferred, will be furnished, and such other tracts as may be declared to belong to Government will be available for demarcation. There will therefore be ample and continuous employment for a district forest staff of the full sanctioned strength first in demarcation and then in conservancy as each tract is demarcated and brought under control, and conservancy once started there is no apparent limit to its duration, so that the forest establishment will necessarily become permanent.

7. The question is when is all this to begin? I think that it will be admitted that the sooner some settlement is arrived at the better it will be both for the people and the State, for I can scarcely conceive anything more unsatisfactory than the present state of suspense. Everything is held in abeyance, nothing is settled, the rights of Government and the people in the forests are undefined, so that neither the Government or the people know what their rights are; the forest revenue suffers, so much so that there is a large yearly deficit, and Forest Officers, not excluding the Head of the Department, are naturally disheartened. I do not wonder, under these circumstances, at Colonel Beddome's seeking to be relieved of the forest control of this district until matters are placed on a more satisfactory footing. The only satisfaction is that the work of the last few years will not have been done in vain, for whatever the ultimate settlement of the question may be, the minute enquiry now in progress will have brought together much useful information regarding the chief forest tracts in the district and regarding claims to the same, which will form a valuable record for future reference. With the settlement of the forest question all the difficulties above noted will vanish. We have an establishment on the spot and plenty of work for them to do, and all we want is sanction for action. I think therefore it is eminently desirable that the early orders of the Government of India on the papers already submitted to them should be solicited.

8. Now with regard to Colonel Beddome's suggestion that the control of the forests should be transferred to the Collector until some settlement is arrived at, I may state at once that I do not see that any advantage either to the State or to the people will result from the change. By adopting this course, things would not become any more settled than they are now, and so long as the present uncertainty continues the Collector would no more be able with the help of a local establishment to inaugurate and carry out any system of true conservancy than the Conservator of Forests can hope to do with his present district staff.

9. Colonel Beddome says that in the event of the charge of the South Canara forests being retained by him, the reduced establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry will be sufficient. It is not, however, clear from Colonel Beddome's letter whether in the event of the control of the forests being temporarily vested in the Collector, aided by an establishment, he contemplated the transfer of the present district staff establishment, subject to the reductions proposed, to the Collector to work under his orders, or would abolish this establishment and leave the Collector to make his own arrangements for forest control. I presume that Colonel Beddome meant the latter, for, if the present forest establishment were to be retained (although under a new master), its cost would, I take it, still be debitable to "Forests," and in this case it might as well remain under the orders of the head of the Forest Department; but I would beg to observe that whether the control of the forests remained subject to the Conservator, or whether it were transferred to the Collector, the work of the establishment would be the same, and whatever establishment Colonel Beddome might find necessary to retain under present circumstances would be required by me in the event of my assuming charge, for neither my ordinary office establishment or that employed in the taluks, which are already overworked, would be able to attend to duties connected with forest administration. If then Colonel Beddome's object in resigning control over South Canara forests is to save a charge on forest revenue, to what head of revenue should the cost of the forest establishment be controlled by the Collector be charged? If to "Forests," where is the benefit of the charge? If not to "Forests," to what? Jungle Conservancy Fund? The Fund would be bankrupt in six months and then? The conclusion that the only head of revenue to which an establishment of this kind can be charged is "Forest" is inevitable. Financially, therefore, the change would be attended by no advantage.

10. Nor do I think that any disturbance of existing control in this matter is for the good of the public service. Far from conducing "to the settlement" of affairs the change would have the effect of making things, already sufficiently unsettled, more unsettled still, for it would involve a further change at no distant period. It is not likely that the control of the forests would rest with the Collector long, the proba-

bilities being in favor of an early settlement of the forest question, when the forests would be again transferred to the control of the Conservator and the establishment would be re-employed under the proper head of its department. The change would thus necessitate a transfer and retransfer of charge within a short period, and, in the meantime, instead of one forest administration under a general head for the whole Presidency, there would be two administrations, two sets of accounts, two sets of reports.

11. Were there indeed any prospect of the final settlement of the forest question being indefinitely postponed, or were there any reason to suppose that that settlement, if speedily arrived at, would result in the total negation of the rights of Government in South Canara forests, or in a recognition of their rights to so small an extent of forest as to make its conservancy not worth the expense, then there would be an argument in favor of abolishing the local forest establishment altogether; but, as I have already stated, there is every probability of large forest tracts being secured to Government and brought under proper control, and this being the case I do not see on what principle the Head of the Department should be temporarily relieved of all responsibility and concern in the matter, merely because temporarily, and owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, the forest administration of the district is not a success. On the above considerations, I would deprecate any disturbance of existing arrangements, but should the Government consider that the temporary transfer of forest control to the Collector is for the public good, and desire me to take charge, I am of course perfectly ready to do so.

12. In forwarding to the Conservator Mr. Cherry's letter proposing a reduction in the existing establishment, I gave it as my opinion that, until the work of demarcation commences, the services of a Deputy Conservator are not necessary for the district, and that until such time the establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry will meet all requirements. I still think that for the present there is no call for the services of a Deputy Conservator. By placing a First-class Ranger as proposed in temporary charge of the Forest Department, there will be a considerable saving to the State in the salary of a Deputy Conservator. In the event of the control of the forest being for the time being transferred to me, I should require the services of an officer of this grade to be my Assistant in forest matters, so that whether the control be vested in me or not, the proposal to keep a First-class Ranger on the establishment would hold good.

13. On further consideration of the whole subject, I see reason to modify my opinion as regards the sufficiency of the remaining establishment proposed by Mr. Cherry. His scheme provides for the retention of a certain number of men whom he styles forest guards, but I find on closer examination of his proposals that he would really employ them as peons to be attached to the officer in charge of the district and to the proposed foresters. When I consider the large extent of valuable forests that will be awarded to Government, I think that it would be very doubtful economy to reduce the number of forest guards at present employed, and I would keep them employed on their legitimate duties. Though the local forest establishment may not, under present circumstances, be able to effect much in the way of actual and immediately remunerative conservancy (in the professional acceptance of the term), still there is no doubt that its retention hitherto has exercised a wholesome check on the destruction of valuable forests, many of which are undoubtedly Government property. The mere presence of a staff of forest guards and watchers has a good moral effect, for it acts as a preventive against indiscriminate felling and mischief by fire, and thereby conduces to the general prosperity of the district. If these guards were entirely withdrawn, it is probable that felling of valuable timber and denudation of hill slopes would be the result, and owing to the present uncertainty as regards forest rights, it might not always be possible to prosecute offenders to conviction. Village officers no doubt afford assistance to these guards in the work of preservation, and they probably act as a kind of check on each other, but I do not think that in the event of the forest guards being withdrawn, the village officers could be relied on to protect the forests from damage or injury. If the guards are withdrawn, their

services up to date will have been thrown away, and their cost will have been so much loss to Government. Although the forests have not hitherto proved remunerative to the State, they contain sources of great wealth, and the retention of an adequate establishment is necessary, if for no other reason, as an insurance against loss of prospective forest revenue.

14. Colonel Boddeme, in considering that the reduced establishment as proposed by Mr. Cherry would be sufficient, evidently wrote in ignorance of the extent of forest that will be eventually secured to the State, and he seems all along to have taken a desponding view of South Canara Forest prospects. That such gloomy anticipations are not likely to be realized I think I shall be able to show. I would not therefore reduce the number of forest guards now employed, though I still think with Mr. Cherry that the establishment is otherwise susceptible of reduction. I beg to enclose a statement showing the sanctioned strength of the district forest establishment, the establishment as it stood up to the time of Mr. Cherry's departure, the establishment he would propose, and the establishment that, I think, should be retained, whether the forest control is retained by the Conservator, or temporarily transferred to me. According to the scheme I now put forward, there will be a saving of 765 Rupees per mensem on the sanctioned strength.

15. Now, with reference to the query of Government as to when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed, I have the honor to state that in reporting on the progress of the forest enquiry in 1877, I stated that I hoped to be able to complete the inquiry by the end of March 1878. At the time I wrote the number of forests pending disposal was 426. In addition to these forests comprised in blocks already selected by the Deputy Conservator, it was expected that several other blocks would be selected and brought within the scope of the enquiry, but it was not thought that they would be very extensive. In point of fact, however, no less than 23 additional blocks have been selected containing 1,511 jungles, or nearly four times the numbers pending disposal at the time of my last report. Numerous petitions have been received claiming many jungles bearing distinct local names and coming within the boundaries of these blocks, but not named or numbered in the lists submitted to me by the Deputy Conservator. It is probable that the addition of these latter jungles to those named in the lists will considerably swell the total number of jungles to be disposed of. Hitherto 839 claims have been registered in respect of these 23 blocks. Notices have been served on the parties concerned, and the claims received are now mostly under preliminary investigation with the Tahsildars. It is probable that the number of claims will be largely increased both before my enquiry into those blocks commences, and that many will be received when I come to hold enquiry on the spot. I have learnt from experience that many people having valid claims to jungles hold back until the last moment, notwithstanding the issue of notices inviting claims within a stated period, and in fact do not in many instances come forward until the Collector has actually arrived in the village to hold local enquiry. There are cases in which I have found on personal inspection of the locality undoubted Kunaki and Nettiikut right and enjoyment of jungles adjoining cultivation regarding which no claims have been preferred, but which in accordance with the principles laid down for my guidance I have felt bound to recognize. Under no pretence could the jungles in such cases be held to be the property of Government or be reserved for demarcation.

16. After inspecting and holding inquiry regarding the jungles in several isolated blocks during the early part of last year, I devoted six months almost without a break (from October 1877 to March 1878) to local enquiry into claims to jungles situated for the most part in the valuable tracts lying under the ghats. I have completed the enquiry into 410 claims to 383 jungles (chiefly in the old blocks) situated in 136 villages, in addition to those disposed of by my predecessor.

17. I had hoped to be able to do more in the time, but I had no idea of the difficulty of the work, and found that the enquiry if hurried or superficial would be

unsatisfactory as tending to lead to future complications. I found that the reports of the Mahazardars and the papers of the preliminary enquiry were often inaccurate and sometimes misleading, both in cases of wurg claims asserting private rights to jungles based on Mulputtas, Sasannams and the like, and of "Nettikut" claims to wooded hill slopes, the validity of which in a great measure depends on the proximity of the slopes to the cultivation on account of which they are claimed. I therefore found the best course was to personally inspect the jungles in all cases where this was possible, and to satisfy myself as to the identity of the boundaries shown in the documents relied on, or to the lie of the cultivation in relation to the watersheds claimed. I have thus inspected nearly all the jungles and forests with which I have had to deal, and this method of procedure, which involved constant travelling and much hard riding and walking, necessarily took up a good deal of time. I was generally accompanied by the Deputy Conservator of Forests and the Tahsildar, and always by the village officers and claimants, so that I had the advantage, not only of being able to form an opinion as to the value and capabilities of the forests, but of hearing what all parties concerned and interested in the enquiry had to say on the spot. This is obviously far better than taking down a lot of depositions at a distance without any means at hand of testing their accuracy.

18. The investigation of claims in all the blocks in the Udipi and Mangalore Taluks has been completed, with the exception of one block in the latter taluk near this place (Goorpoor) in which I am now engaged. Only a small extent of forests has as yet been selected in the Cassergode Taluk where the jungles are for the most part private property, and the remaining jungles to be enquired into lie in the Kundapur and Uppinangadi taluks, in which however a large number of blocks has already been disposed of.

19. There now remain 1,584 jungles to which 542 claims have already been registered, and it is probable that many more claims will be brought forward. Most of these jungles lie in the unexpectedly large blocks recently selected and in an out-of-the-way part of the country with which I am not as yet personally acquainted. I am not therefore at present in a position to say when the investigation of these claims will be completed. I purpose visiting that part of the district and taking up these claims during the approaching fair season, but I shall not be able to leave headquarters for any length of time until I have brought the License Tax Act into full operation by disposing of appeals against the assessment of the tax by subordinate officers. From what I have written above the Board and Government will readily understand that the disposal of the remaining forest claims will necessarily take some time, but they may rely on my completing the investigation within as short a time as possible.

20. I now come to the question what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment. Of the total number of 2,870 jungles and forests selected the enquiry into 1,286 has been completed. Of the latter number about 378 or nearly one-third will, in accordance with the principles laid down, be awarded to Government, the remainder being recognized as private property or treated as village reserves. These 908 jungles proposed to be excluded from demarcation are not, all of them, entire forests, i.e., they do not embrace the whole forest tract in their vicinity. A good proportion of them consist of wooded hill slopes which adjoin cultivation and which are all that the ryots have claimed, or by the custom of the country are entitled to. These portions only will be excluded from demarcation, the remaining parts of the forest-covered hills being available as Government reserves. The portions thus reserved are not included in the 378 entire forests alluded to as being awarded to Government. Of these 378 forests the majority are unclaimed and 110 of them are included in the forests returned to Mr. Harris in 1823 as Government property. It is quite possible that many more jungles will be awarded to Government in disposing of the remaining claims.

21. Above I have only given the *numbers* of the jungles that are likely to be awarded to Government and to the people respectively. The numbers do not afford any index to their relative extent, but the jungles to which private claims have been admitted being for the most part (except in cases of wurg claims) mere hill slopes, the aggregate extent of jungle to be awarded to Government is undoubtedly larger than would appear from a comparison of the figures. It is not possible to give their extent with any approach to accuracy. Many of them are scattered about in different localities, and no survey having been made their extent is not known. The most important forests to be awarded to Government are those lying on, or close to, the face of the ghat range which runs along almost the whole length of the district. It is along this range that "Mr. Harris' jungles" above referred to are for the most part situated. Their extent was entered in the returns submitted to Mr. Harris as 562 square miles, the extent being ascertained by eye measurement, but as measured on the map their extent is 250 square miles—*vide* Mr. Webster's letter, No. 2,086, in G.O., 21st March 1877, No. 1,173.

22. The history of these forests was given in my letter (paragraphs 9—12) embodied in Proceedings of Government, 20th June 1877, No. 2,955; and whatever may be the case as regards the other jungles in the district, there is no doubt that these forests are, as they have always been regarded, the property of Government. They are extremely valuable both on account of their timber-producing capabilities and because they clothe the water-shed of important rivers and fertile tracts of country. Having been all along recognized as State property they have escaped the Kumeri cutter's axe, and have for the most part been allowed to flourish undisturbed by the people. As, however, in the case of other property there are people who take what does not belong to them, so in these forests there have been cases of surreptitious and unauthorized felling, but the recognition of Government rights therein—kept alive by the presence of Forest Guards—has preserved them from wanton destruction.

23. I have stated in the earlier part of this letter that nothing can be done in the way of demarcation of the forests by Government in this district until the forest question has been decided, and this remark holds good in its general sense; but I venture to suggest that an exception may be made as regards these "Harris' jungles" and for the following reasons. It may safely be affirmed that nothing, short of utter abandonment of Government rights in the forests, could be more favorable to the claims of the ryots than the orders of the Madras Government on which this inquiry proceeded; and I do not think that when the results of this inquiry have been made known, there will be found a single case in which a jungle whereto any valid private claims have been preferred has been reserved for demarcation as Government property. Whatever then may be the final settlement of the question, it is clear that no orders of the Government of India can secure fuller recognition of private rights in the forests than that accorded by the Madras Government on the principles already laid down. On the other hand, should the Supreme Government, accepting Sir Thomas Munro's famous dictum that "the only land in Canara that can in any way come under the description of Circar land is unclaimed waste" in the modified sense apparently assigned to it by the Bombay Government, proceed on other lines, and thus necessarily arrive at a settlement more favorable to the interests of Government as opposed to private claims, then the result will be not the surrender to private individuals of jungles that have been declared to be Government property, but the possible reservation to Government of jungles to which (hypothetically on a wrong basis) private claims may have been admitted. Now the decision in the case of "Harris' jungles" is that they are the property of Government, and under no circumstances that I can foresee will they ever be surrendered to private parties. There, therefore, does not appear to me to be any valid reason why the demarcation of these jungles should not be immediately proceeded with in view to their being brought under proper conservancy. I am aware that the above argument if pushed to its legitimate conclusion would apply equally to all jungles which may have been declared to be Government property, but I think that the decision in all such cases (except

"Harris' jungles") may well await the final settlement of the general question. In the case of "Harris' jungles" the rights of Government are so clearly defined that I think they may without hesitation be demarcated by Government.

24. Should the Government agree in this view and resolve to commence operations, I can at once give enough work to the District Forest staff, headed by an officer of the Deputy Conservator's grade and aided by extra hands, in the demarcation of these jungles alone, to last them for at least two years. When the large extent of the jungles in question, the shortness of the working season owing to monsoon and fever periods, and the fact that the establishment will have other work to attend to are considered, it seems probable that a longer time will be required. Before the demarcation of these tracts can be completed, the forest question will probably have been settled and other jungles declared to be Government property will be available for demarcation. Should the Government, on the other hand, not see their way to ordering the immediate demarcation of the tracts above referred to, I would still recommend the retention of a District Forest staff of the strength indicated in the enclosed statement, and will leave it to the Government to decide whether the interests of the public service will be best consulted by temporarily transferring the forest control to me or by leaving it as heretofore in the hands of the Conservator.

25. I beg to return the endorsement of Government under reply, together with its enclosures.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Ootacamund, 4th June 1878, No. 419.

I HAVE the honor to forward a letter* from Mr. Cherry, Deputy Conservator, lately in charge of the South Canara Forest Division, submitting proposals for a reduction in the forest establishment of that division with an endorsement by the Collector.

* No. 305, dated Bombay, 18th May 1878.

2. Up to date only one small forest tract, about 300 acres, called Pillar Khan, has been handed over to this department, and there are private claims even in this; the present inquiry has been going on for a long time, and there appears to be no chance of its being brought to a conclusion at present, and I have no idea what extent of forest, if any, will be saved to Government. I am therefore inclined to advise that until some settlement be arrived at that all the forests should be placed entirely under the Collector to be controlled as he may think fit by a local establishment, but should Government wish this department still to keep up an establishment, I think that proposed by Mr. Cherry will be quite sufficient; only I cannot recommend that the increase in the pay of the different grades be given; the Rangers and Foresters are in a regular graded list and become entitled to promotion in due course; the monthly cost of this establishment would then be Rs. 225 against Rs. 411, cost of the present establishment.

REFERRED to the Collector of South Canara who will report on Colonel Beddome's proposal in paragraph 2 and state when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed and what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment.

OOTACAMUND,
19th July 1878.

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

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Canara (on leave), to Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, Madras, (through the Collector), dated Bombay, 18th May 1878, No. 305.

I INTENDED before leaving the district to make the following proposals regarding the South Canara establishment.

2. The strength is already much below the scale sanctioned by Government, and though I have lost no opportunity when such occurred, I hesitated to force further reductions so long as there seemed a fair chance of forest settlement being pushed to an early end.

3. The position however appears now so hopeless of speedy conclusion that I think it best to advise a complete re-arrangement.

4. My own absence on furlough will simplify this, and I now propose that the distribution of "ranges," "sub-ranges," and "beats" be broken up, and that the district be placed under the charge of a 1st-Class Ranger, who with a sufficient office and field staff to keep things going, and to be in readiness to take up tracts as they may be handed over, should be able to control all our operations pending a more general settlement of the differences now existing in the matter of forest rights.

5. The work in hand at present is, assistance to the Collector in inquiry into claims (which will last till the end of this "official year or more), the selection and preparation of further blocks for tracts which the above investigation may show to have been omitted, the preparation of a map embodying for the whole district the information already collected for the several blocks at present roughly drawn, the care of these forests that may from time to time be handed over, and further the disposal of all our timber and produce stock.

6. On all these points I have instructed Mr. Ranger Carroll, and on the last head I will add a few remarks at the close of this letter.

7. To carry out this arrangement there will be no occasion to transfer from other establishments. Of course a number of hands here must necessarily be dispensed with; but in the following list of those to be retained, I have selected those best fitted to the work and have every confidence in recommending them for approval.

8. The subordinate establishment sanctioned by Government amounts to Rupees 489 a-month. The entertained establishment until very recently (when I forfeited three or four appointments) cost Rupees 414 a-month.

9. I now propose the following costing Rupees 280. You will observe that I have contemplated an increase of pay to some of the hands retained, and I strongly urge that this may be allowed in consideration of the increased responsibilities, besides additional expenses in extra travelling that will be entailed:—

Proposed Establishment.	Names and Pay.	Former Posts and Pay.	Present Duties.
1st Class Ranger	W. Carroll	2nd-Class Ranger	To be in charge of the district.
Head Forester	Fixed horse allowance...	Fixed horse allowance	For field work and demarcation.
Forester	J. M. D'Souza	Deputy Conservator's 2nd Clerk.	Do. do.
Head Clerk and Accountant.	G. Narappa	Ranger's Clerk	In charge of office work at head-quarters.
2nd or Travelling Clerk	P. M. Monteiro	Deputy Conservator's 3rd Clerk.	2nd Vernacular and Travelling Clerk.
1st Head Guard	A. M. Mathias	Deputy Conservator's Peon.	A staff of six hands for the general assistance of field and office work allowing two for the officer, two for the office, and one for each Forester.
2nd do.	Sadroo Saldanha	Do. do.	
3rd do.	Minguel Miranda	Head Guard	
4th Forest Guard	Minguel D'Souza	Do.	
2nd do.	Eyah Khan	Deputy Conservator's Office Peon.	
3rd do.	Farmeshawara	Guard	
	Rosario Souza		
	280	225	

10. With reference to my paragraph 8, I would call your attention to my letter, No. 255, dated 13th April 1877. I have received no instructions on the point therein mooted, and a large stock of timber continues to deteriorate in the forests; if we may undesirably dispose of the stock then it should be collected and sold off by auction. I have failed to secure purchasers by advertisement for tenders so we must be prepared to lose considerably; the truth is the market is now overstocked with Kumaky timber, which the merchants have obtained for next to nothing.

11. In conclusion, I have instructed Mr. Carroll to make a fair copy of this and sign for me by order.

FORWARDED to the Conservator of Forests. I concur in Mr. Cherry's proposals as regards reduction of establishment.

2. Until the work of demarcation of forest tracts commences the services of a Deputy Conservator of Forests are not, in my opinion, necessary for the district, and I think that until such time the establishment proposed by him will suffice for all requirements. I would support his recommendations for increased pay.

MANJESHWAR,
28th May 1878.

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.
Statement showing the Sanctioned Strength of the District Forest Establishment, the Establishment as it stood up to the time of Mr. Cherry's departure, the Establishment he would propose, and the Establishment proposed by the Collector.

Sanctioned Scale for the District.	Salary.	Existing Establishment.	Salary.	Establishment proposed to be retained by Mr. Cherry.	Salary.	Establishment proposed by the Collector.	Salary per Mensem.	Total.	Remarks.
Deputy Conservator, 500 + 150.	Rs. 650	Deputy Conservator	650	Ranger, 100 + 25	135	Head Ofc. Ranger, 1st Class, pay 100*	Rs. 135	135	* Present pay Rs. 80 + 20 allowance. To hold charge of the district. The present 2nd-Class Ranger Mr. Carroll is eminently fitted for the post both on account of his knowledge of office work, long experience of the forests and acquaintance with the dialects of this district.
1 Head Clerk	30	1 Head Clerk	30	1 Head Clerk	40	Allowance	25	25	
1 Second do.	20	1 Second Clerk	20	1 Second do.	20	1 Head Clerk	30+	30+	
1 Third do.	15	1 Third do.	15	2 Head Peons or Guards on Rs. 8.	16	1 Peon	15+	15+	
1 Head Peon	8	1 Head Peon	8	2 Guards on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	8+	8+	
2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Guards on Rs. 7 each	14	2 Peons on Rs. 7 each	14+	14+	
Northern Range.		Northern Range.				Northern Range.			
1 Ranger, 80 + 15	75	1 Ranger, 80 + 20	100	1 Head Forester	30+	1 Head Forester	30+	30+	
1 Clerk	15	1 Clerk	15	1 Peon	15	1 Peon	6+	6+	
1 Peon	6	1 Peon	6	3 Head Guards on Rs. 8	24	3 Head Guards on Rs. 8	24+	24+	
1 Head Forester	30	1 Forester (on reduced pay)	30	1 Head Forester	30	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35+	35+	
1 Forester	20	3 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	24	1 Head Guard	8		...	...	
3 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	24	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35		...		...	...	
5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35	Southern Range.				Southern Range.			
1 Ranger, 80 + 15	75	1 Ranger, 60 + 15	75	1 Head Forester	30	1 Head Forester	30	30	
1 Clerk	15	1 Clerk	15	1 Peon	15	1 Peon	6+	6+	
1 Peon	6	1 Peon	6	2 Head Guards on Rs. 8	16	2 Head Guards on Rs. 8	16+	16+	
1 Head Forester	30	1 Forester (on reduced pay)	30	1 Forester	30	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35+	35+	
1 Forester	20	2 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	16	1 Forester	30		...	...	
2 Head Guards on Rs. 8 each.	16	5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35		...		...	...	
5 Guards on Rs. 7 each	35								
Total	1,135	Total	1,094	Total	280	Total	280	280	
						Sanctioned scale for the District.			
						Net savings to Government.			
						Total Savings per annum			

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,
Collector.

GOOHPUR,
9th September 1878.

COLONEL BEDDOME having proposed that pending settlement of the forest enquiries now progressing in Canara, the forests should be placed under the Collector to be managed with a small local establishment, or, if that arrangement were not approved, that the existing establishment should be very much reduced, his letter was referred by endorsement of the Secretary to Government, dated 19th July 1878, to the Collector of Canara in order that he might report on Colonel Beddome's proposal, and also state when the investigation of titles to forest tracts is likely to be completed, and what extent of forest is likely to be awarded to Government, and to be brought under conservancy within such time as to warrant the immediate employment of an establishment.

2. In the letter above recorded the Collector reports exhaustively on the points above noted. For reasons fully detailed in paragraphs 15. to 19 Mr. Comyn shows that the settlement of the remaining claims will necessarily take a much longer time than he had anticipated when he last reported on the subject, and that in fact he is not in a position to fix on any particular time within which he can say that it is likely that the investigations will be completed.

3. With regard to the extent of forest likely to be awarded to Government, Mr. Comyn reports that out of 2,870 jungles and forests selected enquiry into 1,286 has been completed, and that of these about 378 will, under the principles laid down for his guidance, be awarded to Government, the remainder being recognized as private property or treated as village reserves. He also adds the very important fact that the tracts awarded to Government are as a rule very much more extensive than the others, which are for the most part (except in cases of Wurg claims) mere hill slopes adjoining cultivation. Besides the 378 forests awarded to Government in their entirety, it appears that as private claims in many cases were made only to portions of the selected jungles, the remaining portions will still be available as Government reserves. *With regard to the remaining 1,584 blocks, the claims to which have yet to be enquired into, no estimate is formed by the Collector of the number which are likely to be awarded to Government, but nothing is brought forward to show that it is improbable that the proportion will be less than in the cases already settled.

4. Mr. Comyn does not attempt to estimate the area of the 378 tracts which have never been surveyed, and are scattered about in different localities, but he states with regard to 110 of them known as "Mr. Harris' jungles" that in the returns submitted to Mr. Harris the area was entered as 562 square miles, but that from the map their actual extent appears to be not more than 250 square miles. They are stated to be extremely valuable both for climatic and timber-producing purposes, and having always been recognized as State property, they have escaped the Kumari-cutters' axe, and have for the most part been allowed to flourish undisturbed by the people.

5. In paragraph 23 Mr. Comyn proposes that the demarcation of the "Harris' jungles" should be at once taken in hand, and to this the Board can conceive no possible objection. It was only with the view of preventing what they feared to be abandonment of Government rights that the Government of India interfered, and the policy of the Madras Government will be in no way prejudiced by the demarcation of the jungles to which it has been decided that no valid claims have been adduced.

6. If the demarcation is to be commenced there will be no room for reduction in the forest establishment of the district, but if nothing is to be done in that way, the Board would accept the modification of Mr. Cherry's reduced scale advocated in paragraph 14 of Mr. Comyn's letter. Under no circumstances do the Board think that anything would be gained by placing the forests under the Collector as suggested by the Conservator.

7. In paragraph 7 Mr. Comyn dwells on the exceedingly unsatisfactory nature of the present position of affairs, and the Board would be glad to learn when a deci-

sion is likely to be passed in the appeal case before the Bombay High Court referred to in the Despatch from the Secretary of State recorded with G.O., dated 3rd February 1877, No. 505.

(True Copies and Extract.)

J. Hurst
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two original enclosures.

Ed. A. Grubert, and W. J. Lewis.

8023 624/14 No. 202-68
 — 20 206/15. — 240-41
 — 3 206/17 — 87-88
 — 21 206/17 — 662-67.
 — 20 206 — 438-41.

Pro 6/13 9049/19
 Revenue 20/11/19
 No 5278.
 1878.

North of Ebene, HADRAS.

To Secy. 78-10 January 1879

THE SECT. TO GOVERNMENT,
 REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
 &c., &c., &c.

Dated November 12th.

Printed 26th.

Received 24 November

PROCEEDINGS, 12th NOVEMBER 1878, No. 3029.

20/11/78. and
 NOVEMBER 21
 No. 3029. (C)

Temporary revision of the Forest Establishment and the control of that establishment and of the Forests in South Canara.—Passing remarks with reference to report from Collector regarding the — and stating Board can exercise no possible objection to the demarcation of the "Harris' Jungles" being at once taken in hand.

Pro 202