

- (1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) ஆதாரங் குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம் \_\_\_\_\_

## தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

Revised துறை

|                                                  |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| அரசாணை எண். <b>152</b><br>மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். | அச்சகம்<br>பலவகை |
| நாள் : <b>18-1-1881</b>                          |                  |
| 199                                              |                  |

மாடிக்கவோ துண்டியடி கையாளவோ கூடாது.

No. 612.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd May 1880.

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Commissioner of the Nilgiris, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 14th April 1880, No. 66:—

I HAVE the honor to report, with reference to Board's Miscellaneous No. 11,760, dated 15th December last, on G.O., No. 2,247, dated 5th idem. The damage done to sholas by the reckless and indiscriminate burning of grass attracted my attention during the dry season of 1878-79, my first on the hills; but my time was then much occupied with other matters.

2. Since the receipt of the Government Order under reply another season for burning has passed and ended as the first showers have fallen, during the whole of which I have kept the subject in view, and have been on the Kundahs and elsewhere inspecting the burning from time to time, my last visit being paid just before the Easter holidays.

3. I inspected, on various occasions, before the grass had been lighted, while the fires were raging, and immediately afterwards when they were dying out, and the villagers thinking I was only shooting went on pretty much as usual.

4. *Precautions.*—First, as to the measures taken to prevent damage to sholas from the grass fires, my observations satisfy me that *no* precautions *whatever* are taken. When the grass is dry the villagers observe the wind and light the grass to windward and then leave the fires to burn out quite careless of the borders of forest catching, or what is almost worse the damage done to stream reserves. I rode for miles from Peermund to Bison Swamp when the fires were blazing in all directions and saw no fire-traces, or any one watching.

5. *Damage.*—The damage done is great. I had no idea how great till I inspected immediately *after* fires; all the small trees on the wind side of the forest are more or less damaged, and the spread of the sholas checked, and if the wind is high the fire frequently runs into the forest for some distance. The prevailing wind at the time of the fires is east and north-east, and when the sholas run to a point in this direction, the stumps or stunted trees in a V-shape show how far the fire has run, or, when the side of the shola has met the fire, a horse shoe of stumps or partly burnt trees evidences the ravages before the fire was killed by the moist vegetation of the shola. I saw serious fresh damage of this nature near Anakalmund, Kokuthoray, Kolinund, Bison Swamp and other places.

6. *Stream Borders.*—Almost more than the damage done to the large sholas is the hurt to trees fringing streams, and to small patches of shola; these are frequently almost destroyed if the fire is fierce and wind high; patches of withered stumps or a stream with nothing but stunted trees along it show this. I noticed this particularly from the Avalanche Saddle on to Bangly Tappal; and near Bear Hill I saw the low trees for a quarter of a mile on both sides of a stream black and smoking. The reeds and grass in nearly all swamps are dry enough to burn in March and catch fire, and this probably has a further bad effect on the springs and water-supply.

பாடகாப்பு பிரதி-1

செய்யப்பட்டது பெயர்:

செய்யப்பட்டது எந்தெந்த-  
செய்யப்பட்டது

செய்யப்பட்டது  
(செய்யப்பட்டது)  
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M. K. S. S. S.

20-2-1880

20-2-1880

7. Now that Government has decided to forego a large amount of revenue by reserving all sholas, now eagerly sought for for chinchona, &c., in view to preserving the water-supply to the low country around by protecting the feeders of the Bhavani, Moyar and other rivers, it becomes imperative to see that these very sholas are not damaged for private and petty ends, and this brings me to the free grazing question. The Todas have from time immemorial burnt the grass and grazed their buffaloes on the higher Kundahs and throughout Todanad, &c., and may be allowed to do so under reasonable restrictions as to fire traces and watchers, but I would not concede this to the Badagas; year by year they go further from their villages, and the number of cows and other low country cattle on the Kundahs attracted the attention of His Grace the Governor on his tour last year to Sispara. I was credibly informed that some of the fires in the Valley of Death (Kundahs) were lit by the Badagas of Nunjanad in the Todanad in view to grazing their cattle, and I myself saw cattle from the comparatively low-lying village of Kirapodi (Kundahs), miles away on the higher plateau. That the ryots, as their herds increase and pasturage becomes scarce, should drive them further and further to obtain free grazing, and care little what damage they do to the sholas, is probably natural enough, but it is time that restrictions were laid on them, though I deprecate sudden changes.

8. What I propose is, and should the Board approve I will submit any further information or details desired,

- (1),—that firing should be confined to the division in which a village is situated;
- (2),—that before such commences the Monegar shall see that traces are cut to the windward of sholas and be held responsible that a watch is kept;
- (3),—that the Monegar shall report to his head Monegar and Revenue Inspector the approximate date and locality of the proposed firing, not in view to permission being obtained but to enable the latter to inspect fires occasionally and report any carelessness.
- (4).—As regards the Upper Kundahs permission should be first obtained from the Commissioner, and permission should be restricted to Toda firings.

9. I make a distinction between the Upper Kundahs and other localities, because there is no cultivation whatever, and it is the most important source of water-supply. All the villages and cultivation lie in the valleys intersected by spurs stretching from Melvor's bund to Thia Sholah, which separate the Kundah from the Dodabetta Range, and if Badagas are permitted to burn and graze cattle up to the crests, they are more than sufficiently considered, as the land revenue paid is trifling, being only Rs. 514-2-11 for the whole division as per accounts of the past year. The Todas are the only people who can be said to have rights on the Upper Kundahs, and their mounds are few and the number of buffaloes limited. I apprehend no difficulty in keeping them in order with a Curnam on a respectable salary. The present total emoluments of the Curnam's office are Rs. 3-5-4 a month, about half the cost of the keep of a pony, which is an essential; the late Curnam supplemented it by taking bribes and disposing of Government lands; I dismissed him a year and-a-half since, and the post is vacant and likely to remain so. I put a man in, but after a few months he resigned not finding it worth his while to hold it. Should my proposals be approved, I will send a sketch showing how the line dividing the Upper from Lower Kundahs runs; it would stretch roughly from the Hill opposite Avalanche to the Tala Kunda Saddle, thence to Scott Mund, and on to the Hill behind Avalanche, thence to Bear Hill, then along the crest to Maikundah Bettu and westward over the Peaks to Kokuthoray and Waterfall shola; all to the west north-west of the line being closed to cattle, except those of Todas, and firing therein without previous permission forbidden.

10. I do not advocate fees for grazing cattle anywhere, but if Government considers that cattle other than those *bond fide* of Todas should go to the higher Kundas, then a tax at so much per head might be charged, but I would rather exclude other cattle altogether, considering the importance of this locality as regards the sources of the Kunda, Bhavani, and other important streams.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2099/Po

om

to the Board of Revenue

Dated

3<sup>rd</sup> May

1870

FOR ORDERS.

Prevent damage  
to books in.

MA

The regulation  
if properly & effectively  
carried out would ~~be~~  
the same as - but  
there may possibly  
be more difficulty in  
enforcing - if not ~~with~~

Then the man who  
lights can be dealt  
with easily - when  
detected - but - if it  
is a case of <sup>deliberate</sup> regulation  
much difficulty will  
be found in forcing  
them -  
I believe the meaning  
could be stopped if the  
local sympathies are  
enlisted - & I believe  
from my observations  
what Sir John says  
that it is necessary.

when known might  
 be the - &  
 contain such means  
 as the Com'ee may  
 find necessary - but  
 if prohibition be  
 imposed - it is to be repaid  
 and the extent <sup>over</sup> which  
 it is possible -  
 There is no doubt the  
 burning has been caused  
 to an extent very large  
 the grass as well as  
 shown / J  
 C. H. H. / J  
 Dec 1881

FOR ORDER

152

Return to Office -  
 20/12

The Board are of opinion that the only effectual remedy against the destruction  
 and waste reported is to put down the system of firing the grass altogether. This  
 can be done generally when the Forest Act is passed, but in the mean time the Com-  
 missioner might hold the village officers responsible for the prevention of fires in  
 given localities and take all needful precautions to protect the edge of the sholas.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.  
 " Commissioner of Nilgiris.  
 Copy to the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

18th January 1881, No. 152.

READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

No. 401. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd May 1880, No. 612.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government, with remarks, letter from Commissioner regarding damage done to Sholas on the Nilgiris by reckless and indiscriminate burning of grass.

No. 402. ORDER THEREON, 18th January 1881, No. 152.

Forests, No. 10.

THE Commissioner's proposals in paragraph 8 of his letter are approved and should be adopted.

2. The Government do not desire to exclude cattle not the property of Todas from the upper Kundas.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. W. H. French.

60 Copies.

*Handwritten notes on the left page:*  
The Board of Revenue, Madras, 1880.  
The Government do not desire to exclude cattle not the property of Todas from the upper Kundas.  
The Commissioner's proposals in paragraph 8 of his letter are approved and should be adopted.  
The Government do not desire to exclude cattle not the property of Todas from the upper Kundas.

Board of Revenue,  
MADRAS.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,  
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 3rd.

Printed in.

Revised to 14.

PROCEEDINGS, 3rd MAY 1880, No. 612.

COPIES

M. A. Y.

Official No. 612.

Sholas on the Nilgiris. — Submitting to Government, with remarks, letter from Commissioner regarding damage done to — by reckless and indiscriminate burning of grass.

*Handwritten signature:* W. H. French

*Handwritten:* 60/3

Cont. of 1884  
REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Desd January 1884.

Desd 1884.

Desd.

Desd.

G.O. 1884 January 1884, No. 188.

JANUARY.  
Nos. 401-402

*Notes on the Notes.*—Appropriating, with  
reference, Commission's proposals in paragraph 2  
of his letter laying down certain restrictions  
regarding the —, and directing that the same be  
adopted.

10562  
CH-88