

(1) Number of Pages.....8
 (2) Date of repair.....14-6-47
 (3) Initials of the Referencer.....

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	103	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis~~
Dated	3-2-1890	190

*Spare copy
treated as
original*

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3RD FEBRUARY 1890, No. 103, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 6th September 1889, No. 442, Forest:—

W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., C.S.

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 20th June 1889, No. 524 Mis., Forest:—

Read—the following letter from W. A. HAPPELL, Esq., Collector of Godávári, to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated Cocanada, 11th September 1888, No. 660:—

I have the honor to submit the following report called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 6th June 1888, No. 278, Forest, paragraph 6.

The accompanying map shows at a glance how forest matters stand in this district, so far as they refer to the areas selected for reservation.

2. After the notification under section 4 for the blocks in Yernagudem taluk is submitted to Government, so far as it is possible to judge, with these selections will be completed the work of choosing reserved forests in this district. Later on it might be advisable to take up some small areas, and for this I have added 10,000 acres to the area already selected. I have also added 40,000 acres to be reserved in the Agency tracts under my orders as Agent.

3. The figures for the district, therefore, at present stand as follows:—

	ACRES.
Areas for which proposals have been submitted	557,944
Area expected in Yernagudem taluk	37,000
Small additions in lower taluks	10,000
Area to be reserved in Agency tracts	40,000
Total	644,944, say 1,000 sq. miles.

4. The area of Government land (uncultivated and forest) in this district is 2,154 square miles. We have, therefore, 1,154 square miles available for the extension of cultivation, free grazing and the formation of village reserves, i.e., if Government eventually decide on forming this class of forest.

5. I do not consider 1,000 square miles of reserved forests too large an area for a district like this, and at the same time I do not recommend a larger area being taken up. It is certainly more than ample for the requirements of the district, but it must be remembered that half this area consists of forests which are essentially timber-producing, and from which a large quantity is exported down the canals into the Kistna and other districts.

6. As the large zemindari forests of Bastar and Jeypore lying behind ours are destroyed, the export of timber from this district is sure to increase, and under these circumstances I recommend that the area of reserved forests in this district be fixed approximately at 1,000 square miles.

Endorsement by A. W. PEET, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated Penukonda, 28th September 1888, No. 1491.

Forwarded.

Reference on the above, dated 31st January 1889.

The Conservator is requested to favor the Board with his views on the Collector's proposals for bringing under the control of the Forest Department additional extent of waste land.

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

Read—the following letter from J. S. GAMBLE, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Madras, 9th April 1889, No. 124:—

In reply to the orders conveyed in Board's Forest Register No. 1521 of 31st January 1889, I have the honor to report as follows:—

2. The Collector states that proposals have been submitted to the Board for an area of 557,944 acres of reserved forest. I presume this is made up of the following:—

Taluka.	Area, square miles.	Selected for reserves. ACRES.
Bhadrachalam	214	37,702
Rékapalle	697	290,100
Rampa	820	...
Rajahmundry	481	46,350
Peddápuram	1,073	99,400
Tuni	320	40,107
Pithápuram	192	...
Rámachandrapuram	399	...
Cocanada and Coringa	190	7,000
Amalápuram	506	371
Narsápur	437	10,114
Bhímavaram	321	...
Tauuku	371	4,500
Yernagudem and Gutala	1,107	...
Ellore	729	29,440
Total	7,857	567,084 = 886 sq. miles

in which I have included some areas selected since the Collector's letter.

3. He further says that the additions expected will give—

Yernagudem taluk	ACRES. 37,000 = 58 square miles.
Other parts of lower taluks	10,000 (this is probably the excess above noted) and may be omitted.
Agency tracts	40,000 = 62

making about 1,000 square miles in all, while the area of waste land is 2,154 square miles.

4. I am of opinion that, especially in regard to the Agency tracts, he has fixed the area he proposes to reserve too low. Out of the 820 square miles of Rampa, there cannot be much less than 750 square miles of forest land, and instead of reserving 62 square miles I am inclined to advise the reservation of 500. Much of this is magnificent forest, full of fine timber, and at present the population is extremely scanty. Looking from the summit of the dividing range between Rampa and Rékapalle at a height of 3,500 to 4,000 feet, I could see no sign whatever of cultivation, even temporary, nothing but range after range of forest-clad hills. But the outer slopes have already begun to suffer, and if very early measures are not taken the Rampa forests will go the way of those of the hill tracts of Ganjam and disappear before the axe and fire of the "kumri" cultivator. I believe, from what the Collector has told me and what I have been told by others who have served in the district, that there will be no difficulty in making what reservations are advisable.

5. The Board are probably as well aware as I am that one of the greatest of the disadvantages under which forest conservancy in most of the districts of this Presidency suffers is the want of forest on good soil. In the Ceded Districts and the

Carnatic, almost everywhere, every acre of land fit for cultivation has been picked out, even from the midst of the large waste land areas, as we see every day from forest settlement reports, which admit such lands as enclosures or acquire them exchange or otherwise. Did we wish to make extensive plantations of valuable trees in those districts in order to supply a probable future demand (e.g., mahogany) we could not now find the land with deep soil fit for the purpose unless we took up cultivated land and acquired it.

6. In the Circars, however, it is somewhat different, where we have been in fairly good time, as we have in Goomsur, Bhadrachalam, Rékapalle, Rajahmundry and Peddápúram (and again, outside them, in the Nallamalai hills of Kurnool) and some of the forests in those taluks, though for a great part they consist of hills unfit for cultivation or for the growth of building timber, yet have, here and there, stretches of valley or plains land where temporary cultivation has not ruined the growth and where trees of large size fit for the largest works are capable of being grown. In the Rampa country there are many such places and indeed there are some localities (as for instance that at Valmura) where large teak is still to be found.

7. On the subject of the Rampa forests, I beg to quote below paragraph 3 from my inspection note on the forests of the Godávári, dated 25th January 1887 (Board's Proceedings, No. 284, Forest, of 9th June 1888) and to solicit a definite order to the Collector permitting the commencement of selections in Rampa next season.

8. In other taluks I doubt if such increase of area, if any, can be obtained. There is a good deal of forest in Peddápúram which has not been proposed for reservation, but we have selected a number of the most important blocks, and I doubt if more could be obtained without too much curtailing the area required for increase of cultivation. Should any additional areas suggest themselves to the Collector and District Forest-officer as obtainable without any such difficulties, they will doubtless make the necessary proposals. For Yernagudem taluk I should have thought that a larger area than 58 square miles could be obtained. And here I venture to solicit orders on my letter, No. 2182, of 18th December 1888, and a speedy publication of the notification under section 4 for the Yernagudem proposed reserves, so that the Settlement-officer may take up the work at once.

9. The Collector very properly draws attention to the probable future value of the Godávári forests as timber-producers for the East Coast districts, and if even 500 square miles can be obtained in Rampa, I do not think that a total area of 1,500 will be too much for such a district as Godávári. In Kistna we have only 700 square miles and the forest land is poor, while in Vizagapatam it seems unlikely that we are in time to secure much forest land of value for reserves. From Ganjam the communications southward are very bad. Godávári is, therefore, the chief district of supply for the East Coast.

Paragraph 3 referred to in paragraph 7 of the Conservator's letter.

"I had some conversation with the Collector on the subject of what should be done to secure the rights of Government in the Rampa forests. I should have preferred to wait till the Rékapalle and other forests in the district had been finally settled before moving, but the Collector thinks it will be well not to postpone the subject too long. He considers it will probably be necessary to grant the muttadars a remission in commutation of their forest 'rights,' and I fully agree that it will be well to secure their co-operation by some such measure rather than to raise possible difficulties by too suddenly asserting the rights of Government. Perhaps instead of a remission a small money payment might be given and the best forest lands—(1) for protective purposes, (2) for timber—be marked off and demarcated and settled as reserved forests if not under the Act, at any rate under the executive order of Government. Mr. Happell thinks that the first endeavours must be made on the west of the Ellore river about Samagoda where there is fine forest which, if not speedily protected, is in danger of destruction. My own opinion in respect to Rampa is that as soon as the District Forest-officer has finished his selections in Yernagudem he should proceed to make inquiries, if possible in company with the Collector during that officer's tour, and submit, for the sanction of Board and Government, such a scheme as will secure to Government the control of the chief forest areas. Something like two-thirds of the country is covered with fine iron-wood forest likely to be of very great value, while other valuable trees abound. It may be necessary to waive the right to collect some articles of minor produce, but that will not be of very great consequence. Whatever arrangements are attempted

should be made through the Collector and by making our objects thoroughly understood; but it would be the greatest of pities to wait too long, for we might find matters gone too far, and there cannot be any doubt but that every year will see the difficulties become greater and greater and the state of the forests worse and worse. Extension of cultivation in Rampa is, I believe, a most desirable thing, both for the people and for the health of the country, but there is no reason why the selection and demarcation for a permanent forest estate of some of the best areas, both as protectors of the hill slopes and the water-supply and as providers of timber, should interfere with such extension. I hope it may be possible before long, by the addition to the Government forest estates of the most important parts of Rampa, to complete the selection of those estates in the Godáviri district, a district whose forests are almost the most extensive of my circle, and are not only most extensive but containing very valuable timber and most admirably situated in respect to communications."

Resolution—dated 20th June 1889, No. 524, Mis., Forest.

The Conservator having recommended such a much larger area for reservation in Rampa than that suggested by the Collector, the Board resolve to forward Mr. Gamble's letter to the Collector for his further opinion which should be submitted through the Conservator's office.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Collector of the Godáviri district, with Mr. Gamble's
letter in original (to be returned).

Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

Read—also the following letter from W. A. HAPPELL, Esq., Collector of Godáviri, to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated Cocanada, 7th July 1889, No. 28 (C):—

In reply to Board's Proceedings, dated 20th June 1889, No. 524, Mis., Forest, I have the honor to state that my proposals submitted with this office No. 660, dated 11th September 1888, did not refer to Rampa at all. I proposed 1,000 square miles of reserves for this district excluding Rampa. The 40,000 acres proposed to be reserved in Agency tracts I intended taking up chiefly in the Yernagudem agency. I excluded Rampa from my proposals, as I have no idea what the intentions of Government are regarding the forest question here.

2. Excluding Rampa the selection of forest reserves in this district is practically over, and as shown below an area of 1,019 square miles has been selected and proposals submitted to Government.

Taluka.	Area of reserved forest.
	ACRES.
Bhadrachalam and Rekapalle	329,802
Peddapuram	99,400
Yernagudem	76,100
Rajahmundry	46,350
Tuni division	40,107
Ellore	29,440
Narsapur	10,114
Amalapuram	9,871
Coringa division	7,000
Tauuku	4,500

Total ... 652,184 or 1,019 square miles.

3. Rampa is practically all forest and a very large area is available for reservation. We must, however, first come to terms with the muttadars, and I do not think there will be any difficulty in securing the right of Government on the most important areas by granting a remission to these men. A very small sum will satisfy them, and I await the instructions of Government.

4. This question should be taken up and settled without delay; the muttadars are already leasing out their forests for ridiculously small sums, and it is only a question of a few years for the work of destruction to be complete.

Endorsement by J. S. GAMBLE, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated Marur, 25th July 1889, No. 1240.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue in reply to Proceedings, No. 524, Mis., dated 20th June 1889, and with reference to paragraph 3 of their Resolution No. 345-F of 22nd June 1889. The Conservator hopes that, in view of the Collector's recommendations, the Government will authorise that officer to make, with the assistance of the District Forest-officer during the approaching cold season, proposals for the constitution of reserved forests in Rampa under such arrangements with the muttadars as he may consider necessary. The favor of early orders is therefore requested.

Resolution—dated 6th September 1889, No. 449, Forest.

Submitted to Government with reference to paragraph 3 of their Order, dated 16th January 1888, No. 51, Revenue.

2. The importance of the forests in Rampa will be much enhanced when the East Coast Railway is constructed, and the Board strongly support the proposal to secure the rights of Government in these forests by the immediate grant of remissions or small sums as compensation.

3. The Conservator should, the Board think, be ordered to make selections at an early date, and then the Collector may be authorised to enter into negotiations with the muttadars and submit detailed proposals on the subject.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,

with sketch.

„ Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

„ Collector of Godáviri.

Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

„ „ Examiner of Forest Accounts.

READ—G.O., dated 21st September 1889, No. 1632, Judicial.

ABSTRACT.—Reviewing the report on the administration of the Godáviri Agency tracts during 1888-89.

ORDER—dated 3rd February 1890, No. 103, Revenue.

Forest, No. 24.

In the first of the papers read above the Board submits the reports of the Collector and Conservator regarding the further selection of forest reserves in the Godáviri district. The area already taken up amounts to 652,184 acres or 1,019 square miles and there is a consensus of opinion,

in which Government concurs, that nothing more is required, except in Rampa. The area of Government lands in the Godavari district is 3,606 square miles, but the cultivated area is only 1,452 square miles, so that 1,000 square miles is not an excessive extent of forest. Rather more than half this area is in Bhadrachalam and Rekapalle, where Government considers that reservation has been carried to its full limit, and there is naturally very little in the delta taluks: this probably cannot be helped, and with large reserves comparatively near, no difficulty should be experienced with regard to fuel-supply. The absence of properly conserved grazing grounds is of more serious import, and the Collector's attention is directed to this matter. Orders will shortly be issued on the general question of grazing.

2. The most important question for decision is the course which is to be followed in the case of Rampa. The Collector says that the forests there are vested in the muttadars, some of whom have leased out the right of cutting timber, and that, unless the Government steps in at once, the forests will in a short time be either entirely cleared away or seriously damaged. The Collector, Conservator and Board all recommend that Government should secure the most important forests, and the Collector states that this can be done by granting a remission of the peshkash or quit-rent, which is now paid.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council is not in favor of this course. The relative position of the muttadars and of Government in respect of the Rampa forests does not appear to have been expressly defined. In paragraph 3 of G.O., No. 1036, dated 5th May 1879, Government declared that the muttadars "hold on service tenure of the same nature as the mansubdar, i.e., kavalgari or watch and ward, for any breach of which they are amenable to the orders of the Circar." This position appears to have been clearly admitted before Mr. Sullivan in the same year by the muttadars themselves, when they were all assembled to receive their sanads; but the Government further defines the position of these muttadars as being that of ordinary inamdars entitled to receive from their tenants the Government share of the crop or its money value.

4. In paragraph 11 of his report printed in G.O., No. 1632, Judicial, dated 21st September 1889, Mr. Moberly states that the Valamur muttadar told him that he had leased the right of collecting "kalapa-pannu" to one Atchayya, and defines the above term as "the tax on timber payable to the muttadar." This right does not, however, appear to be one that can legally be claimed by the muttadars. In his Minute No. 111-D., dated 7th November 1879, printed at page 59 of G.O., No. 109, dated 16th January 1880, Judicial, the Honorable Mr. Carmichael stated his views on the Rampa muttas very definitely and spoke of the fuel rents and grazing taxes, levied by the mansubdar, as unauthorised cesses. If that was so, the muttadars could have had no right to levy any such taxes and the forests were State property, subject to the customary rights of the people (the muttadars' tenants) to cut down forest for agriculture, or to use timber for household or agricultural purposes, but not for sale. Moreover, in the neighbouring Golconda muttas in the Vizagapatam district, the position has been most clearly defined by the Honorable Mr. Carmichael in his Proceedings No. 45, dated 8th March 1881. Those muttadars are declared to be "servants of the old chiefs," and their tenure to be "conditioned for service and defeasible at the will of Government." The Honorable Mr. Carmichael further scouted the idea of their tenements being treated as if they were ordinary landed property. The case of the Bhadrachalam rani, disposed of in G.O., No. 460, dated 22nd March 1875, shows that the abkari and forest rights in that country belonged to the chief, and supports the supposition that the rights of the muttadars in Rampa are identical with those of their Golconda neighbours.

5. The Government, in 1879, took the place of the mansubdar in Rampa, and all rights that formerly vested in him now clearly vest in the Government.

6. His Excellency the Governor in Council, therefore, declares that the Rampa forests are State property and directs that the muttadars be prohibited by formal notice, if desired, from leasing out the right of collecting "kalapa-pannu" or of felling timber for sale. His Excellency thinks that such notice or orders will have the desired effect

of preserving the forests much in their present state, but he is not at present prepared to place the Rampa muttas under the Forest Department. The Agent will take the necessary steps for communicating this decision to the muttadars, and will report in due course on the effect produced.

7. The question of opium licenses has already been disposed of in G.O., No. 848, dated 18th October 1889.

(True Extract)

Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue, with copy of
G.O., dated 21st September 1889, No. 1632, Judicial,
the Judicial Department.

Copy to the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue,
with copy of G.O., dated 21st September 1889, No. 1632, Judicial.

Exd. A. D. Xavier.

60 Copies.