

Q. A.

Revenue (1892) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3296

Expenditure No 545

DATED 20th July 1892

[Despatch Abstract.]

Waiting for further report called for by the
Board regarding control over the Landamanyak
& Gemindani estates in the Warranah district.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
g.s.	973	Rev	28.11.90				

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
g.s.	3408	Rev	18.7.92				

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 5825.

From

Dated

189

FOR ORDERS.

I think the part of the proposed para 2 which I have enclosed in brackets is unnecessary. Mr. Cherry is rather more to blame than Mr. Sun, & the latter has nothing to do except to report on the trust. The negotiations if any will be conducted by the collector & before his report passes through the Board & 18 months may elapse. To prohibit Mr. Sun from visiting Kodai. Kanad until then will not only be in my opinion harsh as far as he is personally concerned but even prejudicial to forest work in the Palnis.

The Hon^{ble} member has initiated the proposed G.O. but not the Hon^{ble} Secy. Secretary's addition to the original paragraph. The Hon^{ble} Secy. has discussed the 2 paragraphs is passed the proposed G.O. is not to be sent to the Hon^{ble} Secy.

Ch
11/7

Under the lines set out by Sir H. Stokes, I think the last part of the proposed para 2 - in brackets should be omitted. I approve of the rest.

W
26/7/90

W
19 July

CONFIDENTIAL.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

MR. W. S. WHITESIDE.

Read—the following G.O., dated 28th November 1890, No. 973, Revenue:—

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 20th November 1890, Forest No. 1191, Miscellaneous:—

MR. W. S. WHITESIDE.

Read—the following letter from E. TURNER, Esq., Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue (through the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle), dated 8th November 1890, No. 23:—

I have the honor to inform you that I consider it most imperative to take very early steps to preserve forests in the Warsanaad valley, in this district, which protect the sources and feeders of the Vaigai river, as extensive clearance must endanger the maintenance of the supply of water in this important river, and in times of heavy rain increase the risk of floods.

2. The Gandamanayakanur Zamindar is, I understand, very seriously involved now, and is making every effort to raise money. An attempt was recently made, which failed, to get certain Europeans to take up lands for coffee, &c., on a large scale, and I believe the Zamindar is now endeavouring to negotiate in another direction, which, if successful, will probably place the whole of this valley in the hands of contractors, and there will be wholesale destruction carried on.

3. This is a case which should be dealt with under Chapter IV of the Forest Act, to enable Government to obtain complete control at least over the evergreen forests. I submit herewith a draft notice, under section 29 of the Forest Act, to the Zamindar, and I request that very early orders on the subject may be issued, as, in my opinion, the case is urgent.

4. Although this is not, of course, a settlement inquiry case, the Forest Settlement Officer of the district, Mr. Raju Sastri, appears to me to be the most suitable person to hear the objections and evidence the Zamindar may have to put forward, and I recommend his name to be put in the notice.

Read—also the following endorsement of the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, dated 15th November 1890, No. 2173:—

In submitting the above, I have the honor to intimate my concurrence in the Collector's proposal.

*Re entered on the forest-
honeykannam Zamindar Trust*

*The Hon. Secy. to Govt.
KCH.*

2. The importance of protecting the forest in the Warsanaad valley on the head waters of the Vaigai river cannot be gainsaid; and if we can prevent alienation and wholesale destruction by the application of the provisions of Chapter IV of the Forest Act, it will be a boon to the country.

3. The matter is referred to incidentally in the confidential correspondence with regard to the Bodinayakanur and other zamindaris in the Madura district, and the District Forest Officer (Mr. Gass) gave me some private information recently as to the Zamindar's attempt to raise money on the forests which appear to fully justify and demand prompt action on the part of Government.

Resolution—dated 20th November 1890, Forest No. 1191, Miscellaneous.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector reports, a little indefinitely, that the Zamindar of Gandamanayakanur, in the Madura district, is taking steps to lease out the forests of the Warsanaad valley to contractors, and that such a step will involve the destruction of those forests and corresponding harm to the springs and streams which they protect and supply.

3. He urges prompt action, and the Board, therefore, forwards to Government his recommendation that recourse should be had to Chapter IV of the Forest Act. It is supported by the Conservator, and as it is undoubtedly of public importance that the forests of the Warsanaad valley should be preserved, and the first step is only to call on the Zamindar to show cause, the Board submits it for approval. At the same time, the provisions of section 30 must be borne in mind.

4. The Board would alter the notice as follows:—

Whereas it appears to be necessary, for the protection and maintenance of the water supply of the River Vaigai, that His Excellency the Governor in Council should regulate the clearing of the vegetation in the Warsanaad valley, of the Gandamanayakanur zamindari, of the Madura district: and whereas His Excellency the Governor in Council proposes to issue a notification, under section 29 of the Forest Act, to this effect: this is to give you, M.R.Ry. Tirumalai Gandama Kondala Nagaya Ramakrishnasami Naicker Avargal, Zamindar of Gandamanayakanur, notice, under the said section of the Madras Forest Act, that you should show cause, on or before the 12th January 1891, to M.R.Ry. C. Raju Sastri Avargal, Forest Settlement Officer, why such a notification should not be issued: failing which, further action will be taken.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Ag. Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with the draft notice prepared by the Collector.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.
" " Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

Order—dated 28th November 1890, No. 973, Revenue.

The notice, as amended by the Board of Revenue, is approved, and will be issued from the Board's office, but the Zamindar should be allowed three months within which to show cause why a notification under section 29 of the Forest Act should not be issued.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the manner in which this question has been laid before him is very unsatisfactory. The importance of conserving the Warsanaad and other zamindari forests in the Madura district was recognized by the District Committee so long ago as the year 1880, and in G.O., No. 1284, dated 29th August 1881, the Government directed that the matter

should be dealt with when the Forest Bill became law. Nearly eight years have elapsed since the latter event, and the Collector now makes an urgent application for the issue of a notice under section 29 of the Act, without furnishing any of the particulars necessary to enable the Government to form a judgment as to the advisability of acquiring the tract in question under section 30.

3. The Conservator, Southern Circle, in conjunction with the Collector will now make a full report regarding the measures it is proposed to adopt in view to conserving the forests in the Warsanaad valley, and will furnish detailed particulars in regard to the value of this tract, both from a climatic point of view and for the supply of timber, so that, in the event of it becoming necessary to proceed under the provisions of section 30 of the Act, the Government may be in a position to determine the course to be followed.

4. The delay in reporting upon the various zamindari forests in the Madura district has already been noticed in G.O., No. 918, dated 17th November 1890, and the Government desires that it should be explained.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue,
with one enclosure, returned.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Draft notice prepared by the Collector.

RESOLUTION—dated 13th December 1890, Forest No. 706.

The notice, as amended by Government, i.e., with the words "on or before the 12th January 1891" altered to "on or before the 1st April 1891," will now be issued and will be served by the Collector upon the Zamindar; M.R.Ry. C. Raju Sastri, Forest Settlement Officer, being informed accordingly.

2. The full report called for in para. 3 of the G.O. should be submitted at an early date, so that Government may be in a position to decide as to the advisability of taking further action in the matter by the time M.R.Ry. Raju Sastri's report is submitted.

3. The attention of the Conservator and Collector is drawn to the remarks of Government in para. 2. The explanation of the delay referred to in para. 4 has already been called for by the Board in its Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1890, Forest No. 1248, Miscellaneous.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Ag. Secretary.

To the Collector of Madura, with a notice.

Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.
To M.R.Ry. C. Raju Sastri Avargal, Special Deputy Collector on
Forest Settlement Duty, South Arcot, &c., districts.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. E. Fernandez.

1890.
Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue),
MADRAS.

CONFIDENTIAL

Printed January 5th, 1891.

Proceedings, dated 13th December 1890,
Forest No. 706.

Issuing instructions to the Collector of Madura in the matter of issue of a notice to the Zamindar of Gandamanayakanur to show cause why a Notification, under section 29 of the Forest Act, should not be issued with a view to regulate the clearing of the vegetation in the Warsanad valley; calling for a full report from the Collector and the Conservator regarding the measures it is proposed to adopt in view to conserving the forests in this valley, and desiring to have an explanation of the great delay that has occurred in reporting upon the various Zamindari forests in the district.

BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), 16TH JUNE 1892, FOREST No. 321.

CONFIDENTIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

THE HON. MR. H. W. BLISS.

READ—the following letter from M.R.Ry. C. RAJU SASTRI Avargal, Forest Settlement Officer, South Arcot, &c., districts, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue (through the Collector of Madura), dated Camp, Kollegal, 7th July 1891, Reference on No. 46/G:—

With reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 13th December 1890, Forest No. 706, Confidential, I have the honour to state that no communication has reached me from the Zemindar of Gandamanayakanur up to date.

Reference on the above, dated 16th July 1891.

The Conservator will be requested to forward, without further delay, the report called for in para. 2 of Board's Proceedings, 13th December 1890, No. 706, Forest.

2. The Collector should report if the notice, referred to in para. 1 of those Proceedings, was duly served on the Zemindar, and, if so, when.

(Signed) H. A. SIM,
Acting Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.
" Collector of Madura.

READ—the following letter from S. H. WYNNE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Madura, 22nd July 1891, No. 16:—

In reply to Board's Proceedings, Reference on Forest Register No. 1475 of 1891, Confidential, para. 2, I have the honour to state that the notice referred to was duly served on the Zemindar on the 20th December 1890.

READ—the following letter from J. W. CHERRY, Esq., Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 11th May 1892, No. 1119:—

Reference:—Reminders to Board's Reference on Forest Register No. 1475 of 1891, dated 16th July 1891.

I regret very much to find that the District Forest Officer's reply to Board's Reference on Forest Register No. 1475 of 1891 appears to have been mislaid, or has miscarried.

Recd. 58257

It was received in my office in September 1891, and I can remember passing it on to the Board with the map that accompanied it.

From the reminders received it does not, however, appear to have reached the Board's office.

2. I have made inquiries and cannot find its despatch registered in my office, nor are the papers forthcoming, nor do the present clerks remember anything about it.

Perhaps the Board's present Forest Assistant, Mr. Parthasarathy Moodaliar (this office manager at that time), or Mr. Narasimha Charri, who was acting for him on his temporary transfer to the Board's office last year, may be able to assist in recovering the papers.

In the meantime, I forward a copy of the District Forest Officer's report which I have obtained from him (see enclosed copy of his No. 1132, dated 26th August 1891), and am sorry I cannot send a copy of the map he referred to in that report, as he states that he did not keep a copy of it in his office.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Office note from H. A. GASS, Esq., District Forest Officer, to the Acting Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle (through the Collector of Madura), dated 26th August 1891, No. 1132.

Reference.—Your No. 2684 of 29th January 1891 and reminder No. 1112 of 20th July last.

I beg to inform you that the notice to the Zemindar of Gandamanáyakanúr, calling upon him to show cause why a notification should not be issued under section 29 of the Forest Act, was served on him on the 20th December 1890. Time for his reply was given up to the 1st April as fixed by the Board in its Resolution, dated 13th December 1890, Forest No. 706, and on the 7th July Mr. Raju Sastri, the Forest Settlement Officer, wrote to me, in reply to a letter of mine, informing me that he had received no communication from the Zemindar.

2. I send, herewith, a sketch map of the Warsanaad valley showing the portion of it over which the Government operation would extend if Government deem it advisable to take action under Chapter IV., Sections 29, 30 and 31 of the Forest Act, and I have marked specially on the sketch the particular part which, in my opinion, should actually pass under control either by virtue of a lease or acquisition by purchase. This sketch map is an enlargement from the ordnance map, and I am relying upon notes made by me some years ago for the correctness of the names of the rivers. The old cart-track, on the occasion of my last visit, which was some years ago, terminated about the place I have marked it, and from this point southwards it was a foot-path only used by Pulliars and others. I do not suppose the cart-track has ever been extended or improved since the Zemindar took charge of his estate, as it would have been difficult to do on account of the configuration of the ground.

3. The Zemindar, in February last I think, wrote to the Collector asking for a better explanation of what particular portions of the estate forest were referred to in the notice which was sent to him, and this was sent to me for report, and I enclose with this office note copy of my office note to the Collector, No. 2813, of 9th March 1891, confidential, on the subject, and copy of which was sent to the Zemindar as a reply to his letter.

4. The entire drainage of the whole of the Cumbum valley and of the Warsanaad valley and all southern slopes of the Palni hills is into the Vaigai river, and it would not be an easy task to say which of the many hundreds of streams which go to make up this river is the more important. A glance at the ordnance sheet will show that two of the principal branches comprise the streams flowing in the Cumbum and Warsanaad valleys. Of the former, the Suruli river, rising on the High Waving mountain, is undoubtedly the most important as few, if any, of the others are perennial, and the Suruli I have never known actually dry, though at times a mere trickle of water may be seen coming over the waterfall on the top of the hills. Of the Warsanaad valley branch I imagine that the streams on the western side are dry for several months in the year, excepting perhaps the Combai Tolluvar, and even those rising on the Vellimalai and Thopemalai slopes are probably very insignificant indeed during the hot months. My knowledge of the valley is confined to visits paid during months from November to February and even in the last month I have known very little water indeed in the streams.

5. The value of the high range known as the High Waving mountain dividing the two large valleys is very great, and often dense clouds may be seen resting on it when none are to be found elsewhere, and the masses of forest on the top of this range must contribute largely to the fall of rain, which so often takes place here during monsoon months when none falls in the valley or even at the lower elevations.

6. The Warsanaad valley is shut in by slopes which on the west close on to the top of the High Waving, on the south with the hills in Travancore where the sources of the Periyar are to be found, and on the east with the Saptur zemindari hills. The elevation of these slopes on the west is about 6,000 feet, on the south 5,000, and variable on the east. Thopemalai itself, however, must be nearly 6,000 feet. I once tested it but have forgotten it. The valley as far as Odaikallar was well covered with deciduous forest, containing many valuable varieties of trees and the upper elevations with large masses of evergreen forests, notably in the valley in which the Combai Tolluvar rests, and on the slopes of the Thopemalai. The Zemindar, in the short time that has elapsed since he assumed charge of his estate, cannot have made any very serious inroads in his deciduous forests, and the evergreen forests are protected by their inaccessibility and want of marketable value so far as the trees themselves are concerned.

7. In paras. 11 and 12 of my office note to you, No. 2819, dated 29th March 1890, in reporting on the Kottagudi valley, I stated the opinion which the Collector and I had come to with reference to the action which was necessary to be taken, and that it would be sufficient to confine the control to the evergreen forests in which the sources of the streams are to be found. I hold the same opinion with regard to the Warsanaad valley, and if any action is to be taken in regard to it under the Act, it is imperatively necessary to preserve the evergreen forests intact, and these are all situated at the higher elevation, which, like the High Waving mountain, must exercise a considerable influence on the rainfall.

8. I have said that no great damage can have been caused in the present Zemindar's time to these evergreen forests and whatever clearances have taken place must have been caused by the migratory cultivation by the Pulliars, considerable numbers of whom live in the valley. These forests might prove good enough but are certainly not valuable for coffee and cardamom cultivation. As regards coffee, I know on good authority that two well known planters came (by invitation I presume) last year to see the valley and declined to have anything to do with it for reasons connected, however, I believe, more especially with the rainfall. The imperfect communications and means of transport and trouble in procuring coolies and the feverishness of the valley will always stand in the way of any but wealthy planters or a company opening out coffee cultivation with sufficient capital to overcome the difficulties.

9. It is most probable that the Zemindar would consent to lease any portion of his estate to Government and I am inclined to think that any action taken would have to consist of acquisition by purchase. What the cost of such acquisition would be I am unable to say now for one thing I do not know what the area of forest to be taken up would be likely to be. The trees themselves for the sake of the timber have no market value, and even if they had, there is the heavy cost of transport to consider. The minor products, barks, honey, wax, &c., are valuable, but it is not likely that, for the whole valley, more than Rs. 2,000 in this respect could be looked for, Rs. 600 or Rs. 700 of which might be apportioned for what the evergreen forests could yield, for the costs of collection are very great. There is the kumri cultivation, which is doubtless carried on, to consider, but this must be of comparatively small extent and permitted with the object of inducing the Pulliars to remain in the valley as dependants of the Zemindar.

10. If Government decide to secure control over the patches of evergreen forests and the intervening grass lands, the area should be surveyed. I estimate the whole of it roughly at 25 square miles and the survey could probably take six months to complete and would cost Rs. 2,500. The value of the land could only be fixed after a careful inquiry and by having access to accounts of the Zemindar which it is not possible for me to see now.

11. I think I am quite justified in stating that the object of Government would be sufficiently attained by ensuring the protection of these evergreen forests only on the steep sides of the slopes, which, from their situation, must largely affect the rainfall besides lessening the danger of torrents, as they contribute to the protection of the springs and the maintenance of the water-supply.

12. I have not considered the question of the acquisition of those portions of the estate forests which contain valuable trees and which could therefore add to the supply of timber of the district. These forests are exactly the same as the very large areas of Government forests similarly situated and they are neither better nor worse and it is already found sufficiently difficult to find a market for all that ought to be cut in the Government forests, and as any addition in this direction would mean a large expenditure and unprofitable from a financial point of view, I do not recommend it, and prefer to adhere to my suggestions contained in para. 11, which are likely to result in the greatest benefit at a minimum of cost.

13. In regard to the delay in reporting upon the various zemindari forests referred to in para. 4 of G.O. dated 28th November 1890, embodied in Board's Resolution quoted in the first paragraph of this office note, Colonel Walker explained it in his letter, No. 2685, of 29th January 1891, addressed to the Board, and it was recorded in G.O., No. 1389, dated 27th February 1891, and a similar order was passed in Board's Resolution, No. 200, of 9th March 1891. I have therefore in reference to the particular zemindari only to add that the management of the estate forests was vested in the Forest Department under the orders of the Court of Wards till February

1888, when the Zemindar assumed charge, and that subsequently to this, there was no good reason to suppose that the Zemindar would deal with his forests in other than a sensible manner, and, in fact, even now I have had nothing reported to me to show that there was any reckless cutting carried on in the forests, and it was only when information reached Mr. Turner, late Collector of Madura, that owing to the embarrassed position in which the Zemindar found himself he was endeavouring to negotiate for the lease of his forests to certain contractors, that it was decided to address letter, No. 23, of 8th November 1890, Confidential, to the Board. It was not possible to write more definitely at the time, as the information had been received in a somewhat roundabout fashion and was by no means reliable. The Zemindar's prospects have doubtless not improved since then and there seems good reason to believe that if Government is to step in at all with regard to the control over any part of his forests, the time has arrived to do so, if more serious complications in the way of leases and sub-leases are to be avoided.

14. I regret very much that I have not before been able to dispose of your reference, which has been kept back in the hope of time and opportunity admitting of my paying a visit to the valley, but I have not found it possible. There are, of course, difficulties in the way quite apart from those which stress of other work presents. The estate is a private one and in the hands of its proprietor, and it is not, therefore, likely, considering the object of it, that a visit would be encouraged or any assistance rendered to it; but I have to plead the demands of my own legitimate duties connected with the Government forests, and I can certainly assert that I have had no time whatever to attend to this special work. I have had much to do and much of it work that has been rendered "urgent" by the Board, as the notification of new areas for settlement, and the important work of preparing for the Survey of India Party, and this, with the very inadequate establishment at my command and the recent orders to add new blocks to those already included in the programme for the season, has been no light task.

RESOLUTION—dated 16th June 1892, Forest No. 321.

In G.O., dated 28th November 1890, No. 973, Revenue, para. 3, Government directed the Conservator, Southern Circle, to make a full report in conjunction with the Collector regarding the measures it was proposed (by Mr. Turner) to adopt in view to conserving the forests in the Warsanaad valley, and to furnish detailed particulars in regard to the value of that tract, both from a climatic point of view and for the supply of timber, so that, in the event of it becoming necessary to proceed under the provisions of section 30 of the Forest Act, the Government might be in a position to determine the course to be followed.

2. From the office note of the District Forest Officer of Madura, forwarded by the Conservator with the letter above read, it appears that the then Conservator called on the District Forest Officer for the report required by Government, and that this report was furnished in August 1891, but was mislaid or lost in the Conservator's office. The Conservator now forwards a copy thereof, without the slightest indication of his own opinion on a matter in which professional advice was obviously essential, and without any mention of the views of the Collector, in conjunction with whom he was directed to report. The report itself contains little information of value, and does not even profess to be based on facts ascertained by inquiries made for the purpose of replying to Government, but only "upon notes made some years ago."

3. The District Forest Officer's excuse for the imperfections of his report is that he had no time to visit the Warsanaad valley and make the necessary inquiries. He pleads "the demands of his own legitimate duties connected with the Government forests," and says that a survey is necessary, which would cost Rs. 2,500, and that the value of the land can only be fixed after inquiry and by access to the accounts of the Zemindar. The Board is aware that Mr. Gass has had plenty of work to do, and has done it; but cannot admit that any work can be a more legitimate duty of a Forest Officer than such an inquiry as Government desired into the conservancy of the forests which contain the principal source of the only important river in the district. As to the Zemindar's accounts, some attempt to ascertain the value of the forests might have been made through the Collector, but it does not appear that the Collector was ever applied to for assistance.

4. As to the Conservator's entire apparent neglect to even attempt to comply with the orders of Government, there is nothing at all on record. Mr. Cherry is

requested to explain, and also to report whom he has held responsible for the loss of the District Forest Officer's report.

5. The Zemindar is known (*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 16th June 1892, No. 295 L.R.) to have entered into negotiations for the lease of the whole of his estate as security for a loan. The question of the course to be taken with respect to his forests has therefore become very urgent. The Conservator should therefore at once proceed to the district, and, in conjunction with the Collector, furnish the report called for by Government. The present time of year being the best for camping in the Warsanaad valley, there is apparently nothing to prevent the submission of the report at a very early date.

6. The Board notes that the notice prescribed by Government in the G.O. of November 1890 (Board's Proceedings, December 13, 1890, Forest No. 706) was served on the 20th December 1890.

(True Copies and Extract.)

[Signature]
Acting Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.
" Collector of Madura.
Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a copy of Board's Proceedings, F. No. 706, 13th December 1890.

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only

A A A A A A A