

CONFIDENTIAL.

Revenue (1893) Department.

G.O., No. 1597

Confidential No. 583

DATED 1 May 1893.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Concurring in the Board's view ~~that~~ as to the
appropriateness of the immediate demarcation of the
boundary line between the scheduled & the ordinary
tracts of the Sanjam district is

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), 22ND MARCH 1893, FOREST No. 213.

CONFIDENTIAL.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE. (LAND REVENUE.)

READ—the following letter from E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Vizagapatam, 24th March 1892, No. 3372 :—

In compliance with the orders conveyed in para. 8 of Board's Proceedings, No. 354, dated 10th August 1891, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Commissioners, that I have visited the Maliah country of the Ganjam district and have examined the forest growth on portions included in the Rushikulya basin as well as in more northerly parts, the waters of which drain more or less directly into the Mahanadi river.

2. Before undertaking the tour, I entered into correspondence with the Collector and he very kindly sketched out a journey, which he intended to take with me, but, at the last moment, he had to relinquish the idea on account of the state of the season and left me at Surada on the 10th January 1892. Thence I entered the Agency at Gazilabadi in Pondakhol mutta and met the Assistant Agent. He, too, was unable to accompany me having to meet the Agent for a language examination towards the end of the month. I was thenceforward with only Mr. Battie, the District Forest Officer, though the Deputy Tahsildars were met on the tour and were of great assistance in securing information.

3. In the absence of the Agent, I deemed it best to make no direct reference to the Khonds on the subject of forest conservancy, partly because such action would be premature, but chiefly because, in the absence of the Government Agent, the matter would most probably be misunderstood, and at any rate no good effect would be created since every strange proceeding other than the tours of the Agents and police officers is regarded with suspicion, and had I attempted to explain my mission, I should probably have been given much less information than I succeeded in gleaning. Nor did I in any way deal with the political side of the question, which is, I understand, one the Agent alone has competence to concern himself with. After carefully perusing the various proceedings and orders leading up to the Board's orders I have quoted, I concluded that all required from me was an opinion whether, in the interest of climate generally and for the well-being of the basin of the Rushikulya river in the Ganjam district, there should be any restriction placed on the free action of the Khond population of the Maliahs, as regards the felling of forest, what form, if any, such restrictions should assume, and how far, if at all, should the provisions of the Forest Act be applied to the country or to any particular portions of it; bearing in mind that, since the Khonds and Souras have been allowed for generations to be quite free and unfettered and under no control, it would only be expedient to interfere with their use of the forests under circumstances of grave nature and for urgent climatic reasons.

4. In accordance with the programme laid down for me by Mr. Johnson, the Agent, I travelled by the bridge-path through the Pondakhol mutta to the Darinji-badi plateau, and, after making excursions in the neighbourhood of Darinji-badi throughout the Rushikulya area, marched north through Digi and Rekhia to Udaigiri at the head of the Kalingia ghât and thence descended to Durgaprashad and Rambha.

5. The portions I have travelled over are admittedly those, where, if at all, interference would be requisite; elsewhere it is understood that denudation has either been less extensive or less to be feared in its effect upon the low country. I did not therefore extend my tour on this occasion, confining myself to a very close examination of the Darinjibadi and Udaigiri plateau and the country supplying the Rushikulya: though in this report I propose to make suggestions for a similar examination of the whole of the Agency tracts.

6. From the records of Proceedings and Government orders it seems that, in the past, stress has been chiefly laid on the havoc caused by denudation in those parts of the Agency which form, so to speak, the eastern slopes of the Maliah country, and to which the Khonds as a race do not even pretend to claim ownership or right of occupancy. The slopes in question include the Pondakhol, Korada and Chokapad muttas, the remainder being under settlement as reserved forests. In fact, I can nowhere discover that denudation has ever been reported to be general in the Maliah country. At least such is distinctly inferred from available reports and appears exactly stated in Board's Proceedings, No. 469, dated 17th August 1887, so that remedial measures applied to the slopes in question would go far to mitigate if not removing altogether the evil complained of. Nor would it be difficult to apply such measures since these tracts are not the Khond country, are only partially inhabited by plain Khonds (as opposed to hill wild Khonds) and they are much mixed up with Uriyas and Panos of various kinds.

7. That the Forest Act has not been applied to the Pondakhol and Chokapad muttas, has, I think, arisen from some confusion as to their position relatively to the Khond muttas on the plateau and to the fear expressed by Mr. Horsfall that in the case of Chokapad some trouble might ensue, but as the area in question, though part of the Agency, does not appear to be, by any construction, part of the Khond country, the ordinary reasons for non-interference do not apply.

8. Again, as regards Korada and Ronaba, especially the former since the latter is more on the Goomsur level, the question of forest conservancy is not concerned with our relations to aboriginal tribes, for I learn that the zemindar does not allow hill men to come over the edge of the plateau and devastate his slopes in the way the adjoining slopes under settlement are being denuded by hill Khonds.

9. In a separate inspection report, dealing with the Ganjam district, I have proposed the means I think necessary for the protection of these slopes including the demarcation of the plateau edge. This is a most important and urgent step and will best be done by the Assistant Agent as an authoritative Khond boundary and will be found to follow probably the present assumed boundary of the Goomsur taluk.

10. I mention these matters only incidentally to point out that a clear distinction must be drawn between the treatment of the forest question as regards these slopes and the problems of forest management in the Khond Maliahs above them, the only connection between them being that both are Agency tracts and it may be fairly argued that so long as our own hill sides are being denuded with impunity, we are scarcely justified in pointing a moral to the hill people in their dealings with the forests which we have allowed them to regard as their own.

11. On leaving the Agent at Surada, Mr. Battie and I camped at Gazilabadi in Pondakhol and on the following day ascending to the plateau we passed through continuous forest the whole way up the slope. For three miles from Gazilabadi a cart track is followed along a stream and the forest is a mixed one in which sál is common. On the ghât, it is, in parts, of almost pure sál with a tall straight growth and a diameter of 18 inches notably about half way up where podu cultivation is being carried on, and then is an unusual deposit of soil; elsewhere the slope is more rocky and uneven, other species being more represented. On the plateau for six miles to Darinjibadi the path is through a stunted forest growth periodically sacrificed to "podu," and on this level the re-growth is slower apparently than elsewhere. We passed along the head of a valley running south-west from the Penamursi hill and had a complete view of the forests which clothe

the slopes down to the stream only occasionally interrupted with patches of bamboos where a solitary "podu" has not been replaced by sál trees. On the following day, we proceeded to examine the country to the south-east of the Darinjibadi plateau and inspected the growth on the slopes of the deep valleys which descend from it in that direction. The hillocks which rise from the level on which the villages stand are regularly resorted to for "podu" and show a more or less denuded aspect according as they have been cleared lately or at a more distant period. This was especially noticeable near Kislibadi and to the north and east of that village, but the main valleys below the level of the plateau villages and even the higher slopes draining directly into them, where away from village sites, are for the most part under unbroken forest growth mainly consisting of sál trees the pyramidal form of which makes them an unmistakeable feature in the landscape and defines the distribution of the species with great accuracy. Proceeding further eastwards, we secured a complete view of the eastern sources of the main stream as far as the village of Dombabaradi, and it is satisfactory to note that nothing approaching denudation was to be found either on this side or to the south-west across towards Ponguli and the basin of the main source of the river.

12. Our next excursion took us through this central basin which is traversed by the road running towards the Southern Maliahs from Darinjibadi. Immediately after leaving the basin which encloses the Darinjibadi hamlets we enter a forest of sál which skirts the road on both sides for over four miles in length and is only cut into in two places by swamp cultivation fringed with podu. The trees are all comparatively young and small. Sál is general and in parts alone represented especially where regrowth is following on cultivation. The trees are tall and slender rising generally to 30 feet in height with a girth of 15 inches and occasionally found 40 feet high with a girth of 30 inches. Rising up above Ponguli, the road crosses a spur towards Tekebadi from which one looks down on the main valley of the river leading into Pondakhol. The hill slopes to the extreme edge of the basin are more cut over towards Sonpura and Sodaka and also more to the west around Cheteria and there has been denudation here and there but over such comparatively inconsiderable areas as to be unimportant and even in these localities there is nothing to show that the maximum area at one time without forest has not been reached or that the normal area of treeless waste is exceeded.

13. Speaking generally I would assert that in the Rushikulya basin to the south and west of Darinjibadi the villages are few and denudation is not going on. There is a certain proportion of the area cleared of forest but except upon the hill sides it is again covered with a regrowth after a rest of three years, the new forest being of pure sál in rich soils and of mixed species upon poorer ones. It is also to be remarked that over a great expanse of level area there are signs of forest encroaching upon cultivation and old clearances. It is currently asserted that plain forest land is resorted to for "podu" by old men who cultivated it originally in their youth and I understood from the Khonds that they return sooner to hill podus than to those on level country since they prefer to make clearances upon sloping ground. I have no doubt myself that the main reason for such a choice is the comparative ease with which the thin forest growth on the hill is removed and they accept the lighter crop with resignation as it is procured with much less labour than that grown on heavy forest soil.

14. After thus thoroughly examining the portion of the Maliahs drained by the Rushikulya and finding it to be under forest, undergoing little or no denudation, we proceeded northward from Darinjibadi to Digi, Rekhia and Udaigiri at the head of the Kalingia ghât. On our first march we traversed two narrow valleys which were well wooded and watered and then descended on to the Digi plain which is much drier while the hill slopes facing it show much more systematic destruction of forest growth than the Rushikulya basin. At Digi, in fact, we get on the out-skirts of the denuded country which is so completely bare at Udaigiri, twenty miles further north, and it must also be mentioned that the road which has been constructed appears to run with considerable exactness through the most bare country. The Digi plain is mostly under wet cultivation and the hills are

covered with a much thinner growth than met with towards Darinjibadi; bamboo and mixed forest being general instead of pure sál as at higher levels. This change of distribution is not accounted for by difference of altitude so much as by difference of soil, for, on the smaller hills and on level wastes, sál is found to grow even better than where more generally met with while the Khond houses in the village of Petamba were found to be planked with slabs fully 18 inches in diameter, trees of that size being found in the low hills fringing the road at this point.

15. It was also noticed that for two miles before joining the southern road to Baliguda there were evident signs of continuous clearance for extension of cultivation and this became even more apparent after passing Rekhia, leaving only the more sheltered slopes of narrow valleys under wood. It was also noted that at the junction of the Baliguda road with that from Digi there has been of late some agricultural improvement made in the way of increasing the area under wet cultivation and this may be one of the causes leading up to the extension of cultivation and the disappearance of the plain forest along the road towards Digi but where forest on level ground gives way to permanent cultivation it cannot be interfered with except on special grounds even in such countries as the Maliahs and I attach but little importance to the loss of such area. I have, however, decided to mention this fact of clearance of forest in a special locality as an instance of forest giving way to agriculture as opposed to what is happening in the main basin of the Rushikulya where forest seems to be asserting itself over cultivation. A second reason for especially recording the fact is that, at a later date, it may be determined whether more forest has disappeared, since by simply recording in general terms, year by year, the opinions of succeeding Agents as to the result of Khond cultivation no satisfactory conclusions as to the extent of forest clearance can be arrived at.

16. The last five miles to Udaigiri traverses areas of wet cultivation enclosed by hills rising from 100 to 1,000 feet above them. These hills are completely denuded of all but shrub growth, and this being the most accessible point of the Maliahs has probably received more attention at the hands of the Agents and consequently, from being constantly reported; its denuded state has been gradually assumed to be that of the Maliahs. The denudation around Udaigiri is certainly most complete, and I understand that a similar state of things exists to the Bengal frontier some miles to the north but that westward towards Baliguda the aspect of the hill sides changes and they are clothed with forest. The appearance of the Udaigiri hills present is similar to that of the Bellary grass hills, to such an extent has the clearing been carried, but it is satisfactory to know that the state of things is over a comparatively circumscribed area.

17. This completes my account of the forests of the Maliah country which I visited. As the Collector pointed out, I was able to see the Rushikulya basin and the most denuded part of the Udaigiri mutta; these being declared to be the tracts where intervention of Government might be expedient.

18. Regarding the rest of the Maliahs it is, I believe, conceded that no denudation is known to exist, but it would be hazardous to make any general proposals regarding action to be taken without having a more accurate account of the state of things that exist throughout the various areas and I would strongly advocate my being permitted to depute a supernumerary officer to traverse the whole country and record the state of the forests in each of the various river basins much in the same way as I have done in the Rushikulya and Udaigiri portions. Such a task would be a useful experience to a young trained officer, nor do I think he would find it difficult to carry out if he secured the assistance of the Assistant Agent and police officer while the Deputy Tahsildars might arrange their tours to accompany him. This deputation of an officer will be referred to in a separate communication.

19. Unless the report which such an officer would make were to show that denudation such as at Udaigiri had spread generally over any considerable section of the Maliah country I would not propose that we should interfere at all with the use of the plateau forest by the Khonds, seeing that it is ruled that except for climatic reasons interference would be impolitic. The denudation of Udaigiri is

regrettable, and were it in the Rushikulya basin it might have to be seriously considered. The topographical position of the Udaigiri hills does not, however, render the question of their being wooded one of paramount importance, but I can understand the extension of such denudation if it became general would call for interference, so that while advocating a policy of present inactivity I would suggest the keeping of a watchful eye upon the extension of hill cultivation and secure periodical reports from the Deputy Tahsildars on the subject for each village or mutta where any denudation is suspected.

20. The District Forest Officer of Ganjam might also arrange to visit any particular tracts each season, and would, in a very few years, be able to state definitely not only where denudation has progressed but could point with accuracy to the causes of it and propose remedies which it would be at present mere presumption and guess work for us with our limited knowledge to suggest.

21. It has also been declared that intervention for the protection of timber for export is also impolitic. On this point, I would mention that the timber met with on the plateau is, on the whole, small; that from all accounts the export of timber is "nil," and though it is known that large trees are to be found on the Goomsur slopes and contractors are hopeful of getting the logs out yet it is certain that if means of export do exist, it would not pay to take down the small Maliah produce in such quantities as to hasten denudation while the collection of seigniorage on produce coming below ghâts together with transit rules would prevent sudden and extraordinary removal.

22. It follows therefore that the proposals I would make are not intended to deal with the Maliahs generally but merely as an experiment to bring back under forest portions at least of the Udaigiri hills now bare of all growth and this through the intervention of the Khonds and other inhabitants themselves or at any rate without raising directly the question of ownership of forest land. From inquiry made through Mr. Sanjeeva Row Naidu, the Deputy Tahsildar at Udaigiri, I understand that this clearance of the country is due to a combination of civilising influences introduced from below following the construction of the high road. The population in the immediate neighbourhood of the roads is more mixed, Ooriyas and Panos having immigrated from the plains. Cultivation has necessarily increased and the hill sides have been subjected to a shorter rotation being resorted to for fresh cropping after a few years instead of being left fallow for a generation.

23. The ownership of the lands has also passed away from Khonds in many instances and now rests with Panos and Ooriyas who are gradually increasing; the Khonds themselves becoming fewer in this particular neighbourhood. This is an important point for consideration for, though it may be politically expedient to leave the Khond lands untaxed so long as they are held by Khonds, it does not necessarily follow that the same forbearance need be shown to settlers from below, and it may be a convenient form of asserting the right of Government to proclaim that lands transferred from Khonds shall be subject to assessment of revenue and that such transfer must be registered. It will not be necessary to at once fix rates of assessment, for the mere proclamation of such a notice as I describe will be a bar to the immigration of designing contractors and capitalists anxious to secure for themselves the rights and privileges now held by Khonds.

24. To effect any good in the way of protection it is evidently necessary to restrict hill clearing within fixed limits and this might be tried in various ways either by preventing it altogether on selected hills or above a certain level on the hills generally but I would not advocate any action which would force the hand of Government in the matter of claim to land ownership so that the purchase of the various selected reservations should not be thought of. For some years, the present Deputy Tahsildar, Mr. Sanjeeva Row, has exerted considerable influence for good in this direction; for, acting with the consent of Mr. Horsfall, he succeeded in inducing village headmen to keep certain areas of hill slopes free from "podu" and it is satisfactory to note that the result has been the re-establishment of a young sál forest which forms a prominent feature in the view from Udaigiri and

allows us to hope that the adjoining bare hills may be similarly clothed. The inhabitants of the mutta, if only they can secure sufficient food grain from cultivation elsewhere, are not bent on continuing this system of exaggerated "podu," for they are alive to the fact that construction wood is becoming a costly luxury and is dear if not dearer than in the plain country of Goomsur. With the immigration of Ooriyas and diminution of Khonds the strange inherent fascination for shifting cultivation is considerably reduced so that while we trace denudation to the advance of civilisation we also discern that it brings with it its own remedy for it induces a concentration of agricultural labour around the village site and a relegation of hill slopes to the supply of fodder and forest produce.

25. I propose therefore that the Deputy Tahsildar be encouraged to indefinitely increase the area protected from clearing on the hill sides of the Udaigiri basin by all means in his power short of purchasing the land or acquiring any title to it. He should continue to secure the intelligent support of the most trusted men of each village and supplement the efforts they make towards protection by rewards in the shape of presents of cloth or wages to village servants who may be employed specially for the purpose.

26. The feasibility of such a scheme I discussed with the Deputy Tahsildar and he is sanguine that much might be done at little cost in the ways indicated provided it were done by an officer who has the confidence of the villagers and is constantly near at hand.

27. From what I saw of Mr. Sanjeeva Row personally and of his success in securing the protection of forest in the past, I am convinced that he is the fittest agent at our disposal for this purpose. It would be worse than useless to attach any forest establishment of the ordinary kind to him for the work and I would leave him a free hand under the Agent's control to take such measures as he thinks fit to further our views and to disburse such forest funds as the Agent, on the advice of the District Forest Officer, may sanction within a fixed budget allotment which while our operations are in an experimental stage need not exceed Rs. 500 per annum.

28. Hand in hand with this direct action it is necessary to push forward the various measures for increasing permanently cultivated areas now being commenced. Wherever possible, tank building should be encouraged so that the grain food necessary for each village may be grown on its permanent fields and a yearly account of the protection afforded might properly find place in the forest administration report submitted by the Collector of Ganjam.

29. I would add that a map is enclosed showing the waterways of the Rushikulya basin and the Udaigiri mutta, also the zemindaries and Agency tracts which form the Goomsur slopes of the Maliahs and are referred to in paras. 6 to 10 of this report as being the areas which we require to take immediate steps to preserve.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Map.

Reference on the above, dated 18th May 1892.

Forwarded to the Collector of Ganjam for remarks.

2. The Conservator's further communication referred to at the end of para. 18 is awaited.

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

To the Collector of Ganjam with a map and the Conservator's letter,
,, Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.
to be returned.

READ—the following letter from E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Vizagapatam, 25th May 1892, No. 471:—

Replying to reference on Forest Register No. 787 of 1892, dated 18th May 1892, I have the honour to say that the deputation of an officer for the examination of the Maliah forests will be referred to in a report to be submitted towards the month of August, when, if his services are not otherwise required, I propose to depute Mr. O'Leary on certain special duty in the sal forest of Ganjam and to tour in the Maliahs in the following dry season.

2. It will, however, be gathered from the report I submitted that, however interesting the report on the condition of the Eastern and Southern Maliahs would be, its usefulness is restricted to an assurance that, as generally reported, denudation only exists in the neighbourhood of Udaigiri on the Bengal frontier.

READ—the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, through the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated Chatrapur, 12th June 1892, No. 617.

In reply to Board's Reference on Forest Register No. 787 of 1892, dated 18th May 1892, I have the honour to return the map and the Conservator's letter with my remarks.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Mr. Hooper, apparently, advises—

1. To take up the slopes, i.e., Pondakhhol and Chokapad.
2. To place Rs. 500 per annum at the disposal of the present Udayagiri Deputy Tahsildar for the purpose of expenditure in furthering forest conservation, &c.
3. Deprecates any interference with the Maliahs Proper, where he denies the existence of any denudation such as to cause anxiety.
4. Proposes deputing a junior Forest Officer to examine the forests in detail and report on them.
5. He is of opinion that denudation to a mischievous extent need not be feared from "kondapodu" cultivation, and that the export of timber from the Maliahs will not pay for many years to come at least.
6. I am very glad to learn that his professional eye finds less cause for anxiety than Mr. Horsfall and myself. The worst denudation seen by me in the Rushikulya basin was on the slopes, seen from Chodakia (called Sodaka by Mr. Hooper, in para. 12). This is in Pondakhhol, and his proposals will provide for the reservation of a sufficient area in that tract. I cannot, however, agree with him that some forest reservation in the Maliahs Proper is not advisable. I very much regret that circumstances did not admit of my accompanying Mr. Hooper on this trip, as I might then have been able to bring him to a different opinion on this point.
7. We are in fact hardly advanced at all by this report.
8. As far as the formation of reserves on the slopes of Pondakhhol and Chokapad is concerned, I am quite in accord with Mr. Hooper, and I agree with him also that as long as Sanjivi Naidu remains Deputy Tahsildar of Udayagiri, he, with a small pecuniary grant, will be able to do a great deal in the way of conservancy. But Sanjivi Naidu is in this particular way a very exceptional Deputy Tahsildar, and what his personal interest and influence can effect is not to be expected of an average successor.

9. I do not think much is to be expected from the deputation of a junior officer for a sort of forest survey unless it is to be followed by reservation of selected areas. It seems to me rather a way of postponing a decision, than a practical suggestion. I very much doubt also whether any officer could be spared for the work.

10. I adhere to my opinion as to the advisability of introducing the Forest Act into the Agency in general with a set of simple rules, so as to admit of action being taken when considered advisable, and gradually feeling our way.

*beyond the
assurance that
the Agency
Officers have
been alarmed
R*

READ—the following G.O., dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, Revenue :—

Read—Board's Proceedings, dated 10th August 1891, Forest No. 354 :—

ABSTRACT.—Recommending to Government that the forests in the Ganjam Agency Tracts should be declared to be State property, and that steps should be taken to introduce Forest Act into them, and requesting the Collector and Conservator to submit a detailed report as to the extent of areas to be taken up, &c.

Order—dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, Revenue.

Forest No. 27.

The correspondence read above relates to the question of forest reservation in the Maliahs or hill tracts of the Ganjam district,

a subject which has, for some years past, engaged the attention of Government. In arriving at a decision in the matter, three points have to be considered—

- (a) to whom do the forests in the Maliahs belong ;
- (b) what degree of protection is required ;
- (c) in what way can this protection be most easily afforded.

2. So far as the zemindari forests are concerned, it may be stated at once that the Government neither possesses nor claims any ownership in such of the forests as are included within the limits of estates by the terms of the sanads granted. The Pedda Kimedi and Bodogoda Maliahs, some portions of which Mr. Johnson proposes to place under reservation, come under this category, and Government cannot in their case interfere in the interests of forest conservancy, except by acquiring the rights of the zemindars in such areas as it may be found expedient to bring under control.

3. The question of the ownership of the forests in the non-zemindari tracts is, however, a more difficult one, and has, as the Board points out, given rise to much discussion and conflict of opinion between the different officers who have at various times dealt with it. His Excellency the Governor in Council, after a careful consideration of all the papers on the subject, is of opinion that the forests in question are the property of the State, and that the Khonds have no *legal right* of possession or ownership in them. Whatever *privileges* they may have hitherto exercised in the forests, the Government is fully justified in curtailing them in the interests of the people generally, and the only reason why it has not done so before is that there was no necessity to interfere, because the question of the protection of forests from denudation had not assumed the importance which it has now done. The Government has, in former times, interfered with the practices of the Khonds in the interests of humanity by putting down human sacrifice, and as the wholesale destruction of the Maliah forests is fraught with danger to the rest of the country, it is plainly warranted in interfering and preventing the same ; it has, in fact, already so interfered by prohibiting in G.O., dated 25th January 1886, No. 56, the felling of timber for sale in certain portions of the Goomsur, Surada and Chinna Kimedi Maliahs.

4. While, however, declaring that the forests in the non-zemindari tracts of the Ganjam district are the property of the State, and that it is open to Government, acting in the interests of the whole community, to place what restrictions it may consider necessary on the privileges hitherto exercised in them by the Khonds, His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that it would be both equitable and politic to treat the Khonds with the utmost consideration—equitable, because they have been in unrestricted enjoyment of the forests from time immemorial and it would, therefore, be an extremely harsh measure to deprive them suddenly of the privileges which they have so long enjoyed—and politic, because the excitable character of the Khonds themselves and the strong natural position which they occupy renders it necessary for Government, in the interests of the public tranquillity, to proceed with caution and to conciliate them by every means in its power. If any equivalent for the withdrawal or curtailment of the privileges which these tribes have hitherto enjoyed on sufferance can be devised, the Governor in Council will gladly grant it. The question will be further adverted to below.

5. As to the degree of protection required by the Maliah forests and the way in which this protection should be afforded, the Government is of opinion that all that is needed in the way of protection, at any rate for the present, is the prohibition of felling for sale and the restriction of kondapodu. As the Board points out in paragraph 10 of its Proceedings, dated 10th August 1891, No. 354, read above, it is by no means necessary that the whole of the Maliahs should be taken in hand at once and protective measures should, in the opinion of Government, be confined for the present to the eastern slopes of the hills and to tracts in the vicinity of the head waters of the Rushikulya and other rivers of importance. In the more inaccessible tracts in the western parts no restrictions of kondapodu are called for. The Government does not desire to prevent the Khonds anywhere from hunting (including the burning of grass annually for the purpose of capturing game), grazing cattle, collecting forest produce and supplying their domestic needs from the forests as they have hitherto done. The felling of timber for sale should be prohibited throughout, but the complete stoppage of kondapodu would be an extreme measure calculated to arouse violent opposition, and it is only in the vicinity of the head waters of important rivers and streams that the practice should be absolutely prohibited.

6. In regard to the way in which protection is to be afforded, the Government is strongly opposed to the introduction of the Forest Act or of any of its provisions into the Maliahs ; the simple protective measures which are required can easily be carried out by the Agency officers by means of executive orders and the Government desires the Agent to submit detailed proposals for prohibiting felling for sale and restricting kondapodu in the manner and to the extent above indicated.

7. It should be possible to acquire similar control over the zemindari forests by means of negotiations with the zemindars ; failing negotiations, the zemindari forests, in which protection is necessary, will have to be taken up under the Land Acquisition Act. This question should be dealt with separately by the Agent in the report above called for.

8. The equity and policy of giving some equivalent to the Khonds for the loss of their customary privileges in the forests has been dwelt upon in a previous portion of this Proceedings. It is difficult to decide what concessions will be best calculated to reconcile the Khonds to the altered state of affairs which it is proposed to introduce ; the Agent in paragraph 12 of his letter, dated 17th February 1891, C. No. 114, read in this Proceedings, suggests the construction of irrigation tanks for the benefit of the Khonds in the Daringabadi and Grenobadi muttahs, and in paragraph 23 of the same letter he advocates the payment of fixed sums yearly to the headmen of villages and muttahs in return for their protecting the forests. The Government believes that this method is likely to prove the most efficacious and desires the Agent to submit definite proposals on the point after communicating with the Khonds in those cases only where restrictive action has to be taken. The Government looks to Mr. Johnson to use all possible tact and caution in dealing with this delicate matter ; in explaining to the Khonds in the above cases the decision of Government regarding the ownership of the forests, he should make them distinctly understand that the forests are the property of Government and that Government intends to protect them, and he should at the same time point out to them that if they loyally accept the decision of Government, His Excellency the Governor in Council will endeavour to make to them suitable concessions in lieu of any privileges of which they may be deprived and trusts that they will meet Government halfway and assist the Agency officers in preserving the forests. His Excellency the Governor in Council hopes that the Agent will succeed in arriving at a mutual understanding with the Khonds and in effecting a peaceful solution of a difficult question.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
„ the Judicial Department.

READ—the following extract from Conservator's Inspection Note, on the Ganjam district, dated 13th May 1892.

19. This work (demarcation) is most urgent along the boundary of our forests on the ridge of the main ghâts where it follows the Maliah boundary, for the hill men are doing their best to devastate our slopes from above and this local authority is powerless apparently to prevent so long as the Agency tracts remain without delimitation on the ground though the tracts are protected by the provisions of the Forest Act which deal with areas under settlement and it is understood that the Khonds, as a race, do not assert their rights to deal with the produce of these particular forests. In a separate report I have, in dealing with the Maliah forests, made a proposal that the ridge line be demarcated after full inquiry by the Special Assistant Agent, but whatever officer is deputed, the work should be put in hand without delay, for the interests at stake are large and not to be confounded with the other matters connected with the Maliahs which it may be advisable to postpone for further consideration. The effect of such demarcation will be threefold: it will keep the Khonds within their bounds, it will define accurately the Goomsur taluk, and, finally, it will give us a definite boundary for the Baibally and Derpangia reserves without which we can take no real measures for their conservation. The officer conducting the delimitation should also mark out the limit of the plateau to the south of the Korada boundary, where contiguous to and following the Pondakhhol Agency tract now about to be brought under the Forest Act, and again to the north of the Darpangia reserve it will be expedient to separate off in like manner the Chokapad Agency forest from the Maliah limits.

The Bengal boundary which separates Goomsur from the Daspala and Nyaginli zemindaries has been already marked and a line is kept clear throughout and thus the chief Goomsur reserves are clearly demarcated where on the edge of the taluk in this direction.

RESOLUTION—dated 22nd March 1893, Forest No. 213.

With the first paper read above Mr. Hooper, late Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, submits the report on the reservation of the forests in the Ganjam Agency tracts, called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 10th August 1891, Forest No. 354, in which the Board, while recommending to Government the declaration of these forests as State property, except where Government has transferred its right to a zamindar, and the introduction of the Forest Act into the Agency tracts, requested Mr. Hooper to inspect the locality and to submit, in consultation with the Collector, a detailed report as to the extent of the areas to be taken up for protection, the rules to be framed under the Act, and the concessions or compensations to be paid to the local tribes.

2. The Government (G.O., No. 57, dated 21st January 1893) has passed orders on Board's proposals in the last paper read above, which will now be communicated to the Collector and Agent to the Governor in Ganjam, for information and guidance.

3. The Government having negatived the proposal to introduce the Forest Act into the Maliahs, it becomes unnecessary to discuss the portion of Mr. Hooper's report which deals with that question and the Collector's remarks thereon. Nor is it necessary now to consider the question of deputing a special officer for the further inspection of the Agency tracts, as proposed by the Conservator.

4. Mr. Hooper has not inspected the whole of the Agency tracts. He confined himself to a very close examination of the Darinjibadi and Udayagiri plateau and the country supplying the Rushikulya river, where alone denudation to any appreciable extent was said to be going on. The conclusions arrived at by Mr. Hooper are briefly:—

(a) That the denudation of forests is not general in the Maliahs, nor does it appear to any appreciable extent in the Rushikulya basin.

(b) That the destruction of forests is confined to the hills in the Udayagiri plateau and to the eastern slopes of the Maliah country.

(c) That, unless the inspection of the remaining parts of the Agency by the special officer proposed by him to be deputed for the purpose discloses reasons to the contrary, no interference with the use of the plateau forest by the Khonds is called for.

(d) That the clearance of the Udayagiri hills is not a matter of climatic importance, but that it is nevertheless desirable to restrict hill cultivation in those parts, which can be best done through the personal influence of the present Deputy Tahsildar, who should be instructed to exert himself in this direction, using all means in his power short of purchasing the land or acquiring any title to it.

(e) That the conservation of the eastern slopes of the Maliahs, including the Pondakhhol and Chokapad muttas and the Korada zamindari, should be taken up and that the demarcation of the plateau edge should be carried out with the least possible delay.

(f) That Government intervention for the protection of timber is not called for, inasmuch as the removal of Maliah produce on any extensive scale is not profitable, and sufficient check can be provided by transit rules and the collection of seigniorage on produce coming below the ghâts.

5. Mr. Hooper's report thus shows that, except around Udayagiri and on the eastern slopes of the Maliahs, there is ample time for a *festina lente* policy in the Agency tracts of the district.

6. In the G.O. read above, the Government directs that protective measures should be confined, for the present, to the eastern slopes of the hills and to tracts in the vicinity of the head waters of the Rushikulya and other rivers of importance; that all that is needed in the way of protection, at any rate for the present, is the prohibition of felling for sale throughout the tracts, and the restriction of *kondapodu* in the vicinity of the head waters of important rivers and streams; and that the Agent should submit detailed proposals in order to secure these ends. He is further to discuss the best means of obtaining similar control over the zamindari forests, and to submit proposals for the payment of subsidies to the headmen of villages and muttas to ensure their protection of those forests in which restrictive measures, as above set forth, are to be taken. The present Agent, having himself been for some years a Forest officer, will, it is hoped, be able to submit a clear and satisfactory report upon these points.

7. In submitting the proposals called for by Government, the Agent will give due weight to the facts and arguments advanced by Mr. Hooper in his report read above. His attention is also drawn to Mr. Hooper's remarks in para. 23 of the report in regard to the alleged alienation of lands by Khonds in favour of Pano and Uriya settlers from the low country.

8. Both the Conservator and the Collector urge* the importance of the immediate demarcation of the boundary line between the scheduled and the ordinary tracts in the Ganjam district. The Board concurs in their views and resolves to request Government to appoint the Special Assistant Agent in Ganjam, under section 8, Act XIV. of 1874, to carry out this work.

9. The special attention of the Agent is drawn to the remarks and instructions in para. 8 of G.O., dated 21st January 1893, No. 57, as to the tact and care to be observed in communicating its orders to the Khonds and showing them that these will not be detrimental to their interests.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Ag. Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a map (to be returned).

" Collector and Agent to the Governor, Ganjam.
" Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

W. Higgins

621
13-7-93

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1893.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

CONFIDENTIAL. No 10.

Current Number 2877.

Printed April, 11th.

Proceedings, 22nd March 1893, Forest
No. 213.

Encl. 1.

17 APR 93

Communicating to the Agent to the Governor in Ganjam G.O. passing orders on the question of the alleged rights of Khonds over the Maliah forests; requesting him to submit the detailed proposals called for by Government, after duly considering the suggestions in Mr. Hooper's report on the reservation of the Maliahs, and requesting the Government to appoint the Special Assistant Agent, under Act XIV. of 1874, to demarcate the boundary between the Agency and the ordinary tracts in Ganjam.

P. T. O.

Forest
Board No. 213, 28-3-93

I observe that my minute of
Jan 9th 93 has been sent
to me in form for correction of the
proof, & that ^{the} ~~it~~ has not been
brought to the notice of the Board
as is the custom - nor is there
allusion to the existence of the
minute - by a copy of minute
otherwise - I think to
know why this was done & send
all the copies of the proceedings of
the Board which have issued without
any reference to my minute
to be recalled & fresh ones to be
issued with the usual heading
above the heading that a minute
has been issued & the minute to
be printed in full in the No. 1
copy of the report in the office -
when this has been done send
a copy of the No. 1 sent to me
I think

Apparently detailed order in
council has been sent to the Secy
in the No. 1 copy of the report to
print the minute in the usual
number.

To the Comms of the
Judicial Dept } 2/2
with map etc } 2/5/93

action taken with reference
to these remarks, please see
notes with Encl. No 57 of 21-1-93.

MMO
19-4-93

Read C. No 2877 of 93

Order misc. No 1597
25/4/93

The Govt agrees
with the Board in the view
expressed in para 8 of its
Resoln read above regarding the
advisability of the immediate
demarcation of the boundary
line between the Scheduled
and the ordinary tracts of
the Ganjam district. Orders
on the proposal to appoint
the Special Asst Agent to carry
out the work in question will
be passed in the Judicial Dept.

Am

23 4 93

25/4/93 25/4/93

note

It is presumed that the
appointment of the Special Asst
Agent under Sec 8 of Act XIV of
1874 (the Scheduled Districts Act)
has to be made in the Judicial
Dept.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Ag. Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with a map (to be returned).

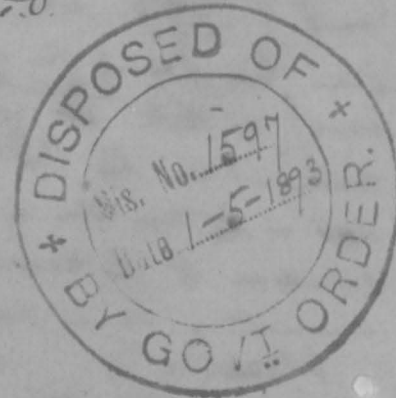
Collector and Agent to the Governor, Ganjam.
Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

621
13-78

1923
25-5-93

Confidential

2.C. No. 3677 of 93 = Draft - G.O.
2.C. No. 4427 of 93



Req^d the demarcation of the
boundary line between the
Scheduled and the Ordinary
tracts of Gangan

H.M.S.

2/15

To

The Hon the Chief Secy
Judicial Dept
for favor of counter initials

nt copy sent to Press.

turned for Signature.

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