

Revenue Department
Minutes of Consultations

4th May 1858,

Back no 66

Order no 570 2/4th May

(108)

1858

26
2

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 4th May 1858.

No. 570.

No. 66. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 4th May 1858.

Para. 1. In a letter addressed to the Honorable Court of Directors under date the 20th September 1855, recommending the establishment of a Forest Department, the Government laid much stress on the advantages to be derived from such an establishment. They remarked that, in the consideration of a letter written by Mr G. Williams (now Assistant Conservator) respecting the Forests of the Western Ghats, their attention had been directed to the larger and more important subject of the Forests generally of the Madras Presidency. These, they represented, were of considerable extent and of great value, that it was absolutely necessary to their due economy and preservation that a proper selection of trees to be cut down should be made; that care should be taken that the thinnings should be so arranged as to afford opportunity for young trees to replace those taken away; and that without a careful, systematic, and skilled superintendence over these valuable possessions, great waste must take place, valuable trees would be cut down for little or no purpose, and the timber destroyed without adequate compensation to Government, and without due means being taken for replacing it.

2. The Honorable Court concurred in the views of this Government as to the importance of taking suitable measures for preserving the forests of this Presidency, and upon the encouragement thus afforded, the matter was left to be matured by Dr. Cleghorn. On the 9th August 1856, he submitted a scheme of forest conservancy which was forwarded to the Government of India, on the 2d September following, and, with certain small exceptions involving a reduction of expenditure, it received the sanction of that authority on the 7th November 1856.

3. Dr. Cleghorn's scheme contemplated the employment of six officers, the four higher paid ones on the Canara, Malabar, Annamalai, and Wynaud forests, and the two lower paid ones on the duty of exploring the forests in other parts of the Presidency. This scheme was afterwards modified in its details, by the arrangements suggested in the Conservator's letter of the 9th March 1857. By these, one Assistant was continued in charge of the Annamalai forests, and another in North Canara; a third was nominated to the superintendence of the Wynaud forest, but, pending the organization of an establishment for it, was to be employed on a tour to the Southern Districts, while a fourth held a travelling appointment in the Northern Districts, and a fifth Assistant was nominated to the charge of the Conservator's office, to audit accounts at the Presidency. Dr. Cleghorn did not make any recommendation for the highest appointment of 400 Rupees, as he was then in communication with parties at a distance. The appointment however remains unfilled, notwithstanding that more than a year has elapsed since he last wrote on the subject.

4. Dr. Cleghorn was appointed Conservator of Forests on the 19th December 1856, and it occurs to the Government that the time has arrived for the submission of a report on the actual working of the forest department, such as will inform the Honorable Court of Directors of the extent to which the expectations held out to them by this Government have been realized. In Extract Minutes of Consultation 12th November 1857, No. 1153, para. 22, the Government directed that in future one annual Report for all the forests should be submitted instead of a separate one for each as was theretofore the practice, and which they said should contain only a narrative of the past year's transactions. As the official year is almost at its close, the Governor in Council requests that the Conservator will, in conformity with the above order, submit, as soon after as may be convenient to him, a general report of the operations carried on by the Forest Department in all its branches from the date of its organization, shewing the tours of himself and his Assistants, the places visited by each, the nature of the information which their enquiries elicited, and the extent to which the results enabled the maturing of a system of conservancy for the forests of this Presidency, such as the Honorable Court have been led to expect.

* செப்பனிருவர் பெயர் *செப்பனிருவர்* *
* செப்பனிருவதற்காக எடுத்தக் 6/20/58 *
* கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் *
* செப்பனிரு முடிந்த நாள் 8/20/58 *
* *25. 1918. 1/1/58* *
* சரிபார்க்கும் *சுரமயச்சி உதவி* *
* மு. நி. பா. எ. யாளர் *
* கையொப்பம் . கையொப்பம் *

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 4th May 1858.

The report should be a complete record of the transactions of the Forest department, and should shew, under distinct heads, the expence incurred to the close of the official year. The appointment of an Assistant Conservator, receiving a salary of 200 Rupees to the duties of the Conservator's office which were originally designed for the Head writer on 100 Rupees a month requires to be explained to the satisfaction of the Honorable Court. The Conservator will make it a rule to furnish a report at the end of each official year in conformity with the practice which prevails in all departments of the administration.

Para. 7 of letter 9th March 1857.

Page 2 of letter dated 2nd September 1856.

5. The Government acknowledge having received several interesting reports from the Conservator and his Assistants on the forests of Salem, North Arcot, and Annamalai, and on the timber of the Pulney Hills, as well as on matters connected generally with the conservancy. These however do not give a connected view of the operations of the Forest department. The reports not yet transmitted to the Honorable Court are the following.

First in respect of the Annamalai forests. This establishment has existed for some time, and the accounts and correspondence relating to it for periods previous to 1857 were forwarded to the Honorable Court with a letter dated 17th December 1857, No. 45, para. 22. The accounts for Fusly 1265, and for the official year ending 30th April 1857, being inaccurate, were returned to the Conservator with a remark that the Government noticed with disappointment the manner in which these documents had passed his office.

Cons. 25th November 1856, Nos. 18 to 20.	79-80.
6th February 1857, "	29-30.
Rev. Cons. 24th March 1857, "	8 to 14.
Dy. 17th November "	49-50.
8th September "	10-11.
16th February 1858, "	

The Wynad forests. The last report made on this subject to the Honorable Court is dated 20th October 1856, No. 31, para. 10. The further correspondence on this subject was communicated to the Conservator on the 11th August 1857.

Dy. 17th March 1857, No. 7.
11th August " " 37 to 39.

Report on the timber of the Pulney Hills. Letter in reply to one from the Collector of Coimbatore communicating the views of the Conservator on the grant of Forest land for coffee cultivation.

Dy. 26th January 1858, Nos. 13-14.

Cons. 29th October 1857, Nos. 55-56.

Reports from Mr. G. Williams, Assistant Conservator of Forests, on the Salem and North Arcot forests and their capabilities of supplying timber for Sleepers for the Railway Department.

Finl. R. Cons. 22d September 1857, No. 16.	
Rev. Dy. 26th January 1858, "	33 to 35.
" 16th February "	51-52.
" 19th March "	13-14.

Memorandum on the Streeharicot-tah Jungles and the firewood supply of Madras.

6. The Governor in Council will take an early opportunity of forwarding the above correspondence to the Honorable Court, and will intimate to that authority, that they have called for a general report for the current year which will be transmitted in due course.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 4th May 1858.

To the Hon. Secy of Govt. 20th Sept 1855, N. 40.
From Secy 5th March 1856, N. 1/30:18.

¶1. In a letter addressed to the Honorable Court of Directors under date the 20th September 1855, recommending the establishment of a Forest department, the Government laid much stress on the advantages to be derived from such an establishment. They remarked that, in the consideration of a letter written by Mr. G. Williams (now Assistant Conservator) respecting the Forests of the western Ghats, their attention had been directed to the larger and more important subject of the Forests generally of the Madras Presidency. These they represented were of considerable extent and of great value, that

it was absolutely necessary to
their due economy and preser-
vation that a proper selection
of trees to be cut down should
be made; that care should
be taken that the thinnings
should be so arranged as to con-
fess opportunity for young
trees to replace those taken away;
and that without a careful su-
pervision, and skilled super-
intendence over these valuable
possessions, great waste must
take place, valuable trees would
be cut down for little or no
purpose, and the timber de-
stroyed without adequate
compensation to Government,
and without due means being
taken for replacing it.

The Honorable Court
concurred in the views of this
Government as to the importance
of taking suitable measures
for

From Mr. Blegghorn 9th August 1850.

To Govt. of India 20 September 1856. No. 922.

From Govt. of India 7th November 1856. No. 2950. authority on the 7th November 1856.

for preserving the Forests of
this Presidency, and upon the
encouragement thus afforded,
the matter was left to be con-
sidered by Mr. Blegghorn. On the
9th August 1856 he submitted a
Scheme of Forest Conservation
which was forwarded to the
Government of India, on the
2nd September following, and with
certain small exceptions involv-
ing a reduction of expenditure,
it received the sanction of that

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Mr. Blegghorn's Scheme
contemplated the employment
of six officers, the four higher
paid ones on the Canara, Co-
malabar, & Annamalai, and
Wynnad forests, and the two
lower paid ones on the duty of
exploring the forests in other parts
of the Presidency. This Scheme was
afterwards modified in its details
by

by the arrangements suggested
in the Conservator's letter of the
9th March 1857. By these, one
Assistant was continued in
charge of the anomalous
forests, and another in North
Conara; a third was nominated
to the superintendence of the
Wynand forest, but, pending
the organization of an Estab-
lishment for it, was to be
employed on a tour to the
Southern Districts, while
a fourth held a travelling
appointment in the Northern
Districts, and a fifth Assistant
was nominated to the charge
of the Conservator's Office,
to audit accounts at the
Presidency. Mr. Cleghorn
did not make any recom-
mendation for the highest
appointment of 200 Rupees, as he
was then in communication
with

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with parties at a distance.
The appointment however
remains unfilled, notwith-
standing that more than a
year has elapsed since he last
wrote on the subject.

4 Mr. Cleghorn was
appointed Conservator of Forests
on the 19th December 1856, and
it occurs to the Government
that the time has arrived for
the submission of a report on
the actual working of the
Forest department, such as
will inform the Honorable
Court of Directors of the extent
to which the expectations held
out to them by this Government
have been realized. In Extract
Minis. Cons. 12th November 1857
No 1153 para 22, the Government
directed that in future one
annual Report for all the
forests should be submitted
instead

instead of a separate one for
each as was therefore the practice,
and which they said should
~~only~~ ^{only} contain a narrative of the
past year's transactions. As the
official year is almost at its
close, the Governor in Council
requests that the Conservator
will, in conformity with the
above order, submit, as soon after
as may be convenient to him,
a general report of the operations
carried on by the Forest depart-
ment in all its branches from
the date of its organization,
showing the tours of himself
and his assistants, the places
visited by each, the nature of
the information which their
enquiries elicited, and the
extent to which the results
enabled the maturing of a system
of conservancy for the forests of
this Presidency, such as the

Honorable

6E
Honorable Court have been
led to expect. The Report
should be a complete record
of the transactions of the
Forest department, and should
show, under distinct heads, the
expense incurred to the close
of the official year. Referring
to the appointment of Senior
Assistant Conservator, to which
no nomination has yet been
made, it will be well for
Dr. Cleghorn to consider whether
it may not be altogether
abolished and thus reduce
the expenditure of the Conserv-
ancy. The appointment
of an Assistant Conservator
receiving a salary of 200 Rupees
to the duties of the Conservator's
office which were originally
designed for the Head writer
on 100 Rs a month requires
to be reconsidered, if not
explained

Para 7 of letter 9th March 1857.

Page 2 of letter dated 2nd Sept^r 1856.

explained to the satisfaction of
the Honorable Court. The Conservator
will make it a rule to furnish
a report at the end of each
official year in conformity with
the practice which prevails in
all departments of the adminis-
tration.

5. The Government
acknowledges having received
several interesting reports from
the Conservator and his assistants
on the forests of Salem, North
And, and Annamalai, and on
the timber of the Palmy Hills,
as well as on matters connected generally
with the Conservancy. There are
however ~~of a fragmentary character~~
and do not give a connected
view of the operations
of the Forest department.
The reports not yet trans-
mitted to the Honorable Court
are

Cons. 25th November 1856 N^o 18 @ 20.
6th February 1857 " 79 " 80.
Cons. 24th March 1857 " 29 " 30.
17th Nov. " " 8 @ 14.
8th Sep. 1857 " 19 " 50.
16th February 1858 " 10 " 11.

By 17th March 1857 N^o 7.
11th August " " 37 @ 39.

7th are the following.

First in respect of the Annamalai
forests. This establishment has
existed for some time, and
the accounts and correspondence
relating to it for periods previous
to 1857 were forwarded to the Honorable
Court with a letter dated 17th
December 1857 N^o 45 para 22. The
accounts for fully 1265, and for
the official year ending 30th
April 1857, being inaccurate,
were returned to the Conservator
with a remark that the
Government acted with
disappointment the manner
in which these documents
passed his office.

The Wynnad forests. The last report
made on this subject to the
Honorable Court is dated 20th October
1856, N^o 31 para 10. The further
correspondence on this subject was
communicated to the Conservator
the 11th August 1857. Ref.

Report on the Timber of the Talney Hills.

Dy. 26th Jan'y. 1858. N^o 13-14

Letter in reply to one from the Collector of Coimbatore communicating the views of the Conservator on the grant of Forest land for Coffee cultivation.

Cons. 29th October 1857 N^o 55-56

Reports from Mr. G. Williams asst. Conservator of Forests on the Salem and North Arcot forests and their capabilities of supplying Timber for the use of the Railway department.

Fin. R. Cons. 22nd Sept. 1857 N^o 16.
Rev. Dy. 26th Jan'y. 1858 - " 33
" 16th Feb'y. " " 51
" 19th March " " 13

Memorandum on the Meeharicottah Jungles and the firewood supply of Madras.

Dy. Cons. 27 April 1858 N^o 12

The Governor in Council will take an early opportunity of forwarding the enclosed correspondence to the Honorable Court, and will intimate to that authority that they have called for a general report for the

current

current year which will be transmitted in due course.

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Copies to the Conservator of Forests - Dist^o 5

Copy in a Letter to Eng. Jan
Dated 1st June 1858. N^o 24.

82

Revenue 1858 Departs
Cons 4th May

N^o 570.

Extract Minis of Cons.
Of 4th May 58.

From the Conservator of Forests 1st June 58
H. Wilson. 10 Aug.

Explaining that that will
take an early opportunity of for-
warding the correspondence in the
most convenient way to the Hon.
Court, will intimate to that
authority, that they have called
for a genl. Report for the Cur-
rent year, which will be
transmitted in due course.

N^o 66.

19 April 27th

Revenue 1858 Report
June 4. May

No 370

Be. House of Com.

25th 4 May 1858.

6

Explaining that Govt.
will take no easy opportunity of
frustrating the evidence as
the first counterway to the House
Govt. must not intimate that
authorities that they have called
for a general Report for the
current year, which will be
transmitted in due season -

Ap 56.

29 April 24th