M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	1346.	Press Mis.
Dated	19-10-1874 ~~196~~.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/1346

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19*th October* 1874.

No. 251. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th September 1874, No. 2,661 :—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 4th June 1874, No. 1,345 (Forest No. 77) and 17th July 1874, No. 1,860 (Forest No. 104).

Read also the following letters :—

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 4th July 1874, No. 339.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings* of the 4th ultimo, No. 1,345, Forest No. 77, referring for my remarks Captain Walker's letter of the 8th April last, No. 8, and calling on me to state what has been done with regard to the reserves mentioned in paragraph 5 and the boundary-disputes referred to in paragraph 8 thereof.

2. Captain Walker proposes to transfer, for forest purposes, from the Salem to the South Arcot District those portions of the eastern slopes of the Jevadis, reaching down to the Chengam Pass and the Tenmallai Hill, to be amalgamated with the two fuel-reserves in this district, known as the Chinnasamudram and Mudenai reserves which lie, respectively, adjoining the slopes and hill proposed to be so transferred; and in paragraph 5 he says these reserves are identical with those designated in a report of his of November 1867, and that their formation was approved and sanctioned by Government; that some correspondence subsequently took place with the Collector, and that the Board finally sanctioned the formation of these reserves; that he visited the hills subsequently with the Head Assistant Collector of Salem, but does not know what progress, if any, has been made, concluding with the remark that " certainly nothing has been done in South Arcot".

3. The language used by Captain Walker is not as clear as could be wished. After carefully looking into the matter I come to the conclusion that what he means is that Government approved of the formation into forest reserves of those portions of the Jevadis he now wishes to transfer to South Arcot and to amalgamate with two of the fuel-reserves in this district adjoining them; that he corresponded with the Collector of Salem on the subject, and that the " nothing" which has been done in South Arcot is towards the formation by the South Arcot forest officers of the Tenmallai and eastern slopes of the Jevadis into reserves. Manifestly not, because they are in Salem. It was the business of the Salem officers to form them, and is distinctly laid down as such in paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings of the 27th November 1868, No. 8,372. It will be time enough for the South Arcot officers to bestir themselves in the matter when Captain Walker's present proposals for amalgamation are approved. The Chinnasamudram and Mudenai fuel-reserves have, for a considerable time, been roughly demarcated and brought under conservancy.

4. I think the proposed amalgamation a very good idea.

5. I am in favor of departmental felling as much as possible, particularly of reserved timbers, and agree with Captain Walker that the Trinomalai depôt in particular should be always kept well supplied; but I think it would be absurd to attempt to check exports of timber to other districts.

6. As to the question of the rights of the Poligars in the Kallakurchi Taluq to the forests on the slopes and jungles at foot of the hills some correspondence between the Collectors of Salem and South Arcot passed on receipt of the Government order quoted by Captain Walker in paragraph 8 of his letter; and in consequence of the Poligars contending that there is no boundary dispute in existence to be submitted to arbitration, and being unfavorably disposed to any investigation of the matter, Mr. Sullivan sent to Mr. Longley a notice to be signed by both Collectors and served on the Poligars, warning them to appear and register any documents in support of their title. No investigation appears to have taken place, and, although the 22nd April last was fixed on as the day for the meeting between Captain Francklyn as representing the Salem District and the Sub-Collector and Deputy-Conservator of this district at Tallavassal, yet, owing to the illness of Captain Francklyn no meeting took place. It has been now settled for the 20th instant, and the matter will then probably be advanced a stage.

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* Returning tracing received with the Proceedings.

Enclosure No. 1.—Sketch.

From C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th August 1874, No. 326.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 77, dated the 4th June last, No. 1,345, I have the honor to enclose a rough sketch (sent separately), showing the tracts of forest to which the letter of the Inspector of Forests refers. The several reserves are distinctly marked on the sketch.

2. I do not quite agree with Captain Walker that it is impossible to work the forests on the southern slopes of the Jevadis. They can and are worked; but they can no doubt be better worked from the South Arcot side. I would, therefore, give up to South Arcot all that marked on the sketch by dotted line, which includes the Tenmallai (Reserve No. VIII.) and the whole of the Kilathur Valley. The only alteration which this will make in Captain Walker's proposals is that Reserve No. VII. will still remain in the Salem District.

3. There is no objection to Reserve No. VIII. being transferred to North Arcot.

4. The slopes of the Jedaya Gounden Nad, which are in this district, should remain as they are. The Board are aware that the right of Government to these slopes has been questioned, and I am endeavoring to get the boundary defined under Act XXVIII. of 1860.

5. I quite agree with the Inspector of Forests that the forest officers of Salem, North, and South Arcot Districts, should meet and demarcate the boundaries. As regards the boundary referred to in paragraph 2 of Mr. Whiteside's letter, embodied in the Board's Proceedings of the 17th July last, No. 1,860, the Deputy-Conservator states that no revision on that side is required, as will be seen from paragraph 5 of his letter enclosed. The matter may, however, be discussed and settled when the two forest officers meet.

Enclosure No. 1.—Sketch.

Enclosure No. 2.

From J. B. BROUGHAM, Esq., Deputy-Conservator of Forests, Salem, to the Collector and Conservator of Forests, Salem, dated 21st August 1874, No 232.

No 62, dated 25th June 1874, accompanying 1 Plan (to be kindly returned).

With reference to your letter marginally noted, I have the honor to state that the proposals contained in the Inspector of Forests' letter, embodied in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th July 1874, appear to me advisable, as the tracts on the Jevadi Hills proposed to be made over are more conveniently situated to the districts of North and South Arcot than they are to Salem, and were their transfer to take place to those districts timber would not have to be conveyed to such long distances to the depôts as would be the case if the jungles continued to remain under our charge.

2. I would, however, beg to state that the tracts in question can be worked by the Forest Department of Salem, and that at present our operations are gradually being extended owing to the scarcity of ripe timber of the reserved kinds near at hand becoming more and more scarce, on which account we are obliged to go deep into the forests to obtain supplies for the depôts. The tracts on the Jevadis proposed to be transferred to North and South Arcot were not encroached upon until lately, as we were able to draw a sufficient supply from the jungles for our depôts within a short distance; but now that the forests which have been cut over for some years require rest, others must take their place. Should, however, the Inspector's proposals be carried out, I fear that we shall have to limit our operations to pretty considerable extent.

3. There is no timber of any value which can be cut in the tract referred to in Captain Walker's letter as No. I., and also in a large portion of No. V. No. IX. is situated on the Yailagherry Hills, and the extent is roughly estimated at two square miles. The tract contains

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Teak, Pullanay, Numay, and other kinds of timber. The Teak, I am of opinion, will never grow good timber, except for poles; and, on the whole, I do not think we shall be able to obtain more than a small supply of timber from this reserve.

4. As regards the Culroyen Hills, I beg to state that the western (and not the eastern) slopes of the Poliem known as Jedaya Gounden Nad are situated in this district, which, I think, might well continue to remain in our hands and be worked by the forest officers of this district. Our right to the slope in question is in dispute, and an early settlement of this long-pending question is most desirable.

5. Touching paragraph 2 of the letter from the Collector of North Arcot, I beg to state that no revision of boundary between this and the North Arcot District near Goorajapolliem is necessary, as not the least difficulty is experienced in the way of working the jungles in that direction. The only thing which calls for consideration is the demarcation of the limits of the two districts, which will at once put an end to the disputes alluded to by Mr. Whiteside. Before we commenced working the jungles south, east, and west of Moolapaudy, I believe they were much encroached upon by the North Arcot license-holders; but since our operations extended to that side, and we have a larger establishment to look after the felling operations, we have been able to keep a slight check over people cutting timber in the Salem limits on North Arcot passes; still, however, a definite line to mark the boundary of the two districts is indispensable, and would conduce to the conservancy of the jungles.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. W. JOHNSTON,
Deputy-Collector For Collector.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 12th September 1874, No. 484.

In continuation of my letter of the 4th July last, No. 339, I have the honor to forward copy of a communication, No. 375, dated 5th instant, received from the Deputy-Conservator of Forests of this district, and to request that orders may be issued at once to stop all felling by the Salem contractor on the Tenmallai slopes, till it is decided whether it is to be a South Arcot or Salem reserve.

Enclosure No. 1.

From H. L. WOOLDRIDGE, Esq., Deputy-Conservator of Forests, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Trinomallay, 5th September 1874, No. 375.

I have the honor to report that I have received information that the Tripatoor forester is about to fell timber through the agency of a contractor on the plateau of the Tenmallai.

2. I beg to represent that the proposal for the hill being formally recognised as a forest reserve of South Arcot Range is now under consideration before the Board of Revenue (Board's Proceedings, No. 1,345, dated 4th June 1874), that it has been carefully conserved with the South Arcot Forest establishment since 1866; that some expenditure on the improvement of the young Teak and Sandal trees has been incurred since my taking charge of the range; that it was placed under the charge of the South Arcot Overseer in 1866 by the Deputy-Conservator of Salem, and worked for South Arcot by that Overseer; that it was named to me as a portion of my range when I took charge from the forest officer of Salem; that all felling of Teak and Sandal has been prohibited, and the orders carried into effect for the past three years by the South Arcot Conservancy Establishment; that the large gang of 200 men reported to me as being about to commence felling operations on the plateau and slopes will denude the hill of all the valuable timber if not prevented in a very short time; that the Forest Department in the Salem Range have never, until now that the question is before Government, attempted to exercise the right of ownership to these forests, nor ever deputed one of their establishment to watch over it, while, on the other hand, the South Arcot Forest Establishment have always done both; and I beg to suggest,

therefore, that the felling and other operations about to be undertaken by the Salem Forest Department should be deferred till the question as to which Forest Range the hill is to belong to is decided by Government and orders passed, and would beg you to take such immediate measures to effect this as may seem most expedient to you.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The forest reserves, which will be referred to in these Proceedings, are clearly marked in the map submitted by the Collector of Salem.

3. The Jevadis at the point where North Arcot, South Arcot, and Salem meet, are in the Salem District. The Inspector of Forests proposes to transfer the slopes which contain Reserve VIII. to North Arcot, those which contain Reserves II. and VII. to South Arcot, and keep the rest in Salem.

4. The slopes to be transferred are so situated that they can be most conveniently worked downward into North Arcot and South Arcot, and must be, unless the wood is to be carried long distances, over rough hill-paths.

5. The Collectors of the three districts concerned agree to the transfer, with the exception that the Collector of Salem wishes to keep Reserve VII.

6. A valley belonging to South Arcot runs up between the slopes containing Reserves II. and VII., and the Board think they should both be transferred. In the meantime, pending the decision of Government, the Collector of Salem will be good enough to stop all felling in the reserves, which it is proposed to transfer to North Arcot and South Arcot.

If Government sanction the transfer, the Deputy-Conservators of North Arcot, South Arcot, and Salem, should meet at Attimatore in October, and settle and demarcate the boundaries.

7. With regard to the Jadaya Gounden Nad, which is referred to in these papers, the Board observe that an officer of the Survey Department is now engaged in settling the boundary under Act XXVIII. of 1860.

8. The questions raised with regard to fuel plantations and reserves in South Arcot are dealt with in Board's Proceedings, dated 1st September 1874, No. 2,470, Forest No. 150.

No. 252. ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1874, No. 1,346.

Forests No. 11.

THE transfer of the slopes containing reserves Nos. II. and VII. to South Arcot and of those containing reserve No. VIII. to North Arcot is sanctioned as recommended by the Board.

2. The settlement of the boundary referred to in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings should be expedited.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" The Inspector of Forests

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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Govt. of {1874} Madra

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD of REVENUE.

Dated October 19th.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 19th October 1874, No. 1,346.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 251-252.

Forest Reserves in Salem and South Ar and North Arcot Districts.—Sanctioning the tran fer of certain reserves from one district to anoth and observing that the settlement of the bou dary in connection with the slopes of the Jadai Gounden Nad Polliem should be expedited.

4/1346

FOREST No. 77.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th June 1874, No. 1,345.

Read the following letter from Captain C. WALKER, Officiating Inspector of Forests, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 8th April 1874, No. 8 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit proposals for placing the Hill forests, bordering on the South Arcot District, on an improved footing as regards their conservancy and working. The measures proposed were mostly suggested by Mr. Wooldridge during my recent tour of inspection, and from my long and intimate acquaintance with these forests bordering on Salem and North Arcot I am in a position to vouch for their being advisable and necessary.

2. These Hill forests are situated on the eastern and southern slopes of the Jevadi hills in the Chengum Division of the Trinomally Taluq, and on the eastern slopes of the Colroyen hills in the Kullakurchi Taluq, and contain timber more or less valuable. The whole of this portion of the Jevadis is included in the Salem District, but as the forests can never be supervised nor worked from that side I propose that the whole of the hill known as the Tenmullay, and the eastern slopes reaching down to the pass betwixt Chengum and Singarpettah, should be placed under the South Arcot Forest Officer, the slopes above the Polur Taluq being in a similar manner placed under North Arcot ; the arrangement being for *forest purposes only*, and making no alteration in the existing Land revenue or Magisterial jurisdiction or district boundaries.

3. If the Board will please refer to the Ordnance map they will see what I mean, and in order better to illustrate it I submit a rough sketch showing the outline of the hills and proposed forest boundaries which should be considered in conjunction with my reports on these hills, recorded with G. O., No. 1,173, dated 17th May 1866, and No. 482, dated 20th February 1868.

As a matter of fact these forests have always been worked from the South Arcot side, and those on what are known as the Burghoor Nad slopes from North Arcot (Polur Taluq), but now that there is a separate officer in charge of each district it becomes necessary to define the limits of supervision by each.

[illegible] villages in the valley which runs up from Chengum, and nearly bisects the hills, were transferred from Salem to South Arcot after the Collector's visit along with me in 1866, but I believe all the villagers and cultivators on the hills pay kist to Salem, excepting some at the northern end towards Vellore.

There has lately been a dispute about some land in the valley. I will not be, however, affected by these proposals.

4. If my suggestions are approved of by the Board and the Collectors of the three districts it would, I think, be necessary for the three Forest Officers to meet at some central point at which the village of Attimartore recommends itself, and settle the details as to boundaries, etc,; after which the Salem and North Arcot Forest Officers might, with advantage, proceed to settle some line of forest boundary at the north and north-western end of the hills where there is a constant dispute. The month of October or November is generally the healthiest time on the hills. I have visited them repeatedly in those months and never got fever, nor did any of my people, but I took care of them. I would then constitute the whole of the Tenmullay and a portion of the slopes to the westward on the other side of the valley, open forest reserves for South Arcot to be demarcated, surveyed, and worked departmentally, portions being closed from time to time for reproduction ; men and cattle being excluded from the closed portions only.

5. These reserves would be above the existing fuel reserves of *Moodenai* and *Chinasamudram*, which would be thrown into them and form in time most valuable forests both as regards climatic considerations and supply of timber to meet the demand in South Arcot.

They are identical with those designated for reserve in paragraph 6, Nos. II. and VII. in my Report of November 1867, recorded with G. O., No. 482, dated 20th February 1868, which approves and sanctions their formation. Some correspondence subsequently took place with the Collector, who erroneously came to the conclusion that I wished the reserves to be made without consulting him ; but the Board finally sanctioned them in their Proceedings, No. 6,141, dated 26th August

1868, recorded with G. O., No. 2,603, dated 9th October 1868. I do not find any further correspondence on the subject in the records of this office, though I subsequently visited the hills with the Head Assistant Collector of Salem and submitted a report, and do not know what progress, if any, has been made. Certainly nothing has been done in South Arcot.

6. If these proposals are now entertained, and the matter vigorously taken up, the reserve No. VIII., south and south-east of Attimartore, would be a North Arcot reserve ; Nos. II. and VII. as alone South Arcot reserves ; and Nos. I., III , IV., V., and VI. on the plateau and Salem slopes of the Jevadis ; and No. IX. on the Yellagherry Hills, Salem reserves. I would also recommend the formation of a small forest reserve near Trinomally, alluded to in my report on the firewood reserves and plantations of the South Arcot District ; the tract contains timber trees which may become of value, and is the only piece left on the Trinomally Hill.

7. I would then put a stop to all felling on license, save in exceptional cases (*e. g.*, to villagers residing in the neighbourhood of the forests) in which a few permits might be issued at certain seasons by the Forest Officer or Overseer, and the felling regulated. This was all along intended when the felling of the reserved timbers on license was put a stop to, which is the course we generally adopt first, but has not as yet been carried out. The issuing of licenses, as well as vouchers from the Tahsildars' Cutcherries, is always to be deprecated, though it has become very common in order to save trouble to applicants. Under this arrangement there is really no check nor conservancy, as *every* applicant gets a license, whether the timber is available or not, on the payment of the seigniorage, and the Tahsildar and his office cannot know and attend to where felling should and should not be permitted, etc. The system, even as regards issuing tickets for firewood, free passes, etc., needs revision after careful consideration, and whilst the Revenue Department should in all cases receive the money and issue the voucher the Forest Department should issue the pass and control the felling.

Departmental working should be extended and its management improved, the Trinomally Depôt in particular being kept well supplied to meet local requirements, but every endeavour should be made to check export to other districts. There is, or will be enough timber in the district, including that brought by sea for district wants but not for export. The system of working in the adjoining district of North Arcot should be [illegible] and license system is in force, and much felling is stated to go on within South Arcot limits on licenses issued by the Polur Tahsildar. I have already addressed the North Arcot Collector on the subject.

8. In the Kullakurchi Taluq, which, with Trinomally, forms the Forester's Range, and to which two taluqs, the attention of the Forest Officer and establishments was restricted until 1869, matters are complicated by the question, which still remain unsettled, as to the rights of the Poligars, Aryah Gounden, Jadya Gounden, and Coorumba Gounden, to the forests on the slopes and jungles at foot of the hills.

I would urge strongly that the matter should be finally *settled* under Act. XXVIII. of 1860, as suggested by Government in G. O., No. 185, dated 30th January 1872, on which, so far as I can ascertain, no action has been taken.

9. The Government state in the above quoted G. O. that they "have no desire whatever to restrict the Jaghiredars' limits unduly," and I am sure I had none when I mooted the question in 1869, but at the same time I can scarcely believe that these Poligars, who came from Conjeveram and settled on the plateau of the hills, have the sole right in the forests down to the plains. I have perused Mr. Reade's report and the Board's Proceedings (No. 3,163, dated 28th July 1871) on this matter, and regret extremely that there was no officer present to represent the Forest Department when the Collector visited the hills.

I feel bound to state that I cannot agree with the late Collector and the Board that the *prescriptive* rights of the Poligars "*admit of no question* ;" the fact is that it is the contractors who lease the jungles, *not* the Poligars nor the Government Forest Department who have put forward the claims, and, on the strength of the boundary stones said to have been put up by the Revenue Survey Department, which I see Colonel Priestley denies. It was in 1865 or 1866 that

5/1346

the Poligars' contractor appears first to have claimed the right to fell on the northern or Cotaputty slopes in the Salem District, and, on the strength of these very stones, not as the Board appear to imagine from paragraph 12 of their Proceedings already quoted, the Government in the Forest Department who advanced the claim. Supposing that the slopes do not belong to the Poligars they would still possess a very extensive area, including all the villages on the plateau ; and it is certain that whether the possession is theirs or not the Government ryots of the plains in the Kullakurchi and Utungherry Taluqs exercised certain privileges now put a stop to, except on payment, until the extensive clearing in the plains, and daily increasing value of all forests or jungle tracts induced some enterprising natives to lease the forests from the Poligars at first for a merely nominal rent.

I do not believe that, until comparatively recently, either the Hill Poligars or the residents in the plains ever thought or cared about the possession of the slopes, and both used them when necessary, but avoided entering them as much as possible.

Now that they have become of value on account of their timber and forest products it is very necessary to settle the boundary once and for all, and to endeavour to lease whatever is decided to be the Poligar's property, at least whenever the produce would be worked downwards and not taken up above, which latter is rarely the case ; no proposals or arrangements for a lease should, however, be made or entertained until the boundary question is first settled on its merits. As stated in my report of 1869, paragraph 15, the contractors are in the habit of making villagers pay for the right to take leaves, thorns, etc., which surely cannot be right under any circumstances, as the villagers' prescriptive right to these *is* clear, and admitted in every Government Forest.

10. If these matters can be satisfactorily disposed of, departmental working should be extended to these forests ; if not any attempt at Forest conservancy and working of the existing Hill forests must of course be abandoned, and the conservation of the jungles in the plains and firewood plantations carried out as village jungle conservancy works.

I have dealt fully with the firewood question, which is very important in this taluq, in my report on the fuel reserves, plantations, etc.

11. As to the financial prospects of South Arcot as a Forest District I [illegible] to take a favourable view. It has been customary to regard these sparsely wooded districts as unimportant, but it is really here where much of our work lies. We must, of course, be prepared to spend considerable sums in planting and reserving of jungles in the plains for some years to come, but that will all be more than recouped ere long. The judicious working of the *Hill forests*, which still contain ample stores of timber, is always very remunerative, and if carried on on the scale I propose will more than cover the pay of the officer, his office, and the Forester and Forest establishments ; but the allotment for felling, etc., will have to be increased next year.

12. The existing Forest establishments are far too weak to be efficient, and the Forester's pay too low, but all this will be considered in fixing the District establishments and after disposal of my proposals for the transfer of Gingee reserves and the Multar plantations to imperial, and their maintenance and extension as an extraordinary charge for the next two or three years when they will commence to pay.

Mr. Wooldridge is now thoroughly at home in South Arcot, and has the confidence of the Collector, and if these arrangements now proposed are sanctioned, and the general principles of administration definitely laid down, I am confident of good results both under Imperial and Local conservancy.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Rough Sketch.

IT would have been better if before submitting this report the Inspector of Forests had discussed all the points raised in it with the Collectors concerned, and especially the Collector of South Arcot, whom he might have seen when inspecting the district. As it is the Board must refer the report to the Collectors of North Arcot, South Arcot, and Salem for their observations.

2. The Collector of South Arcot will state what has been done with regard to the reserves mentioned in paragraph 5, and the boundary disputes referred to in paragraph 8.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Inspector of Forests.
,, ,, Collector of South Arcot, with one Sketch to be returned.
,, ,, ,, of North Arcot.
,, ,, of Salem.

1874.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Rev. 3367/79

Proceedings, 4th June 1874, No. 1,345.

Rec 1341/74

Encl.

Received

JUNE.

Forest No. 77.

Hill Forests—bordering on South Arcot District.—Proposals of Officiating Inspector of Forests for placing—on an improved footing, as regards their conservancy and working, eferred to Collectors of North Arcot, South Arcot, and Salem for their observations.

dd 19 October 74 N/1346.

dd 13 Oct 74 No 2251.

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b/1346

FOREST No. 104.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th July 1874, No. 1,860.

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Palmanair, 8th July 1874, No. 363 :—

I have the honor, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 4th ultimo, No. 1,345, to state that I quite agree with Captain Walker in thinking that the forest boundaries between this district and South Arcot and Salem require rectification, and that it is very advisable that the Forest Officers of these districts should meet and re-arrange the boundaries as proposed. This appears to be the only way of preventing the endless disputes now constantly arising.

2. As regards the boundary between this district and Salem, near Goorajapalliem, the Forest Officer, Mr. Sheffield, has already suggested to me its revision; and, as it is important, I think it might be done previous to the other. I beg accordingly to request that the Board will be pleased to pass early orders in the matter.

The Collector of Salem will be requested to report on the subject of paragraph 2 at the same time as he replies to Board's Proceedings, 4th June 1874, No. 1,345, which should be as soon as possible.

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Collector of Salem.
Copy to the Collector of North Arcot.
,, to the Inspector of Forests.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Transfer

1874.

Rev: 336/7/76

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 17TH JULY 1874, No. 1,860.

Encl.

Rev: 1341/76

Received

JULY.

Forest No. 104.

Forest boundaries—between North Arcot and Salem Districts, near Goorajapalliem.—Collector of Salem requested to report on subject of — at same time as he replies to Board's Proceedings regarding placing of hill forests bordering on South Arcot District on an improved footing, as regards their conservancy and working.

Ld. 19 October 1874 No. 1346.

Ln 13 No. 251.

In continuation.

Forest No. 168

Revenue Department.

7/1346

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 17th September 1874.

2661

Read again Board's Proceedings da-

-ted 4th June 1874 No. 1345 (Forest No. 97) and

17th July 1874 No. 1860 (Forest No. 104).

Read also the following.—

No. 339.

From J. H. Garstin Esqre

Collector of South Arcot.

To J. Grose Esqre

Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings* of the 4th Ultimo No. 1345 Forest No. 97, referring for my remarks Captain Walker's letter of the 8th April last No. 8 and calling on me to state what has been done with regard to the reserves mentioned in paragraph

*returning tracing received with the Proceedings transfer for Forest purposes, from the Salem, to the South Arcot, District, those portions of the Eastern Slopes of the Jevadis reaching down to the Chengam Pass, and the Tennalai Hill, to be amalgamated with the 2 fuel reserves in this District known as the Chinnasamudram and Mudenai reserves which lie respectively adjoining the slopes and hill proposed to be so transferred, and in para 5 he says these reserves are identical with those designated in a report of his of November 1867 and that their formation was approved and sanctioned by Government, that some correspondence subsequently took place with the Collector and that the Board finally sanctioned the formation of these reserves, that he visited the hills subsequently with the Head Assistant Collector of Salem but does not know what progress, if any, has been made, concluding with the remark that "certainly nothing has been

been done in South Arcot."

3. The language used by Captain Walker is not as clear as could be wished. After carefully looking into the matter I come to the conclusion that what he means is that Government approved of the formation into Forest Reserves of those portions of the Jevadis he now wishes to transfer to South Arcot and to amalgamate with 2 of the fuel reserves in this District adjoining them — that he corresponded — with the Collector of Salem on the subject and that the "nothing which has been done in South Arcot" is towards the formation by the South Arcot Forest Officers, of the Tennalai and Eastern Slopes of the Jevadis into Reserves. — Manifestly not, because they are in Salem. It was the business of the Salem Officers to form them, and is distinctly laid down as such in para 3 of the Board's Proceedings of the 27th November 1868 No. 8372. It will be time enough for the

× Communicated to
No 509 [illegible]/18
No 2803.

the South Arcot Officers to bestir themselves in the matter when Captain Walker's present proposals for amalgamation are approved. The Chinnasamudram and Mudenai fuel reserves have for a considerable time been roughly demarcated and brought under Conservancy

4. I think the proposed amalgamation a very good idea.

5. I am in favour of Departmental felling as much as possible particularly of reserved timbers, and agree with Captain Walker that the Trinomalai Depôt in particular should be always kept well supplied, but I think it would be absurd to attempt to check exports of timber to other Districts.

6. As to the question of the rights of the Poligars in the Kullakurchy Taluq to the Forests on the slopes and jungles at foot of the hills, some correspondence between the Collectors of Salem and

South Arcot

South Arcot passed on receipt of the Government Order quoted by Captain Walker in para 8 of his letter, and in consequence of the Poligars contending that there is no boundary dispute in existence to be submitted to arbitration, and being unfavourably disposed to any investigation of the matter, Mr Sullivan sent to Mr Longley a notice to be signed by both Collectors and served on the Poligars, warning them to appear and register any documents in support of their title. No investigation appears to have taken place, and, although the 22nd April last was fixed on as the day for the meeting between Captain Franklyn as representing the Salem District and the Sub Collector and Deputy Conservator of this District at Tallavassal, yet, owing to the illness of of Captain Francklyn no meeting took place. It has been now settled for the 20th Instant and the matter will then probably be advanced a stage.

South Arcot
Collector's Office
Cuddalore
4th July 1874.

I have &c
(Signed) J. H. Garstin
Collector

No. 326.

From
The Collector of
Salem
To
The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to the Boards' Proceedings. Forest No. [illegible] dated the 4th June last No. 1345, I have the honour to enclose *sent separately. a rough *Sketch showing the tracts of Forest to which the letter of the Inspector of Forests refers. The several reserves are distinctly marked on the Sketch.

2. I do not quite agree with Captain Walker that it is impossible to work the Forests on the Southern Slopes of the Javadis. They

12/1346

They can and are worked, but they can no doubt be better worked from the South Arcot side. I would therefore give up to South Arcot all that marked on the Sketch by dotted line, which includes the Thenmalai (Reserve No. VIII) and the whole of the Kilathur Valley. The only alteration which this will make in Captain Walker's proposals is that Reserve No. VII will still remain in the Salem District.

3. There is no objection to Reserve No. VIII being transferred to South Arcot.

4. The Slopes of the Jedaya Gownden Nâd, which are in this District, should remain as they are. The Board are aware that the right of Government to these slopes has been questioned, and I am endeavouring to get the boundary defined under Act XXVIII of 1860.

5. I quite agree with the Inspector of Forests that the Forest Officers of Salem, North and South Arcot Districts should

meet and demarcate the boundaries. As regards the boundary referred to in para 2 of Mr. Whiteside's letter embodied in the Board's Proceedings of the 17th July last No. 1860, the Deputy Conservator states that no revision on that side is required, as will be seen from para 5 of his letter enclosed. The matter may, however, be discussed and settled when the two Forest officers meet.

Salem Collector's Office, Salem
26th August 1874

I have &c
(Signed) C. P. Longley
Collector.

(Enclosure:-)

No. 232.

From
The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Salem

To
The Collector and Conservator of Forests, Salem

Sir,

With reference to your letter* marginally noted, I have the honour to state that the proposals contained in the Inspector of Forests letter embodied in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 17th July 1874, appear to me advisable as

* No. 62 dated 25th June 1874
accompg.
1 Plan
To be kindly returned.

as the tracts on the Javadi Hills proposed to be made over are more conveniently situated to the Districts of North and South Arcot than they are to Salem, and were their transfer to take place to those Districts timber would not have to be conveyed to such long distances to the Depôts as would be the case if the jungles continued to remain under our charge.

2.- I would however beg to state that the tracts in question can be worked by the Forest Department of Salem, and that at present our operations are gradually being extended owing to the scarcity of ripe timber of the reserved kinds near at hand becoming more and more scarce on which account we are obliged to go deep into the Forests to obtain supplies for the Depôts. The tracts on the Javadies proposed to be transferred to North and South Arcot were not encroached upon until lately as we were able to draw a sufficient supply from the jungles for our Depots within a short distance, but now, that the Forests which have been cut over for some years require rest, others must take their place. Should, however, the Inspector's proposals be carried out, I fear that we shall have to limit our operations to a pretty considerable extent.

3. There is no timber of any value which can be cut in the tract referred to in Captain Walker's letter as No I, and also in a large portion of No V. No IX is situated on the Yailagherry Hills and the extent is roughly estimated at 2 square miles. The tract contains Teak, Pullanay, Nunnay, and other kinds of timber. The teak, I am of opinion, will never grow good timber except for poles, and on the whole I do not think we shall be able to obtain more

than

than a small supply of timber from this Reserve.

4. As regards the Cubroyen Hills I beg to state that the western (and not the eastern) slopes of the Polliem known as Jadaia Goundun Nad are situated in this District which I think might well continue to remain in our hands and be worked by the Forest Officers of this District. Our right to the slopes in question is in dispute and an early settlement of this long pending question is most desirable.

5. Touching paragraph 2 of the letter from the Collector of North Arcot I beg to state that no revision of boundary between this and the North Arcot District near Goorajapolliem is necessary, as not the least difficulty is experienced in the way of working the jungles in that direction. The only

thing which calls for consideration is the demarcation of the limits of the two Districts, which will at once put an end to the disputes alluded to by Mr. Whiteside.

Before we commenced working the Jungles South, East and West of Moolapaudy, I believe they were much encroached upon by the North Arcot license holders, but since our operations extended to that side and we have a larger Establishment to look after the felling operations, we have been able to keep a slight check over people cutting timber in the Salem limits on North Arcot passes; Still, however, a definite line to mark the boundary of the two Districts is indispensable and would

13/1346

would conduce to the conservancy of the Jungles.

I have &c.

Office of the Deputy
Conservator of Forests,
Salem, 21st August 1874.

(Signed) J. L. Brougham
Dy. Conservator.

(True copy)

(Signed) J. W. Johnston
Deputy Collector
for Collector.

No. 484.

From
J. H. Garstin Esqre.
Collector of South Arcot

To
J. Grose Esqre.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 4th July last No. 339, I have the honour to forward copy of a communication No. 3015 dated 5th Instant received from the Deputy Conservator of Forests of this District and to request that orders may be issued at once to stop all felling by the Salem Contractor on the Tenmalley Slopes till it is decided whether it is to be a South Arcot or Salem Reserve.

South Arcot
Collector's office
Cuddalore
12th September
1874

I have &c
(Signed) J. H. Garstin
Collector.

(Enclosure.)

No 375.

From
H. L. Wooldridge Esqre
Deputy Conservator of Forests
South Arcot

To
J. H. Garstin Esqre
Collector of South Arcot

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I have received information that the Tripatore Forester is about to fell timber through the agency of a Contractor on the plateau of the Tenmulleys.

2. I beg to represent that the proposal for the hill being formally recognized as a Forest Reserve of South Arcot Range is now under consideration before

before the Board of Revenue (Board's Proceedings No 1345 dated 4th June 1874), that it has been carefully conserved with the South Arcot Forest Establishment since 66:- that some expenditure on the improvement of the young teak and Sandal trees has been incurred since my taking charge of the Range:- that it was placed under the charge of the South Arcot Overseer in /66 by the Deputy Conservator of Salem and worked for South Arcot by that Overseer:- that it was named to me as a portion of my Range when I took charge from the Forest Officer of Salem:- that all felling of teak and Sandal has been prohibited and the orders carried into effect for the past 3 years by the South Arcot Conservancy Establishment:- that the large gang of 200 men reported to me as being about to commence felling operations on the plateau and

15/1346

and slopes will denude the hill of all the valuable timber, if not prevented in a very short time. — that the Forest Department in the Salem Range have never, until now that the question is before Government, attempted to exercise the right of ownership to these Forests nor ever deputed one of their Establishment to watch over it, while on the other hand the South Arcot Forest Establishment have always done both, and I beg to suggest therefore that the felling and other operations about to be undertaken by the Salem Forest Department should be deferred till the question as to which Forest Range the hill is to belong to is decided by Government and orders passed: — and would beg you to take such immediate measures to effect this as may seem most expedient to you.

Deputy Conservator's
Office, Camp Trinomally
5th September 1874 —

I have &c
(Signed) H. L. Wooldridge
Dy Consr of Forests.

(True Copy)
(Signed) J. H. Garstin
Collector.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2 The Forest Reserves which will be referred to in these Proceedings are clearly marked in the map submitted by the Collector of Salem.

3 The Jevadies at the point where North Arcot, South Arcot and Salem meet are in the Salem District. The Inspector of Forests proposes to transfer the Slopes which contain Reserve VIII to North Arcot, those which contain Reserves II and VII to South Arcot, and keep the rest in Salem.

The

4 The Slopes to be transferred are so situated that they can be most conveniently worked downward into North Arcot and South Arcot, and must be, unless the wood is to be carried long distances over rough hill paths.

5 The Collectors of the three districts concerned agree to the transfer, with the exception that the Collector of Salem wishes to keep Reserve VII.

A valley belonging to South Arcot runs up between the slopes containing Reserves II and VII, and the Board think they should both be transferred. In the meantime, pending the decision of Government, the Collector of Salem will be good enough to stop all felling in the Reserves which it is proposed to transfer to North Arcot and South Arcot.

6 If Government sanction the transfer, the Deputy Conservators of North Arcot, South Arcot and Salem should meet at Attinatore in October and settle and demarcate the boundaries.

16/1346

7 With regard to the Jadaya Goundan Nad which is referred to in these papers the Board observe that an Officer of the Survey Department is now engaged in Settling the boundary under Act XXVIII of 1860.

8 The questions raised with regard to fuel plantations and Reserves in South Arcot are dealt with in Boards' Proceedings dated 1st September 1874 No. 2470, Forest No. 150.

(True copies & Extract)

J Grose
Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

with 2 sketches and Board's Proceedings dated 4th June 1874 No. 1345, and 17th July 1874 No. 1860.

~~The transfer of Reserves Nos II & VII to South Arcot & of Reserve No. VIII to North Arcot is sanctioned as recommended by the Board~~

c 10/10/74
15/10
19/10/74

251 / 252

No. 3367.

Revenue 1874 Septr.
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 17th }
Despd 17 } September 1874
Recd 18 }

by 1 Sketch returned to Bd.
1 Plan returned, 6 Nov 1874

Forest Reserves

Salem District — Papers re subject of transfer of certain — to South Arcot and North Arcot Dts — submitted for orders of Government with remarks. Collr of Salem requested to stop felling these reserves pending decision of Govt.

No 1346 - 19 October 1874

Govt Order
[illegible]

14th the Board of Revenue 29d
the Despatching Branch

No. 1346.

The transfer of the Slopes containing reserves Nos. II & VII to South Arcot & of those containing Reserve No VIII to North Arcot is sanctioned as recommended by the Board

2. The settlement of the boundary referred to in para 7 of the Bd's Proceedings should be expedited

19th October 1874

I think that a para should be added with reference to para 7 of Bd's Pro enjoining expedition in the settlement of the Revenue boundary