M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 8.

(2) Date of repair 27-2-67.

(3) Initials of the Referencer [illegible]

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	1363.	Press / Mis.
Dated	23-10-1874	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/1363

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
OOTACAMUND,
23rd October 1874.

No. 1,363.

No. 292.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Forests, No. 19.

To Government of India, 3rd April 1869, No. 893.
From Government of India, 20th April 1869, No. 180, F.
From Government of India, 2nd June 1869, No. 225, F.
To Government of India, 23rd June 1869, No. 1,782.
To Government of India, 5th August 1869, No. 2,272.
From Government of India, 4th September 1869, No. 397, F.

* Despatch, dated 3rd June 1869, No. 6 (Revenue—Forest).

SIR,—In March 1869 the sholas and plantations on the Nilgiris were removed from the charge of the Forest Department and placed under that of the Commissioner chiefly on the grounds that it was inexpedient to have a separate department working on the Hills uncontrolled by the Commissioner, and that the Forest Department had failed to prevent smuggling and illicit felling. This transfer formed the subject of the correspondence noted in the margin, and was eventually approved by the Secretary of State.*

2. Since then the Forest Department of this Presidency has been reorganised throughout, and the Collector or chief Revenue-officer of each district has been also made the Conservator or chief forest officer; and if the Nilgiri woods and plantations were in charge of the Forest Department, they would, under the new régimé, be as much under the control of the Commissioner as they are at present.

3. Under these circumstances, and as now some difficulty is experienced in securing efficient supervision for the woods and for the plantations which are now very extensive, His Excellency the Governor in Council is, I am directed to say, desirous of retransferring them to the Forest Department. It is not proposed to constitute them a special range, and thus incur additional expense; but it is intended so to distribute existing ranges as to admit of their being added to the charge of one of the range officers who now supervises portions of the forests near the foot of the Hills.

4. The plantations being still very young are not as yet lucrative, but will doubtless gradually become so, and their addition to an existing forest range will, it is believed, admit of their being more economically worked. The estimated expenditure (Rs. 17,750) for the current year exceeds the estimated receipts (Rs. 12,100); but should the proposed retransfer take effect, Rs. 1,800 drawn as horse allowance by the officer who has hitherto been in charge would at once be saved, and it is probable that the supervision charges generally could also be reduced.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Agriculture 1874 Department

[illegible]

From

Government of Fort St. George.

D. [illegible]
R.

No. 1,363.
Enclosures.
5 spare copies.

D. No. Progs.

L. No. No.

Requesting to authorise the retransfer of the Sholas and Plantations on the Nilgiris to the Forest Department.

Copy sent to Superintendent Lands Dec 26 1874

2/1363

Revenue Department.

No. 1363 — 23 Oct 74

To The Secretary to the Govt of India.

Sir,

In March 1869 the Sholas and Plantations on the Nilgiris were removed from the charge of the Forest Deptt and placed under that of the Commissioner chiefly on the grounds that it was inexpedient to have a separate Department working on the Hills uncontrolled by the Commissioner and that the Forest Department had failed to prevent smuggling and illicit felling. This transfer formed

Sd

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23-10-74.

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4 The

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4/1363

292.