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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~ 1568	Press / Mis.
Dated 26-4-1877	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 655. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th April 1877, No. 1,529 :—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 15th March 1877, No. 1,720 :—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board, No. 996, dated 3rd instant, and to observe that paragraph 3 demands some explanation from this office.

2. The Board are aware that I have to send in annual returns of all our reserves in which I have to give, amongst other data, a table as per margin showing the amount of stock in each reserve; to do this with any attempt at uniformity, or with any accuracy, it is absolutely necessary to fix what "Full stocked" amounts to, and the fixing of this until we have had many years' experience must be more or less arbitrary. After careful consideration and many years' experience in the growth of our jungles in the plains, I have fixed it at 30 tons per acre; but it must not for a moment be supposed that I expect our Salem reserves to yield this at the end of the first period of rotation, when as yet the attempts to exclude fire and cattle, or to improve the growth by the eradication of scrub, &c., and by broad-casts owing, have scarcely received sufficient attention or produced the results anticipated, they will require much attention and care before they can attain this amount of growth, but I consider them fully capable of doing it, and that without any attempt at high garden cultivation, which of course would be out of the question. In the Balapully Reserve No. 1 in the Cuddapah Division, where we have been more successful in excluding fire and cattle, an experimental felling of a few acres yielded upwards of 19 tons to the acre, which result is before the end of the first period of rotation since we have taken over charge and when it is calculated that in this portion there was much scrub and worthless growth that in time may be eradicated, and that this reproduction is almost entirely from coppice only and not (except to a very small extent) from additional seedlings for which there is much room, it cannot be said that 30 tons per acre is too high an estimate for full stocked, or that we shall not shortly be able to produce this.

Bare.
¼ full.
½ „
¾ „
full.

3. Reserves will not be entered as full stocked until they yield the 30 tons and when full stocked, represent a given amount it can be seen at a glance what ¼ or ½ stocked means.

4. It has been ascertained that some of our Eucalyptus plantations on the Nilgiris have 150 tons to the acre after only some five or six years' growth, and we have calculated 40 tons to the acre after only four years' growth on some of our babul plantations in the Padugays near Trichinopoly, where there is irrigation to a certain extent, but in both of these we never have fires.

5. It is the annual or periodical occurrence of fires that ruin the growth of many of our jungles: the decaying vegetation gets constantly burnt up instead of forming, as it would in a few years, a rich humus which enriches the soil and causes the trees to show quite a different character of growth. I have seen this no where better

exemplified than on the Jeypur plateau, which I have just visited, where all the woods are felled and burnt over periodically, and where coppice growth can be seen at all ages up to forty years: when fire is kept out the growth soon assumes quite a different character; the longer fire is kept out the less and less likely it is to make head; when it does occur the humus keeps down grass and resists the fire, and seedlings make way and soon add more and more shade, and consequently more and more humus and moisture are the result.

6. I believe that I shall not be wrong if I state that the poor and stunted nature of many of our jungles in the plains and slopes of hills is chiefly the result of the constant occurrence of fires.

7. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Proceedings of the Board alluded to above I would remark that I intended the report to go through the Collector and the Board (*vide* my docket at page 9), and if it went direct to Government, which it appears to have done, it was a mistake on the part of my office at Madras in the direction of the cover.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1877, No. 996.

2. Colonel Beddome explains that the full yield which he fixes at 30 tons per acre as the result of his experience is not to be attained except under favorable circumstances at the end of the first period of rotation.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Sub-Secretary.

No. 656. ORDER THEREON, 26th April 1877, No. 1,568.

Forests, No. 15.

RECORDED with reference to paragraph 5, G.O., dated 21st March 1877, No. 1,172.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Pantlemas

No. 1,529.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th April 1877.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. LEDLOME, Conservator of Forests, to H. C. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 15th March 1877, No. 1,720 :—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board, No. 996, dated 3rd instant, and to observe that paragraph 3 demands some explanation from this office.

2. The Board are aware that I have to send in annual returns of all our reserves in which I have to give, amongst other data, a table as per margin showing the amount of stock in each reserve; to do this with any attempt at uniformity, or with any accuracy, it is absolutely necessary to fix what "full stocked" amounts to, and the fixing of this until we have had many years' experience must be more or less arbitrary. After careful consideration and many years' experience in the growth of our jungles in the plains, I have fixed it at 30 tons per acre; but it must not for a moment be supposed that I expect our Salem reserves to yield this at the end of the first period of rotation, when as yet the attempts to exclude fire and cattle, or to improve the growth by the eradication of scrub, &c., and by broad pasterag

Bare.	
¼	full.
½	"
¾	"
	full.

sufficient attention or produced the results anticipated, they will require much attention and care before they can attain this amount of growth, but I consider them fully capable of doing it, and that without any attempt at high garden cultivation, which of course would be out of the question. In the Balapully Reserve No. 1 in the Cuddapah Division, where we have been more successful in excluding fire and cattle, an experimental felling of a few acres yielded upwards of 19 tons to the acre, which result is before the end of the first period of rotation since we have taken over charge, and when it is calculated that in this portion there was much scrub and worthless growth that in time may be eradicated, and that this reproduction is almost entirely from coppice only and not (except to a very small extent) from additional seedlings for which there is much room, it cannot be said that 30 tons per acre is too high an estimate for full stocked, or that we shall not shortly be able to produce this.

3. Reserves will not be entered as full stocked until they yield the 30 tons, and when full stocked, represent a given amount it can be seen at a glance what ¼ or ½ stocked means.

4. It has been ascertained that some of our Eucalyptus plantations on the Nilgiris have 150 tons to the acre after only some five or six years' growth, and we have calculated 40 tons to the acre after only four years' growth on some of our babul plantations in the Padugays near Trichinopoly, where there is irrigation to a certain extent, but in both of these we never have fires.

5. It is the annual or periodical occurrence of fires that ruin the growth of many of our jungles: the decaying vegetation gets constantly burnt up instead of forming, as it would in a few years, a rich humus which enriches the soil and causes the trees to show quite a different character of growth. I have seen this no where better exemplified than on the Jeypur plateau, which I have just visited, where all the woods are felled and burnt over periodically, and where coppice growth can be seen at all ages up to fourty years: when fire is kept out the growth soon assumes quite a different character; the longer fire is kept out the less and less likely it is to make head; when it does occur the humus keeps down grass and resists the fire, and seedlings make way and soon add more and more shade, and consequently more and more humus and moisture are the result.

6. I believe that I shall not be wrong if I state that the poor and stunted nature of many of our jungles in the plains and slopes of hills is chiefly the result of the constant occurrence of fires.

7. With reference to paragraph 1 of the Proceedings of the Board alluded to above I would remark that I intended the report to go through the Collector and the Board (*vide* my docket at page 9), and if it went direct to Government, which it appears to have done, it was a mistake on the part of my office at Madras in the direction of the cover.

Submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd March 1877, No. 996.

Mr. Adams explains that the full yield which he fixes at 30 tons per acre is not to be expected except under favorable circumstances at the end of the first period of rotation.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Conservator of Forests.
" " Collector of Salem.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.

Revenue Department
No. 2240

1877.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Received 23 April 1877

Proceedings, 9th April 1877, No. 1,529.

Encl.

APRIL.
No. 1,529.

Fuel Reserves. — Submitting to Government remarks of Conservator of Forests with reference to his observations of full yield and reproduction of —.