M.R.O. I—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 44

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1893 ~~B.P. No.~~ Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 4.12 ~~196~~ 1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1873/22

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th December 1876.

No. 43. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd October 1876, No. 2,493, Forest No. 86:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Dindigul, 22nd August 1876, No. 1,067:—

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have lately completed a tour of inspection in the South Coimbatore Division.

2. I met Mr. Douglas, the Deputy Conservator, at Tekadi, on the Anamallays, and spent nine days up in the Government and leased portions of the Anamallay Teak Forest inspecting the forest and the work and operations and the new boundary line, &c.; we then proceeded for three days to portions of the License and Voucher Forest and to the Ponnachi Teak Reserve; heavy and incessant rain set in the day after my arrival on the hills (July 21st,) so that I found it impossible to follow up the whole of the boundary as I had intended.

3. FOREST MAP.—No map exists of this forest; the rivers and different ridges and peaks are quite incorrect in the old ordnance sheet; the boundaries between Coimbatore on one side and Cochin and Travancore on the other will be completed* this cold season and finally settled; it is hoped that we shall then have a correct map of this forest division.

4. PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.—This forest has been worked for the last twenty years by the Forest Department and for five or six years previous to that by the Department of Public Works, and has been heavily indented on for teak almost every year. Teak to the value of about 10 lakhs of Rupees having been taken out during this period, it will now soon require rest as far as the teak is concerned, as there is only large teak for one or two more seasons' felling; there are many thousands of trees about 4 to 5 feet in circumference, 25, 30, 35 years of age, probably not less than 100,000, perhaps more, but almost an utter absence of trees of a less age or any saplings beyond a year's growth; this is a ruinous state of affairs if the future be looked to, but it is easily explained by the fires, though not so easily guarded against; before these forests were worked they were quite untrodden by any one except a few Kaders, and it is probable that there were no forest fires, or that they were of very rare occurrence; the jungle and forest in these days, too, extended for eight or ten miles from the foot of the hills right away into the plains and up to the village of Anamallay, and fires could not creep up the slopes into the forest, as these slopes were then unvisited by graziers who light these fires; in those days the young seedlings grew up luxuriantly and became trees. Since we have been working the forests fires have been of annual occurrence; they generally creep up the slopes from the grazing grounds; but if the forest escapes these there are Chetties and others now constantly visiting the forest above ghaut who either intentionally or accidentally ignite the grass; and these fires burn all the undergrowth and the young teak saplings; thousands of teak seedlings come up all over the forest every year during the monsoon, and are to be seen growing very luxuriantly, but they are all burnt down every year in January or February to produce about the same growth the next year from the stool and so on year by year; it is therefore very clear that, unless we apply a remedy, there will be no teak left when the crop that is now about

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* *Vide* G.O., No. 897, dated 3rd July 1876.

thirty years old is cut, and which, under advantageous circumstances, reared itself without any care or trouble; the remedy is the block system with rides about forty yards in breadth which can be burnt off before the fires set in; the hillmen (Kaders) can be put in charge of these, and with ordinary care fire should be easily excluded, and if one block did ignite it would probably not spread to others; we should then at once secure a fine growth of young teak, and in five or six years these saplings would be beyond danger from fire; we should then have our future crop safe, and grazing might be allowed for one or two decades with both profit and advantage, and fire even might pass through with only a minimum of damage.

5. This is much the system now pursued in Europe; there they have not often fires to contend against, and grazing is under easy control and never allowed when the young growth is under treatment; to bring up the young growth, however, in that climate it is also necessary to fell a certain number of the old standards to let in light and shade (coupe de reboisement); although the teak is a light-loving tree and will not rear itself under anything like heavy shade, this plan is quite unnecessary in our teak forests in their present condition and with our tropical sun and climate, of which fact we have abundant proof in the luxuriant annual growth of the saplings; the forest is nowhere thick and dense enough to require this coupe de reboisement [except in a few places where the large bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*) abounds], but when we exclude fire we should have these blocks completely under our control, and they would very likely soon become so thick that coupe de reboisement would be necessary; in fact, we might convert them into what would look much more like a plantation than a forest, and we could in time exclude or increase the growth of any species now in association with the teak, and probably very much observation and experience will be necessary from our officers for many years to collect data as to what density is best, and what trees and bamboos should be retained and what excluded, &c. A reboisement in Europe often takes five or six or more years before there is much sign of the new growth; here one monsoon would give us a fine growth with teak seedlings and coppice shoots from the constantly burnt-down seedlings several feet in height.

6. To carry out this block system the forest must be declared a strict reserve, and the Forest Officer must have complete control over it; grazing cannot be allowed in the blocks under *reboisement*, and no one can be allowed up in the forest (except with permission) between the 15th of December and the 15th of April; all this can scarcely be carried out except under an Act, but unless we are empowered to carry it out conservancy is simply impossible, and this (the most valuable forest in India) must annually deteriorate and in time cease to exist as a teak forest.

7. I consider that Government have every right to declare this a close reserve; it was considered such twenty-five years ago when worked for the Bombay Dockyard under Lieutenant Michael, and the only thing approaching a right was that of the Kaders to collect the minor hill produce, but even this was taxed by Government. I worked this forest myself between 1857 and 1860; there was then a large extent of forest and jungle below ghauts, and no one ever attempted to come up into the teak forest except our own workmen, and there was a Duffadar stationed at the foot of the timber slip, the only road up, to prevent any unauthorized ingress; the tax had been taken off the hill produce (which chiefly consists of cardamoms, ginger, turmeric, honey, and wax), and the Kaders collected it free and took it down below the ghauts to exchange for rice, but this was the only privilege then existing, and it may be mentioned that these hillmen have no fixed villages and habitations; that they are often backwards and forwards between Government and Cochin territory; and that in the latter cardamoms are a royalty and all the hill produce can only be collected for the Sirkar. I have always advocated that the Forest Department should deal with these men; Government can afford to pay better for the produce than the Chetties now do, and we could then utilize their services in the forest as is done in Cochin and Travancore; they are terribly cheated by the Chetties of the plains and always made out to be in their debt; the same condition rules in many of our hill forests, and both Revenue and Forest Officers have often reported how badly these men are treated; the Forest Officer should be their best friend—in fact, he can hardly get on without them; they should be clothed by the department and their interests generally kept in view; when this receives the attention it ought to, forest conservancy will become far easier, it will be a new era in the annals of the department. Of late years the ryots have cleared away all the jungle in the plains, and they have claimed a right to drive their cattle up into the teak forests for grazing, but it has always been disputed. I think that they should only be allowed the slopes of the hills—in fact, the forests above ghaut are too distant unless cattle-kraals are built (a thing which has once or twice been attempted, but which would soon shut up all forest conservancy). The question is in abeyance,* and this and the whole subject of this paragraph requires the early orders of Government as it is of vital importance to this department.

8. I do not propose a large expenditure all at once on this block system; one or two blocks should be formed each year at an expenditure not exceeding 5,000 Rs., and we should begin in the Government forest proper, not in the leased tracts. I consider this far more important and calculated to give far more profitable results than the plantations at Nelumbur.

9. Past Conservancy.—Conservancy has not received hitherto any attention that can be called systematic; several acres of teak plantations have been at different times opened out, and the teak shows good growth, but plantations are exceedingly expensive on mountains like the Anamallay and could not receive attention during critical and important times, it being too feverish and the results in any case would be very poor compared to the block system, so they are not to be thought of. Saplings, too, have here and there near the road sides and inaccessible places been cleared round before the fires, but this has been done in a desultory sort of way and not kept up every year, so that the results are hardly noticeable, and this plan would never give grand results.

10. Timbers available.—Besides teak the Anamallays contain a large quantity of very fine blackwood (*Dalbergia latifolia*); our market for this has been almost entirely from the Gun Carriage Manufactories, and there is still a good quantity in the forests; the saplings suffer equally with the teak in the annual fires. Besides these two timbers there is a very large quantity of the superior jungle timbers of first-class growth, superb trees of *Terminalia tomentosa* (Mathi) and *Pterocarpus marsupium* (Vengay), besides *Lagerstræmia microcarpa* (Ven tek), *Conocarpus latifolius*

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* *Vide* letter from the Conservator of Forests to Government, No. 71, dated 24th January 1876.

(Velle Nágá), *Schleichera trijuga* (Poova), *Iriedelia spinosa* (Kora man), *Vitex allissima* (Maila), and others; our working hitherto has almost entirely been concentrated on teak and blackwood, and it is doubtful to what extent we could get a market for these other timbers (which are largely in use in some districts where teak is scarce), but good rates have been realized from a small amount of Vengay and Mathi that has been put into the market, and the question should receive more attention.

Year.	Expenditure.		Receipts.
	Establishment.	Working charges.	
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1856-57	6,946	35,072	76,800
1857-58	7,722	27,676	79,912
1858-59	12,231	20,782	9,835
1859-60	9,892	12,593	2,65,953*
1860-61	9,843	20,069	44,078
1861-62	9,752	32,449	22,091
1862-63	11,380	22,459	75
1863-64	7,617	29,597	37,990
1864-65	7,021	24,125	21,032
1865-66	10,422	18,023	11,184
1866-67	7,030	10,622	12,040
1867-68	9,532	23,678	58,959
1868-69	11,133	19,912	30,489
1869-70	14,360	24,256	88,915
1870-71	10,498	37,709	17,517
1871-72	10,687	27,453	56,817
1872-73	12,565	30,083	11,649
1873-74	12,282	23,599	67,825
1874-75	12,439	20,164	23,734
1875-76	16,130	30,466	22,108

	RS.
Total receipts	9,59,003
„ expenditure	6,91,263
Balance in favor of the dept. ...	2,67,740

11. REVENUE, PAST AND PRESENT.—It will be seen by the statement as per margin that the revenue of this forest has fallen off terribly of late years. The closing of the Bombay Dockyard and subsequently the cessation of much work in the Bombay Marine (caused by the opening of the Suez Canal, which resulted in ships being repaired in Europe) may be mentioned as one of the chief reasons of this; all labor, too, has risen considerably in price, but these combined are not sufficient cause that the forest should be worked at a loss which it has for the last few years. A teak forest like this, in which little or no expense on conservancy has been going on, should be worked to a large annual profit as it was previous to 1861; between 1860 and 1870 the executive changed hands seven or eight times and the working system suffered much in consequence; some officers were too ill to attend to their work, others shirked the forest and lived away from it; work got much into arrears and there were terrible losses from fire; during the last few years operations have been conducted much more systematically; but in the face of an uncertain revenue the establishment has been gradually much increased, an economy has not received sufficient attention in the working estimates, and latterly timber has been delivered over to the Department of Public Works at rates that could not possibly be remunerative; this has been the subject of much correspondence, the Department of Public Works having refused to pay more than Rs. 1-8-0 per cubic foot when the actual cost has been Rs. 1-6-6 (not including supervision or any seigniorage on the timber) and when the market rate has been much higher, as the Forest Officer has received offers unsolicited from contractors of Rs. 1-12-0, and that even was below the market rate. This leads us to another very important question in forest administration; the Revenue Board are of opinion that the Department of Public Works should procure their timber at the cheapest market and only give the preference to ours when our rates are the same as contractors, letting alone the fact

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that it is almost impossible for our department to find out what the market rates really are, as there is as much trickery in the timber trade as in others; this must result in two evils. Sylviculture is very different to agriculture and can only be undertaken properly by the State; private holders in this country only look to immediate gains, not to conservancy or the future, so that we can be easily undersold and some of our principal forests will not be able to show a revenue until these private forests have been destroyed, and many of the hill forests belonging to Zemindars and others, the upkeep of which is most desirable for climatic considerations, water supply, &c., will be entirely ruined. If the Department of Public Works are not to take our timber at fairly remunerative rates, these evils can only be checked by placing a tax on all timbers brought from private forests into Government land or by framing rules for the upkeep of private hill forests, and these are matters which can only be touched under an Act.

12. ESTABLISHMENT LARGER THAN NECESSARY.—The establishment as it now stands is certainly much in excess of what is required; admirable as Captain Walker's scheme may be for many of our open districts, it is not at all adapted for a dense mountain forest like this, at all events not until it is divided into blocks; it divides the forest into beats under Rangers and Foresters, and Forest guards are expected to patrol these beats; the situation of the forest protects it, and with a view to the prevention of smuggling or illicit felling, which I am not aware have ever been attempted, it is only necessary to have a Duffadar stationed at each of the two ghauts and for the Forest Officer and his Ranger to go occasionally round the boundary; the guards could not be expected to patrol a forest like this densely overgrown with underwood and full of wild animals as it is during the six or seven working months, and feverish as it is during the rest of the year, and they certainly would not do it if they were.

Old Scale.		New Scale.	
Establishment.	Salary.	Establishment.	Salary.
	RS.		RS.
1 Head Forester	130	Head Clerk	45
1 1st Assistant Forester.	75	2nd Clerk, Travelling ...	25
1 2nd do. do. ...	65	3rd do. Vernacular ...	15
1 3rd do. do. ...	45	Duffadar	10
2 Gumastas, at Rs. 10 each	20	2 Peons, at Rs. 8 each ..	16
1 Head Clerk	30	2 do. at „ 7 „ ...	14
1 2nd do.	20	2 do. at „ 6 „ ...	12
13 Peons, at Rs. 6 each...	78	5 Head Guards, at Rs. 8 each	40
1 Foujdar	25	15 Forest Guards, at Rs. 7 each	105
1 Kader Guide	3	1 1st-Class Ranger ...	125
		1 3rd do. ...	75
		2 Foresters, at Rs. 30 each	60
		2 do. at „ 20 „	40
		2 Rangers' Clerks, at Rs. 15 each	30
		1 Probationary Ranger.	50
Total ...	491	Total ...	662

Total increase, Rs. 171.

13. The increase made to this establishment from the 1st of April amounts to Rs. 171 (*vide* margin), which, including the Deputy Conservator's pay, brings the total monthly cost up to Rs. 1,312 exclusive of extra batta; this is a heavier charge than the division can afford, and as Mr. Douglas, the Deputy Conservator, reported that he would easily dispense with some portions of it

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* The reason of the very large revenue during 1859-60 is that upwards of a lakh of Rupees' worth of timber sold and delivered in 1858-59 was by a mistake not paid for till after the close of the year.

	RS.
1 Forester	30
1 Do.	20
2 Rangers' Clerks, at Rs. 15 each ...	30
2 Head Guards, at „ 8 „ ...	16
Total...	96

as per margin, amounting to Rs. 96 per mensem, I at once ordered him to effect this saving, and in the face of the very large retrenchment* made in our budget, heading "Establishments," I have since been obliged to hold all the extra batta, which was also sanctioned from the 1st of April, in abeyance for the present.

14. Captain Walker's scheme also contemplates taking all the executive out of the hands of the Forest Officer and placing it in the hands of the Rangers, and I found that one of the Rangers had an enormous outstanding advance of upwards of Rs. 1,000 in his hands for carrying out works that have always hitherto been the duty of the Forest Officer himself. I entirely disapprove of this plan, which takes all responsibility out of the hands of our officers and is quite an innovation, and I am sure that few, if any, of our Rangers are proof against temptations of this nature. I have therefore ordered Mr. Douglas to discontinue it and in future to arrange all contracts himself, and not trust his Rangers to make the advances on, or settle the balances in any, contracts or other work in his forest.

15. MORE ECONOMY NECESSARY IN WORKING.—I also drew the Deputy Conservator's attention by letter to a good many other matters in which, I think, more economy might be introduced, and have no doubt that these will receive his earnest attention. Captain Douglas Hamilton's instructions for working this forest (published in our Forest Manual) are excellent and should be acted up to wherever present conditions and circumstances allow of it.

16. SAW *versus* AXE.—Saw machinery cannot be introduced into this forest as we have no water carriage; it would be impossible to move the trees from the places where they are felled; last season Mr. Douglas felled 640 teak trees; these were only lopped and cleared round and are being converted this season. I found them scattered all over the forest; the girth runs from 9 feet to 18 and the length 60 to 80 feet, so that six elephants with elaborate harness could not move one of them about the forests, and machinery could not be, of course, moved about from tree to tree. As an experiment Mr. Douglas is going this season to saw by hand a few of these trees, but I am afraid that it will be very expensive and troublesome work; if, however, it is found that we can turn out larger logs better adapted to the requirements of the Department of Public Works, it may be justified. Captain Walker was under the impression that the Department of Public Works would give Rs. 2 per cubic foot for sawn logs against Rs. 1-8-0 for logs prepared with the axe, and a large quantity of the latter were sawn last year down at the depôt at Anamallay; the result has been an increase in the expense and a loss in cubic contents without any profit, as the Department of Public Works will not take them at the enhanced rate.†

17. RANGER NOT QUALIFIED FOR HIS POST.—I am sorry to have to report that Mr. Taylor, the senior Ranger in this division, is not at all up to his work; he has never qualified in the language and cannot make himself understood in it.

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* *Vide* G.O., No. 889, dated 1st July 1876.

† *Vide* paragraph 1, memorandum No. 993 by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, recorded in Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, No. 1,721, of the 6th July 1876.

18. PROBATIONARY ASSISTANT.—Mr. Boileau, Probationary Assistant (acting Deputy Conservator), who has lately returned from leave, was attached to this division, so that I had an opportunity of seeing him and judging of his qualifications, and I have since recommended him for the charge of a division.

19. LICENSE AND VOUCHER FORESTS.—I have nothing to remark about the License and Voucher Forests except that the present expenditure on establishment is nearly equal to the revenue; unless the latter be found to be more elastic, the former must be reduced.

No. 1,668.

FORWARDED to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Collector of Coimbatore and the Board of Revenue, with reference to Rule VIII published with G.O., No. 1,662-A, of the 19th November 1875, Revenue Department.

DINDIGUL,
22nd August 1876.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel,
Conservator of Forests.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

IN the foregoing letter Colonel Beddome reports the result of a tour of inspection recently made by him in the South Coimbatore Division which comprises the teak forests of the Anamallays.

2. In noticing the present state and future prospects of these forests the Conservator draws attention to the fact that it will soon be necessary, so far as teak timber is concerned, to cease felling, inasmuch as the stock of trees of sufficient growth is almost exhausted, and years of rest will be required before the growing timber will be fit for the axe. He estimates the supply of large timber, by which it is assumed is meant trees exceeding 6 feet in girth, as sufficient only for one or two more seasons, and although there are about a lac of trees of from 4 to 5 feet in girth of from twenty-five to thirty-five years of age, there is hardly anything of a less age or any saplings beyond a year's growth. This disastrous state of affairs Colonel Beddome attributes to the forest fires, and the Board think he satisfactorily explains how it comes to pass that this destructive element has of late years affected the young growth in a manner unknown previous to the forests being worked by Government. Twenty-five years ago, with the exception of the Kaders and other jungle tribes, no human being entered these forests, and the jungle itself extended into the plains some eight or ten miles from the foot of the hills. This has now disappeared under the advance of cultivation, and the cattle which formerly pastured there are now driven on to the slopes of the hills, the grass on which is annually fired in order to secure an abundant growth for the ensuing year. These fires soon reach the elevation at which the teak flourishes; they scatter and injure trees of large size and utterly destroy the young growth so that natural reproduction has now become an impossibility. Colonel Beddome writes: "Thousands of teak seedlings come up all over the forest every year during the monsoon and are to be seen growing luxuriantly, but they are all burnt down yearly in January or February.

* * * * * * * * * *

It is therefore very clear that unless we apply a remedy there will be no teak left when the crop that is now thirty years old is cut, which, under advantageous circumstances, reared itself without any care or trouble." To remedy this state of things the Conservator proposes to adopt the block system; the blocks to be surrounded by rides or clearings about forty yards wide which would reduce the danger from fire to a minimum. Colonel Beddome should have explained why the carrying out of this very simple measure of conservancy has been deferred until the eleventh hour. Cattle are almost as destructive of young growth as fire, and it is therefore recommended that the forest should be declared a reserve and grazing placed under departmental control. To enforce these and other necessary restrictions legislation will be necessary, and the Board are strongly of opinion that action in this direction should no longer be deferred. The necessity for it is clearly stated in Colonel Beddome's report, and without it he says "conservancy is simply impossible, and this the most valuable forest in India must annually deteriorate and in time cease to exist as a teak forest." No hardship would be inflicted on the people by the adoption of the Conservator's proposals, as the reserves would be of comparatively small extent, whilst the pasturage available is practically unlimited. The public interests at stake are considerable, and for the sake of posterity the present system of administration calls for early reform.

30th September 1874, No. 2,813.
1st October „ „ 2,828.
10th November „ „ 3,226.

3. In connection with the question of forest conservancy, the Board, in continuation of their Proceedings marginally noted, which are before Government, beg to ask attention to Colonel Beddome's proposals in paragraph 7 in regard to the protection and encouragement of the Kader tribe. Independently of the expediency of providing them with congenial employment and thereby gradually weaning them from their semi-savage habits, every officer who has had to deal with them has reported them to be most valuable auxiliaries in forest operations. Colonel Beddome says "the Forest Officer can hardly get on without them."

4. Although it appears that the forest must be allowed to rest for many years before teak can again be drawn from it to any appreciable extent, it is satisfactory to learn from paragraph 10 of the Conservator's letter that there is still a fair reserve of blackwood and the superior class of jungle timbers. But in view to natural reproduction to meet the wants of the future, the measures of conservancy proposed are as much needed for these inferior timbers as for teak.

5. In paragraph 11 Colonel Beddome furnishes a statement of receipts and expenditure for the past twenty years, from which it appears that a net profit of Rs. 2,67,740 has accrued to the State during that period. The question of the price to be paid for timber by the Public Works Department is touched upon by Colonel Beddome in connection with this part of his report, but as the matter has been finally disposed of by G.O., dated 6th July 1876, No. 1,721, Public Works Department, the Board do not consider it necessary to offer any further remark on the subject.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1876, No. 1,893.

Forests, No. 3.

In the above Proceedings the Board remark on the Conservator's report of his recent inspection of the South Coimbatore Division, which occupied twelve days.

2. The Board draw the special attention of Government to Colonel Beddome's startling statements regarding the present state and future prospects of this forest. In his opinion, after one or two seasons, the whole of the mature teak in these forests—seemingly the Government as well as the leased—will have been exhausted, and thus for many years to come they will have to be closed as far as the teak is concerned and worked only for other and inferior timber. The Government request that the Conservator will forthwith supplement his report by detailing much more precisely the extent over which, the locality in which, and the period at which these apparently disastrous fires have occurred, and he will further state how it is that other trees have not suffered equally with the teak, which would seem to be the case. Colonel Beddome should state the mileage of rides that should be cut and kept clear annually to give effect to his suggested measures of protection and the cost per mile.

3. The highly unsatisfactory condition of these forests ought to have been brought to their notice earlier. The mischief caused by fires, here as elsewhere, has been commented upon, but it does not appear that the Government have had placed before them any report exhibiting a state of affairs so serious as that now brought to light. The annual report for 1874-75 contains nothing indicative of the rapid termination of the teak supply.

4. The Government are surprised that the Collector has not thought it worth his while to make any comments on the Conservator's remarks. The exhaustion of this teak forest—a forest of which Colonel Beddome speaks as the most important in India—is a matter of the highest moment, and one on which it is necessary to obtain as much information as possible. Mr. Wedderburn is well qualified from his long residence in the district and acquaintance with these forests to express an opinion, and that opinion he will now give.

5. Of the measures already taken to protect these forests from fire, Colonel Beddome remarks that they have not been systematic and have been carried out "in a desultory sort of way." Considering the importance of such measures it is a matter of surprise that ampler provision was not made for them in the budget for 1876-77, the small sum of Rs. 700 only having been devoted to this purpose out of a total allotment of Rs. 61,000. Special provision should be made in the budget for 1877-78.

6. With regard to Colonel Beddome's remarks on the revenue of this forest and the establishment necessary to work it, the Government observe that Captain Campbell Walker, in paragraph 41 of his letter (printed with Government Proceedings 21st August 1875), forwarding a revised scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate establishment, based his request for an increased establishment on the good financial prospects of the forests, considering "this increase warranted by the prospects of increasing revenue and enhanced conservancy."

It is observed that the increase approved by Government amounted to Rs. 111, not Rs. 171 as inadvertently stated by Colonel Beddome. The Conservator appears to have included one Probationary Ranger on Rs. 50, not provided for by Captain Campbell Walker. This should be explained.

7. The Conservator's temporary reductions are approved; but permanent reductions of the establishment will depend upon the prospects of the forest, regarding which Government require further information.

8. Referring to the Board's request that orders may be passed on the proposals connected with the improvement of the Kader tribe, the Government remark that they have already, in their Orders 1st September 1874, No. 1,107, and G.O., 1st September 1874, No. 1,115, indicated to some extent the policy that should be adopted by the Forest Department in its dealir[illegible] hill people. They cannot definitively prescribe the exact line of conduc[illegible]wed until a Forest Act has been passed; meanwhile they would inculcate on [illegible]est Department the duty of endeavouring, by fair and liberal dealing, to gain as large an influence as possible with these people. The superior officers will carefully observe the conduct of their subordinates towards them and thus constitute themselves their protectors, as far as may be, without interfering with their full liberty of action and the natural course of trade.

9. The question of the price to be charged for timber having been fully considered by Government, they decline to modify in any way the instructions already issued.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Conservator of Forests.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Further Cor. 5778 of 1876 — 5925/76

Govt. of 1876 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December 4th. Encl.

Recd.

G.O. [illegible] No. 1,5[illegible]

DECEMBER.

Nos. 43-44.

Teak Forests of Anamallays, in Coimbatore District.—Recording observations on inspection report of the Conservator of Forests with reference to the unsatisfactory condition of the — and requesting reports on the points specified from the Conservator of Forests and Collector of Coimbatore.

Ver 8391/79

1873/7

FOREST No. 86.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd October 1876, No. 2,493.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. BEDDOME, Conservator of Forests, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Dindigul, 22nd August 1876, No. 1,067.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I have lately completed a tour of inspection in the South Coimbatore Division.

2. I met Mr. Douglas, the Deputy Conservator, at Tekadi, on the Anamallays, and spent nine days up in the Government and leased portions of the Anamallay teak forest, inspecting the forest and the work and operations and the new boundary line, &c.; we then proceeded for three days to portions of the license and voucher forest and to the Ponnachi Teak Reserve; heavy and incessant rain set in the day after my arrival on the hills (July 21st) so that I found it impossible to follow up the whole of the boundary as I had intended.

3. FOREST MAP.—No map exists of this forest; the rivers and different ridges and peaks are quite incorrect in the old ordnance sheet; the boundaries between Coimbatore on one side and Cochin and Travancore on the other will be completed* this cold season and finally settled; it is hoped that we shall then have a correct map of this forest division.

4. PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.—This forest has been worked for the last twenty years by the Forest Department and for five or six years previous to that by the Department of Public Works, and has been heavily indented on for teak almost every year. Teak to the value of about 10 lakhs of Rupees having been taken out during this period, it will now soon require rest as far as the teak is concerned, as there is only large teak for one or two more seasons' felling; there are many thousands of trees about 4 to 5 feet in circumference, 25, 30, 35 years of age, probably not less than 100,000, perhaps more, but almost an utter absence of trees of a less age or any saplings beyond a year's growth; this is a ruinous state of affairs if the future be looked to, but it is easily explained by the fires, though not so easily guarded against; before these forests were worked they were quite untrodden by any one except a few Kaders, and it is probable that there were no forest fires, or that they were of very rare occurrence; the jungle and forest in those days too extended for eight or ten miles from the foot of the hills right away into the plains and up to the village of Anamallay, and fires could not creep up the slopes into the forests, as these slopes were then unvisited by graziers who light these fires; in those days the young seedlings grew up luxuriantly and became trees. Since we have been working the forests fires have been of annual occurrence; they generally creep up the slopes from the grazing grounds; but if the forest escapes these there are Chetties and others now constantly visiting the forest above ghaut who either intentionally or accidentally ignite the grass; and these fires burn all the undergrowth and the young teak saplings; thousands of teak seedlings come up all over the forest every year during the monsoon, and are to be seen growing very luxuriantly, but they are all burnt down every year in January or February to produce about the same growth the next year from the stool and so on year by year; it is therefore very clear that, unless we apply a remedy, there will be no teak left when the crop that is now about thirty

* *Vide* G.O., No. 897, dated 3rd July 1876.

years old is cut, and which, under advantageous circumstances, reared itself without any care or trouble; the remedy is the block system with rides about forty yards in breadth which can be burnt off before the fires set in; the hillmen (Kaders) can be put in charge of these, and with ordinary care fire should be easily excluded, and if one block did ignite it would probably not spread to others; we should then at once secure a fine growth of young teak, and in five or six years these saplings would be beyond danger from fire; we should then have our future crop safe, and grazing might be allowed for one or two decades with both profit and advantage, and fire even might pass through with only a minimum of damage.

5. This is much the system now pursued in Europe; there they have not often fires to contend against and grazing is under easy control and never allowed when the young growth is under treatment; to bring up the young growth, however, in that climate it is also necessary to fell a certain number of the old standards to let in light and shade (coup de reboisment); although the teak is a light-loving tree and will not rear itself under anything like heavy shade, this plan is quite unnecessary in our teak forests in their present condition and with our tropical sun and climate, of which fact we have abundant proof in the luxuriant annual growth of the saplings; the forest is nowhere thick and dense enough to require this coup de reboisment [except in a few places where the large bamboo (*Bambusa arundinacea*) abounds] but when we exclude fire we should have these blocks completely under our control, and they would very likely soon become so thick that coup de reboisment would be necessary; in fact, we might convert them into what would look much more like a plantation than a forest, and we could in time exclude or increase the growth of any species now in association with the teak, and probably very much observation and experience will be necessary from our officers for many years to collect data as to what density is best, and what trees and bamboos should be retained and what excluded, &c. A reboisment in Europe often takes five or six or more years before there is much sign of the new growth; here one monsoon would give us a fine growth with teak seedlings and coppice shoots from the constantly burnt down seedlings several feet in height.

6. To carry out this block system the forest must be declared a strict reserve, and the Forest officer must have complete control over it; grazing cannot be allowed in the blocks under *reboisment*, and no one can be allowed up in the forest (except with permission) between the 15th of December and the 15th of April; all this can scarcely be carried out except under an Act, but unless we are empowered to carry it out conservancy is simply impossible, and this (the most valuable forest in India) must annually deteriorate and in time cease to exist as a teak forest.

7. I consider that Government have every right to declare this a close reserve; it was considered such twenty-five years ago when worked for the Bombay Dockyard under Lieutenant Michael, and the only thing approaching a right was that of the Kaders to collect the minor hill produce, but even this was taxed by Government. I worked this forest myself between 1857 and 1860; there was then a large extent of forest and jungle below ghauts, and no one ever attempted to come up into the teak forest except our own workmen, and there was a Duffadar stationed at the foot of the timber slip, the only road up, to prevent any unauthorized ingress; the tax had been taken off the hill produce (which chiefly consists of cardamoms, ginger, turmeric, honey and wax), and the Kaders collected it free and took it down below the ghauts to exchange for rice, but this was the only privilege then existing, and it may be mentioned that these hillmen have no fixed villages and habitations; that they are often backwards and forwards between Government and Cochin Territory; and that in the latter cardamons are a royalty and all the hill produce can only be collected for the Sirkar. I have always advocated that the Forest Department should deal with these men; Government can afford to pay better for the produce than the Chetties now do, and we could then utilize their services in the forests as is done in Cochin and Travancore; they are terribly cheated by the Chetties of the plains and always made out to be in their debt; the same condition rules in many of our hill forests, and both Revenue and Forest Officers have often reported how badly these men are treated; the Forest Officer should be their best friend; in fact, he can hardly get on without them; they should be clothed by the department and their interests generally kept in view; when this receives the attention it ought to forest conservancy will become far easier; it will be a new era in the annals of the department. Of late years the ryots have cleared away all the jungle in the plains, and they have claimed a right to drive their cattle up into the teak forests for grazing, but it has always been disputed. I think that they should only be allowed the slopes of the hills; in fact, the forests above ghat are too distant unless cattle-crawls are built (a thing which has once or twice been attempted, but which would soon shut up all forest conservancy). The question is in abeyance,* and this and the whole subject of this paragraph requires the early orders of Government as it is of vital importance to this department.

8. I do not propose a large expenditure all at once on this block system; one or two blocks should be formed each year at an expenditure not exceeding 5,000 Rupees, and we should begin in the Government forest proper, not in the leased tracts. I consider this far more important and calculated to give far more profitable results than the plantations at Nelumbur.

9. Past Conservancy.—Conservancy has not received hitherto any attention that can be called systematic; several acres of teak plantations have been at different times opened out, and the teak shows good growth, but plantations are exceedingly expensive on mountains like the Anamallay and could not receive attention during critical and important times; it being too feverish and the results in any case would be very poor compared to the block system; so they are not to be thought of. Saplings too have here and there near the road sides and inaccessible places been cleared round before the fires, but this has been done in a desultory sort of way and not kept up every year, so that the results are hardly noticeable, and this plan would never give grand results.

10. Timbers available.—Beside teak the Anamallays contain a large quantity of very fine black wood (*Dalbergia latifolia*); our market for this has been almost entirely from the Gun Carriage Manufactories, and there is still a good quantity in the forests; the saplings suffer equally with the teak in the annual fires. Besides these two timbers there is a very large quantity of the superior jungle timbers of first class growth, superb trees of *Terminalia tomentosa* (Mathi) and *Pterocarpus Marsupium* (Vengay), besides *Lagerstrœmia microcarpa* (Ven tek), *Conocarpus latifolius* (Velle Nágá), *Schleichera trijuga* (Poova), *Briedelia Spinosa* (Kora man),

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* *Vide* letter from the Conservator of Forests to Government, No. 71, dated 24th January 1876.

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Vitex altissima (Maila), and others; our working hitherto has almost entirely been concentrated on teak and black wood, and it is doubtful to what extent we could get a market for these other timbers (which are largely in use in some districts where teak is scarce), but good rates have been realized from a small amount of Vengay and Mathi that has been put into the market and the question should receive more attention.

11. REVENUE, PAST AND PRESENT.—It will be seen by the statement as per margin that the revenue of this forest has fallen off terribly of late years. The closing of the Bombay Dockyard and subsequently the cessation of much work in the Bombay Marine (caused by the opening of the Suez Canal which resulted in ships being repaired in Europe) may be mentioned as one of the chief reasons of this; all labor too has risen considerably in price, but these combined are not sufficient cause that the forest should be worked at a loss which it has for the last few years. A teak forest like this in which little or no expense on conservancy has been going on should be worked to a large annual profit as it was previous to 1861; between 1860 and 1870 the executive changed hands seven or eight times and the working system suffered much in consequence; some officers were to ill to attend to their work, others shirked the forest and lived away from it; work got much into arrears and there were terrible losses from fire; during the last few years operations have been conducted much more systematically; but in the face of an uncertain revenue the establishment has been gradually much increased, and economy has not received sufficient attention in the working estimates, and latterly timber has been delivered over to the Department of Public Works at rates that could not possibly be remunerative; this has been the subject of much correspondence, the Department of Public Works having refused to pay more than Rupees 1-8-0 per cubic foot when the actual cost has been Rupees 1-6-6 (not including supervision or any seigniorage on the timber) and when the market rate has been much higher, as the Forest officer has received offers unsolicited from Contracters of Rupees 1-12-0, and that even was below the market rate. This leads us to another very important question in Forest Administration; the Revenue Board are of opinion that the Department of Public Works should procure their timber at the cheapest market and only give the preference to ours when our rates are the same as Contractor's, letting alone the fact that it is almost impossible for our Departments to find out what the market rates really are, as there is as much trickery in the timber trade as in others; this must result in two evils. Sylviculture is very different to agriculture and can only be undertaken properly by the State; private holders in this country only look to immediate gains, not to conservancy or the future, so that we can be easily undersold and some of our principal forests will not be able to show a revenue until these private forests have been destroyed, and many of the hill forests belonging to Zemindars and others, the upkeep of which is most desirable for climatic considerations, water-supply, &c., will be entirely ruined. If the Department of Public Works are not to take our timber at fairly remunerative rates, these evils can only be checked by placing a tax on all timbers brought from private forests into Government land or by framing rules for the up-keep of private hill forests, and these are matters which can only be touched under an Act.

Year.		Expenditure.		Receipts.
		Establishment.	Working charges.	
		RS.	RS.	RS.
1856-57	...	6,946	35,072	76,800
1857-58	...	7,722	27,676	79,912
1858-59	...	12,231	20,782	9,835
1859-60	...	9,892	12,593	2,65,953*
1860-61	...	9,843	20,069	44,078
1861-62	...	9,752	32,449	22,091
1862-63	...	11,380	22,459	75
1863-64	...	7,617	29,597	37,990
1864-65	...	7,021	24,125	21,032
1865-66	...	10,422	18,023	11,184
1866-67	...	7,030	10,622	12,040
1867-68	...	9,532	23,678	58,959
1868-69	...	11,133	19,912	30,489
1869-70	...	14,360	24,256	88,915
1870-71	...	10,498	37,709	17,517
1871-72	...	10,687	27,453	56,817
1872-73	...	12,565	30,083	11,649
1873-74	...	12,282	23,599	67,825
1874-75	..	12,439	20,164	23,734
1875-76	...	16,130	30,466	22,108

	RS.
Total Receipts	9,59,003
„ Expenditure	6,91,263
Balance in favor of the dept...	2,67,740

12. ESTABLISHMENT LARGER THAN NECESSARY.—The establishment as it now stands is certainly much in excess of what is required; admirable as Captain Walker's scheme may be for many of our open districts, it is not at all adapted for a dense mountain forest like this, at all events not until it is divided into blocks; it divides the forest into beats under Rangers and Foresters, and forest guards are expected to patrol these beats; the situation of the forest protects it, and with a view to the prevention of smuggling or illicit felling, which I am not aware have ever been attempted, it is only necessary to have a Duffadar stationed at each of the two ghauts, and for the Forest Officer and his Ranger to go occasionally round the boundary; the guards could not be expected to patrol a forest like this densely overgrown with underwood and full of wild animals as it is during the six or seven working months, and feverish as it is during the rest of the year, and they certainly would not do it if they were.

13. The increase made to this establishment from the 1st of April amounts to Rupees 171, *vide* margin, which, including the Deputy Conservator's pay, brings the total monthly cost up to Rs. 1,312, exclusive of extra batta; this is a heavier charge than the division can afford, and as Mr. Douglas, the Deputy Conservator, reported that he would easily dispense with some portions of it

Old Scale.		New Scale.	
Establishment.	Salary.	Establishment.	Salary.
	RS.		RS.
1 Head Forester	130	Head Clerk	45
1 1st Assistant Forester..	75	2nd Clerk, Travelling ...	25
1 2nd do. do. ...	65	3rd do. Vernacular ...	15
1 3rd do. do. ...	45	Duffadar	10
2 Gumastas, at Rs. 10 each	20	2 Peons, at Rs. 8 each...	16
1 Head Clerk...	30	2 do. at „ 7 „ ...	14
1 2nd do.	20	2 do. at „ 6 „ ...	12
13 Peons, at Rs. 6 each...	78	5 Head Guards, at Rs. 8 each	40
1 Foujdar	25	15 Forest Guards, at Rs. 7 each	105
1 Kader Guide	3	1 1st Class Ranger ...	125
		1 3rd do. do. ...	75
		2 Foresters, at Rs. 30 each	60
		2 do. at „ 20 „	40
		2 Rangers' Clerks, at Rs. 15 each	30
		1 Probationary Ranger..	50
Total ...	491	Total ...	662

Total increase Rs. 171.

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* The reason of the very large Revenue during 1859-60 is that upwards of a lakh of Rupees worth of timber sold and delivered in 1858-59 was by a mistake not paid for till after the close of the year.

		RS.
*1	Forester...	30
1	Do.	20
2	Rangers' Clerks, at Rs. 15 each... ...	30
2	Head Guards, at „ 8 „	16
	Total ...	96

as per margin,* amounting to Rs. 96 per mensem, I at once ordered him to effect this saving, and in the face of the very large retrenchment† made in this Budget, heading "Establishments," I have since been obliged to hold all the extra batta, which was also sanctioned from the 1st of April, in abeyance for the present.

14. Captain Walker's scheme also contemplates taking all the executive out of the hands of the Forest Officer and placing it in the hands of the Rangers, and I found that one of the Rangers had an enormous outstanding advance of upwards of Rupees 1,000 in his hands for carrying out works that have always hitherto been the duty of the Forest Officer himself. I entirely disapprove of this plan, which takes all responsibility out of the hands of our officers and is quite an innovation, and I am sure that few, if any, of our Rangers are proof against temptations of this nature. I have therefore ordered Mr. Douglas to discontinue it and in future to arrange all contracts himself, and not trust his Rangers to make the advances on, or settle the balances in any, contracts or other work in his forest.

15. More economy necessary in working.—I also drew the Deputy Conservator's attention by letter to a good many other matters in which, I think, more economy might be introduced, and I have no doubt that these will receive his earnest attention. Captain Douglas Hamilton's instructions for working this forest (published in our Forest Manual) are excellent and should be acted up to wherever present conditions and circumstances allow of it.

16. Saw *versus* Axe.—Saw machinery cannot be introduced into this forest, as we have no water carriage; it would be impossible to move the trees from the place where they are felled; last season Mr. Douglas felled 640 teak trees; these were only lopped and cleared round and are being converted this season. I found them scattered all over the forest; the girth runs from 9 feet to 18 and the length 60 to 80 feet, so that six elephants with elaborate harness could not move one of them about the forests, and machinery could not be, of course, moved about from tree to tree. As an experiment, Mr. Douglas is going this season to saw by hand a few of these trees, but I am afraid that it will be very expensive and troublesome work; if, however, it is found that we can turn out larger logs better adapted to the requirements of the Department of Public Works it may be justified. Captain Walker was under the impression that the Department of Public Works would give Rupees 2 per cubic foot for sawn logs against Rupees 1-8-0 for logs prepared with the axe, and a large quantity of the latter were sawn last year down at the Depôt at Annamallay; the result has been an increase in the expense and a loss in cubic content without any profit, as the Department of Public Works will not take them at the enhanced rate*.

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† *Vide* G.O., No. 889, dated 1st July 1876.

* *Vide* paragraph 1, Memorandum No. 993 by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, recorded in Proceedings of Government, Public Works Department, No 1,721, of the 6th July 1876.

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17. Ranger not qualified for his post.—I am sorry to have to report that Mr. Taylor, the senior Ranger in this division, is not at all up to his work; he has never qualified in the language and cannot make himself understood in it.

18. Probationary Assistant.—Mr. Boileau, Probationary Assistant (Acting Deputy Conservator), who has lately returned from leave, was attached to this division, so that I had an opportunity of seeing him and judging of his qualifications and I have since recommended him for the charge of a division.

19. License and Voucher Forests.—I have nothing to remark about the License and Voucher Forests except that the present expenditure on establishment is nearly equal to the revenue; unless the latter be found to be more elastic, the former must be reduced.

No. 1,068.

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, through the Collector of Coimbatore and the Board of Revenue, with reference to Rule VIII published with G. O., No. 1662 A, of the 19th November 1875, Revenue Department.

Dindigul, (Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Lieut.-Colonel,
22nd August 1876. Conservator of Forests.

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

In the foregoing letter Colonel Beddome reports the result of a tour of inspection recently made by him in the South Coimbatore Division which comprises the teak forests of the Anamallays.

2. In noticing the present state and future prospects of these forests, the Conservator draws attention to the fact that it will soon be necessary so far as teak timber is concerned to cease felling, inasmuch as the stock of trees of sufficient growth is almost exhausted, and years of rest will be required before the growing timber will be fit for the axe. He estimates the supply of large timber, by which it is assumed is meant trees exceeding 6 feet in girth, as sufficient only for one or two more seasons, and although there are about a lac of trees of from 4 to 5 feet in girth of from twenty-five to thirty-five years of age, there is hardly anything of a less age or any saplings beyond a year's growth. This disastrous state of affairs Colonel Beddome attributes to the forest fires, and the Board think he satisfactorily explains how it comes to pass that this destructive element has of late years affected the young growth in a manner unknown previous to the forests being worked by Government. Twenty-five years ago, with the exception of the Kaders and other jungle tribes, no human being entered these forests, and the jungle itself extended into the plains some eight or ten miles from the foot of the hills. This has now disappeared under the advance of cultivation, and the cattle which formerly pastured there are now driven on to the slopes of the hills, the grass on which is annually fired in order to secure an abundant growth for the ensuing year. These fires soon reach the elevation at which the teak flourishes; they scatter and injure trees of large size and utterly destroy the young growth so that natural reproduc-

tion has now become an impossibility. Colonel Beddome writes: "Thousands of teak seedlings come up all over the forest every year during the monsoon and are to be seen growing luxuriantly, but they are all burnt down yearly in January or February.

* * * * * * * * * *

It is therefore very clear that unless we apply a remedy there will be no teak left when the crop that is now thirty years old is cut, which, under advantageous circumstances, reared itself without any care or trouble." To remedy this state of things the Conservator proposes to adopt the block system; the blocks to be surrounded by rides or clearings about forty yards wide which would reduce the danger from fire to a minimum. Colonel Beddome should have explained why the carrying out of this very simple measure of conservancy has been deferred until the eleventh hour. Cattle are almost as destructive of young growth as fire, and it is therefore recommended that the forest should be declared a reserve and grazing placed under departmental control. To enforce these and other necessary restrictions, legislation will be necessary, and the Board are strongly of opinion that action in this direction should no longer be deferred. The necessity for it is clearly stated in Colonel Beddome's report, and without it he says "conservancy is simply impossible, and this the most valuable forest in India must annually deteriorate and in time cease to exist as a teak forest." No hardship would be inflicted on the people by the adoption of the Conservator's proposals, as the reserves would be of comparatively small extent, whilst the pasturage available is practically unlimited. The public interests at stake are considerable, and for the sake of posterity the present system of administration calls for early reform.

30th September 1874, No. 2,813.
1st October ,, ,, 2,828.
10th November ,, ,, 3,226.

3. In connection with the question of forest conservancy, the Board in continuation of their Proceedings marginally noted, which are before Government, beg to ask attention to Colonel Beddome's proposals in paragraph 7 in regard to the protection and encouragement of the Kader tribe. Independently of the expediency of providing them with congenial employment and thereby gradually weaning them from their semi-savage habits, every officer who has had to deal with them has reported them to be most valuable auxiliaries in forest operations. Colonel Beddome says "the Forest Officer can hardly get on without them."

4. Although it appears that the forest must be allowed to rest for many years before teak can again be drawn from it to any appreciable extent, it is satisfactory to learn from paragraph 10 of the Conservator's letter that there is still a fair reserve of blackwood and the superior class of jungle timbers. But in view to natural reproduction to meet the wants of the future, the measures of conservancy proposed are as much needed for these inferior timbers as for teak.

5. In paragraph 11, Colonel Beddome furnishes a statement of receipts and expenditure for the past twenty years from which it appears that a net profit of Rupees 2,67,740 has accrued to the State during that period. The question of the price to be paid for timber by the Public Works Department is touched upon by Colonel Beddome in connection with this part of his report, but as the matter has been finally disposed of by G.O., dated 6th July 1876, No. 1,721, Public Works Department, the Board do not consider it necessary to offer any further remark on the subject.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Conservator of Forests.
,, to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

No. 4528.
4/11/76

Revenue 1876. Septr

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD OCTOBER 1876, No. 2,493.

Dated 3rd Octr 1876

Encl.

4 [illegible] No 1593

Received 19

OCTOBER.
Forest No. 86.

Teak Forests—of Anamallays in Coimbatore District.—Submitting observations with reference to report of Conservator of Forests on—.

B.M.

I unreservedly [illegible] allow
& adverts to this instance of [illegible]
copy B.M.

Govt issue G.O.
in the sense of
his Dft
6th

Revenue Dept

1873/12

Memo for Orders

Pros: Board of Revenue 3d Oct: 1876 No. 2493 on report of Conservator on Teak Forests of Anamallays — Coimbatore Dt.

In the above Proceedings, the Board remark on the Conservator's report of his recent inspection of the South Coimbatore Division —

The Conservator spent 12 days on the inspection.

The Board draw the special attention of Govt. to Colonel Beddome's startling statements

regarding

regarding the present state and future prospects of this Forest.

In his opinion, after one or two seasons, the stock of the mature teak in these forests — seemingly the Govt. as well as the leased — will have been exhausted, and thus for many years to come they will have to be closed as far as the teak is concerned and worked only for ~~otherwise~~ other & inferior timber —

Colonel Beddome does not ascertain whether there will be a similar failure in the growth of the other kinds of valuable timber, but it is reasonable to conclude that, if the forest fires have been so terribly

The Govr. request that the [illegible] will forthwith supplement his report by detailing more precisely the extent [illegible] which — the locality

which [illegible] the fires [illegible] which these apparently devastating fires have occurred — & how it is that other trees have not suffered equally with the teak — The Govt. regret

terribly destructive to the teak, the other trees of similar growth have not escaped. (~~It~~ is a pity) ~~that the~~ highly unsatisfactory condition of these Forests ~~was not~~ ought to have been brought to the notice (of Govt.) earlier. The mischief caused by fires, here as elsewhere, has been commented upon, but it does not appear that Govt. have had placed before them any report exhibiting a state of affairs as serious as that now brought to light. The (last annual report submitted to Govt.) contains nothing indicative of the rapid termination of the teak supply. It

The fol. are [illegible]

It is to be regretted that the Collector has not thought it worth his while to make any comments on the Conservator's remarks – ~~he will now~~ ~~Mr Wedderburn's knowledge of the forest tracts of his District is considerable, having been for some time directly responsible for their management.~~

The exhaustion of the teak forest – a forest of which Colonel Beddome speaks as the most important in India – is a matter of the highest moment, and one on which it is necessary to obtain as much information as

Col. Beddome should state what mileage of rides would require to be cut & kept clear annually to give effect to his suggested measures of protection & the cost of it.

~~Mr Wedderburn will would is well qualified from his extensive knowledge of these tracts to express an such a valuable opinion – he will report accordingly~~

x Mr Wedderburn is well qualified from his long residence in the Dist. and acquaintance with these forests to express an opinion – and that opinion he will now give –

as possible. It is submitted therefore that the Collector should be called on to give his opinion. Meanwhile, however, sanction [conservancy to the fol.] might be given to carry out, as far as practicable, the conservancy proposed measures suggested by Colonel Beddome and approved by the Board.

Of the measures already taken to protect these forests from fire, Colonel Beddome remarks that they have not been systematic and

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and have been carried out
in a desultory sort of way".
Considering the importance
of such measures it is
a matter of surprise that
ampler provision was not
made for them in the
Budget for 76/77, the small sum of
Rs 700 only having been
devoted to this purpose out of
a total allotment of Rs 61,000. — Special provision should be made in the Budget for 77/78 —

With regard to Colonel
Beddome's remarks on the
revenue of this Forest, and the
establishment necessary to
work it, it is to be noted
that Captain Campbell
Walker in para 41 of his
letter (forwarding a
revised scheme for the
reorganization
of

of the subordinate establish:
:ment, (printed with Govt.
Proceedings 21st Augt. 1875)
in asking for the increased
establishment based his re:
:quest on the good financial
prospects of the Forests, "Consider
he says "this increase warranted
" by the prospects of increasing re:
" :venue and enhanced conser:
" :vancy." "The existing establish:
" :ment was sanctioned years ago
" when we had only the Govt.
" reserved forests under Conser:
" :vancy operations, which have
" now extended to the south
" including the forests of the
" Oodumulpettah Taluq, from
" which we derive a considera:
" :ble revenue under the License
" and Voucher System. The
" Annamallay Forest is one
of

"of the best and most lucra:
:tive in this Presidency, and we
"have at present large indents
"from the Public Works and
"Ordnance Departments and
"the Admiralty they presumed that to meet."

The increase approved by Govt. amounted to Rs. 111 - not Rs. 171, as stated by Colonel Beddome. The Con:
:servator appears to have ~~has~~ included 1 Probationary Ranger on Rs. 50 - not provided for by Capt: Campbell Walker. This should be explained. Colonel Beddome, it will be observed, has temporarily reduced the establishment. The saving is Rs. 96 & the pre:
:sent cost only 25 Rs. above that of the old scale.

The Conservator's temporary reductions, may, it is

Ahe

but the permanent reduction of the establishment will depend upon the prospects of the forests, a point which still requires further information /

{the comment is sufficient for present}

is submitted, be approved, ~~but whether or not the esta:
:blishment should be perma:
:nently reduced depends upon the issue whether or not the prospects of this Forest are as gloomy as depicted.~~

In para 3 the Board request that orders may be passed on the proposals con:
:nected with the improvement of the Kader tribe.

The Govt. have already in their orders 1st Sept. 1874 No. 1107 and G.O. 1 Sept. 1874 No. 1115 indicated to some extent the policy that should be adopted by the Forest Departt. in its dealings with Hill people, but (it is submitted that) the exact line of conduct to be followed (cannot definitively be mapped out) until a Forest Act has been passed; meanwhile

all

All that seems necessary is to inculcate on the Forest Dept. to endeavour by fair and liberal dealing to gain as large influence as possible with these people. The superior Officers ~~(should)~~ while carefully observe the conduct of their subordinates towards them & thus constitute themselves their protectors, as far as may be, without interfering with their full liberty of action, and the natural course of trade.

by would

the [illegible]

The question of the price to be charged for timber has already been fully considered by Govt.× There is nothing new in the arguments now brought forward by the Conservator.

HL
7.11.76

~~× G.O. 6 July /76 No. 172 P.W.D., recorded in G.O. R.D. 22d July /76 No. 1750.~~

Decline to modify in any way the [illegible] already [illegible]

Endd. [illegible]

17

Memo of Teak Logs

Annamallays
Teak Forests

c F 2nd/76 No 9 20/1/76.

No. 3

Revenue Department

No 1893

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 4th ~~November~~ December 1876

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 3rd October 1876, No 2493, on report of Conservator on Teak Forests of Anamallays, Coimbatore District.

In the above Proceedings, the Board remark on the Conservator's report of his recent inspection of the South Coimbatore Division, which occupied twelve days –

~~2 The Conservator spent 12 days in the inspection.~~

3 The Board draw the special attention of Govt. to Colonel Beddome's startling statements regarding the present state and future prospects of this Forest. In his opinion, after one or two seasons, the whole of the mature teak in these forests seemingly the Govt.

as

as well as the leased - will have been exhausted, and thus for many years to come they will have to be closed as far as the teak is concerned and worked only for other and inferior timber. ~~Colonel Beddome does not mention whether there will be a similar failure in the yield of the other kinds of valuable jungle timber, but it is reasonable to conclude that, if the forest fires have been so terribly destructive to the teak, the other trees of similar growth have not escaped.~~ Percy ~~I [illegible]~~ ~~regret that~~ the highly unsatisfactory condition of these Forests ought to have been ~~was not~~ brought to their notice earlier. The mischief caused by fires here as elsewhere has been commented upon but it does not appear that ~~they~~ the Govt. have had placed before them any report exhibiting a state of affairs so serious as that now brought to light. The annual report for 1874/75 contains nothing indicative of the rapid termination of the teak supply. The Govts are surprised that the Collector has not thought it worth his while to make any comments on the Conservator's remarks. The exhaustion of this teak forest - a forest of which Colonel Beddome speaks as the most important in India, is a matter of the highest moment, and one on which it is necessary to obtain as much information as possible.

Mr. Wedderburn is well qualified from his long residence in the district and acquaintance with these forests to express an opinion and that opinion he will now give. ~~Meanwhile however, sanction is accorded for carrying out, as far as practicable the Conservancy~~

~~measures~~

The Govt. request that the Conservator will forthwith supplement his report by detailing much more precisely the extent over which, the locality ~~at~~ in which, and the period at which these apparently disastrous fires have occurred and he will further state how it is that other trees have not suffered equally with the teak, which would seem to be the case - Col. Beddome should state the mileage of rides that should be cut & kept clear annually to give effect to his suggested measures of protection & the cost per mile -

measures suggested by Colonel Beddome and approved by the Board. Of the measures already taken to protect these forests from fire, Colonel Beddome remarks that they have not been systematic and have been carried out "in a desultory sort of way." Considering the importance of such measures it is a matter of surprise that ampler provision was not made for them in the Budget for 1876/77 the small sum of Rs. 700 only having been devoted to this purpose out of a total allotment of Rs. 61,000. Special provision should be made in the Budget for 1877/78.

With

1873/20

4. With regard to Colonel Beddome's remarks on the revenue of the Forest, and the establishment necessary to work it, the Government observe that Captain Campbell Walker, in para 41 of his letter (printed with Govt. Proceedings 21st August 1875) forwarding a revised scheme for the reorganization of the subordinate establishment, based his request for an increased establishment on the good financial prospects of the Forests, considering "this "increase warranted by the pros"pects of increasing revenue and "enhanced conservancy."

It is observed that the increase approved by Government amounted to Rupees 111 not Rupees 171, as

^ inadvertently

stated

stated by Colonel Beddome. The Conservator appears to have included a Probationary Ranger on Rs. 50, not provided for by Captain Campbell Walker. This should be explained.

5. The Conservator's temporary reductions — are approved, but the permanent reductions of the establishment will depend upon the prospects of the Forest, regarding which Government require further information.

6. Referring to the Board's request that orders may be passed on the proposals connected with the improvement of the Kadertribe, — the Government remark

that

that they have already in their orders 1st September 1874 No. 1107 and G.O. 1st September 1874 No. 1115 indicated to some extent the policy that should be adopte by the Forest Department i its dealings with Hill peopl but they cannot definitively prescribe the exact line of conduct to be followed unti a Forest Act has been passe meanwhile they would inculcate on the Forest Department the duty of endeavourin by fair and liberal dealing, to gain as large influence as possible with these peopl The superior officers will ca fully observe the conduct o their subordinates towards them and thus constitute

themse

themselves their protectors, as far as may be, without interfering with their full liberty of action, and the natural course of trade.

7. The question of the price to be charged for timber having been fully considered by Govt., they decline to modify in any way the instructions already issued.

To 14 Board of Revenue d/ 6-12/76
21 Committee of Trade d/ 6-12/76

GO

Annamallay Teak Forests

to go to His Grace —

approved by Sir W. R. [illegible]

10-11-6

Put on record

R

Despatch

Soon

Sent to His Grace 11 Nov/76 R 11 Nov