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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1893
B.P. No.

Press
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Dated 4.12

1876.
196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

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 Kader 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

* Vide letter from the Conservator of Forests to Government, No. 71, dated 24th January 1876. forest conservancy). The question is in obedience,* 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 *Lagerstrœmia microcarpa* (Ven tek), *Conocarpus latifolius*

(Velle Nágá), *Schleichera trijuga* (Poova), *Lindelia spinosa* (Kora man), *Vitex allissina* (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.

11. REVENUE, PAST AND PRESENT.—I 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

Year.	EXPENDITURE.		Receipts.
	Estab- lishment.	Working charges.	
1856-57	Rs. 6,946	Rs. 35,072	Rs. 76,500
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

Total receipts Rs. 9,59,003
" expenditure 6,91,263

Balance in favor of the dept. ... 2,67,740

* 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.

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

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.
1 Head Forester	Rs. 130	Head Clerk	Rs. 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 Langer	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

	Rs.	as per margin,
1 Forester	30	amounting to Rs. 96
1 Do.	20	per mensem, I at
2 Rangers' Clerks, at Rs. 15 each	30	once ordered him to
2 Head Guards, at " 8 "	16	effect this saving,
Total...	96	and in the face of

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

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 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 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.

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. 1,638.

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, (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, 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 forest 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.

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

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

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. 41. 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 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 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 dealings with hill people. They cannot definitively prescribe the exact line of conduct to be followed until a Forest Act has been passed; meanwhile they would inculcate on the Forest 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.

Final No 5778/1876-
5925/76

Final No 5778/1876-
5925/76

DECEMBER
Nos. 43-44.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

REVENUE.

30th of 1876

Dec. 1876

Ver 839/19

FOREST No. 86.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd October 1876, No. 2493.

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.

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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 operation of 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

years old is cut, and which, under advantageous circumstances, reared itself without any care or trouble; the result 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 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 coup 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 coup 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-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

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

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 Marupium* (Vengay), besides *Lagerstroemia microcarpa* (Ven tek), *Conocarpus latifolius* (Vello Nagá), *Schleichera trijuga* (Poova), *Briedelia Spinosa* (Kora man),

1873/8

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

Year.	EXPENDITURE.		Receipts.
	Establishment.	Working charges.	
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1856-57	6,946	35,072	76,800
1857-58	7,722	27,076	79,912
1858-59	12,231	20,782	9,835
1859-60	9,892	12,593	2,65,953*
1860-61	9,813	20,069	44,078
1861-62	9,752	22,449	22,091
1862-63	11,330	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

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

* 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.

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 Contractors 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

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,

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 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, 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.	65	3rd do. Vernacular	15
1 3rd 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 Foudar	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 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

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

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

ing "Establishments," I have since been obliged to hold all the 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

* 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.

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*.

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 the Budget, head-

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,
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 Annamallays.

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.

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

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

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.

Pres: Board of Revenue 3?
Oct: 1876 A. 2493 on report of Commissioner
on Dist. Forests of Anamallays —
Coimbatore D.

In the above Proceedings, the Board remarks on the Commissioner's report of his recent inspection of the South Crimbeare Division—

The Conservator spent
12 days on the inspection

The Board drew the
special attention of Govt.
to Colonel Biddome's
startling statements
regarding

Addressed to
 Mr. L. L. L. L.
 his office
 17th St. N. W.
 W. H. L. L.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 3.
1876. 2/11/76

Board of Health,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD OCTOBER 1876, No. 2,433

August 20th 1876

Ernst

4 Dec 1843

Received

10

OCTOBER.

Forest No. 86

Trade Forests.—of Annamkay in Coimbatore District.—Submitting observations with reference to report of Conservator of Forests on—.

referring the present
state and future
prospects of this creek.

In his opinion, after one
or two seasons, the state of
the matured trees in these
forests - seemingly the forest
as well as the leaves - will
have been exhausted, and
thus for many years to come
they will have to be stored
as far as the trees are
concerned and worked up
for other ^{interior} timber -

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

The Government should be
well supplied with
timber for the
purpose of
the report
which the
timber

which has occurred -
has it not often been
the case that the
timber is
the Government

terribly destructive to the
trees, the other trees. It
similar from the land which
escaped - (It is a
fact that the highly un-
satisfactory condition of the
forest ^{supply} has 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. had had placed
before them any report
exhibiting a state of affairs
so serious as that now
brought to light. The
(last annual report sub-
mitted to Govt. contains
nothing indicative of the
rapid termination of the
timber supply. -

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

The exhaustion of this task 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

(At present we do not know what mileage of roads would require to be cut - but it is necessary to give effect to this suggestion. Necessary instructions will be given for it.)

~~Mr Wedderburn's knowledge of the forest tract of his District is considerable, having been for some time directly responsible for their management.~~

X Mr Wedderburn will be glad to see you - his long residence in the district and acquaintance with the forest to which you refer is a valuable asset.

as possible. It is submitted therefore that the Collector should be called on to give his opinion. Meanwhile, however, sanction might be given to carry out, as far as practicable, the various 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

and have been carried out
in a desultory sort of way."

Considering the importance
of such measures it is
a matter of surprise that
ample provision was not
made for them in the
^{for 76/77} Budget, the small sum of
Rs 700 only having been
devoted to this purpose out of
a total allotment of Rs 61,000.

With regard to Colonel
Bodder'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

Special Committee (2)
be made at the Budget
for 1877-78 -

of the subordinate establish-
ment, printed with Govt.
Proceedings 21st Aug^r 1875,
in asking for the increased
establishment, based his re-
quest on the good financial
prospects of the Forest; "Leaving"
he says this increase warranted
by the prospects of increasing re-
venue and enhanced conser-
vation. The existing establish-
ment was sanctioned years ago
when we had only the Govt.
reserved forests under conser-
vation operations, which have
now extended to the south
including the forests of the
Oodumulpettah Taluk, 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 to meet.

The increase approved by
Govt. amounted to Rs. 111 -
not Rs. 171, as stated by
Colonel Beddome. The Con-
servator 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, on any, it
is

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
Depart^{mt} 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

City cannot be put in
practice

all that seems necessary is to communicate on the Forest Dept^{ts} to endeavour by fair and liberal dealing to gain as large influence as possible with these people. The superior Officers (should) 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.

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
7.10.76

+ 4.0.6 July 1776
P.H.D. recorded in G.D.
P.D. 22 July 1776
N^o 1750.

the same is in any way
different from the
one already
considered

Griffiths

*Amamallay
Lull Forests*

11/12/76

Revenue Department

No 1893

*Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 4th December 1876*

Read the following Resolutions of the Board of Revenue dated 3rd October 1876, No. 2493, on report of Conservator on Lull Forests of Amamallay, Coimbatore District.

In the above Resolutions, the Board remarks on the Conservator's report of his recent inspection of the South Coimbatore Division - which occupied twelve days -
2 The Conservator spent 12 days on the inspection.

3 The Board draws the special attention of Govt. to Colonel Reddome'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 timber 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 other
and inferior timber. ^{Col. J. P. Reddome}
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. ^{Porey} ~~It is found~~
~~that the highly unsatis-~~
factory 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 Govt.} they have
had placed before them any report
exhibiting a state of affairs

The Govt. request that
the Conservator write
forthwith a supplement - his
report of detailed much
more precisely the extent
over which, the locality
at 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 specially
with the teak, which would
seem to be the case - Col.
Reddome should state
the number of acres that
should be cut & kept
clear annually to give
effect to his suggested
measures of protection
& the cost per mile -

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 Govt. 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 Col.
Reddome speaks as the most
important in India is a matter
of the highest moment, and one
in which it is necessary to obtain as
much information as possible.
Mr. Wedderburn is well qual-
ified from his long residence in
the district and acquaintance with
these forests to express an opinion
and that opinion he will now
give. In the meanwhile however,
sanction is accorded for
carrying out, as far as prac-
ticable the Conservancy
measures

measures suggested by
Colonel Reddome and approved
by the Board. Of the mea-
sures already taken to pro-
tect these forests from fire,
Colonel Reddome remarks
that they have not been sys-
tematic and have been carried
out 'in a desultory sort of
way'. Considering the im-
portance of such measures it
is a matter of surprise that
ample provision was not
made for them in the Budget
for 1876/77. The small sum of
Rs. 700 only having been al-
located to this purpose out
of a total allotment of
Rs. 8,000. Special provi-
sion should be made in
the Budget for 1877/78.

With

4. With regard to Colonel
Reddome's remarks on the revenue
of the Forests and the esta-
blishment 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 reorga-
nization of the subordinate esta-
blishment, 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

advertently

stated

stated by Colonel Reddome.

The Conservator appears to have included a Probationary Ranger on Pt. 50, not provided for by Capt. Campbell Walker. This should be explained.

5. The Conservator's temporary reductions

was 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 Kader tribe,

the Government remark that

that they have already in their orders 1st September 1874 No. 1007 and G.O. 1st September 1874 No. 1115 indicated to some extent the policy that should be adopted by the Forest Department in its dealings with Hill people, but they cannot definitively prescribe the exact line of conduct to be followed until a Forest Act has been passed. Meanwhile they would inculcate on the Forest Department the duty of endeavouring by fair and liberal dealing to gain as large influence as possible with these people. The superior officers will carefully observe the conduct of their subordinates towards them and thus constitute themselves

themselves their protectors, as
far as may be, without in-
terfering 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 Gov^t, they decline to modify
in any way the instructions
already issued.

7 14 Bureau of Revenue 6-12/76
21 Committee of Finance 6-12/76

Edw. A. B.

90.

Annals of the
Great Britain

to the Grace -

affirmed by the Court of the

10-11-6

Paula E

Suppl
See