M.R.O. 1—39,000—15-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 26, Press Mis.

53-54.

Dated 6th January 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 1082.

Camp Cotacamund 18th Dec.r 68

From

Major R. A. Beddome
Offg Conservator of Forests.

To,

R. A. Dalyell Esqre
Actg Secretary to Government
R. D.

Sir,

Now that our Establishments are being greatly increased and Forest Conservancy is gradually being placed on a firm footing and Demarcation is occupying the attention of most of our Officers it is time that Govern=ment should take into careful consideration the system of the Jungle Conservancy Fund. It is at present nowhere clearly defined, and in some districts the Revenue Authorities have [illegible] considerable tracts of forests, and the Native Revenue Authorities issue Licences to fell timber &c.a. There is no Establish=ment however to look after these tracts and it is the general complaint of our Officers that

that this system is a great encouragement to smuggling and in every way opposed to true Conservancy.- It is in fact two departments working for one object in the same district and there is no doubt that it causes much jealousy and clashing;- that the Executive Revenue Authorities make considerable profit by the system there can be no doubt and they of course will try and persuade Collectors to keep as much forest under the Revenue Department as possible but where tracts have been transferred from the Revenue Authorities to our Department the receipts have at once risen about 400 Rs per cent though Conservancy regulations have been brought into force, and the more forest handed over to our Department in a district the easier Conservancy becomes, & smuggling is much easier to check; I am convinced therefore that it would be greatly to the interests of Government if the Jungle Conservancy fund could be confined to topes and Avenues in all those districts where we have Establish-ments or if village jungles are to be placed under it, that it should be only with reference to free felling.-

2.- With reference to Demarcation I propose to divide forests into 4 Classes as follows.-

No I. Reserved Forests. Strictly reserved and regularly worked by the Depart-ment- No grazing allowed and no felling on Licence.-

No II. Reserved Forests- Same as No 1. only grazing allowed.-

No III. Unreserved Forests- All 2nd Class forests worked on the Voucher and Licen-system.- Grazing allowed.- No free felling allowed (except in specia cases with permission from the Collector or Forest Officer.-

No IV. Village Forests.- Large tracts accord-

to the requirements of villages.—
Demarcated in communication with
the Revenue Authorities.— Open to
all free felling for agricultural
purpose and firewood on passes
from the Native Revenue Officials.
Felling for building timber to be
open to the inhabitants on purchase
of a voucher and Licence, but not
to traders except in special cases
where there may be a surplus
amount of timber.—

3.— The question for consideration is,
under whom are tracts No. IV to be placed,
if they could be curtailed in extent and if
felling could be confined to free felling for
agricultural purposes, the case would be
simple and I would recommend that they
should be handed over entirely to the Revenue
authorities.— I find however that these tracts
must be very large in some districts and that
much

will be much enhanced) any sums that
may be required for Nurseries, topes, avenues,
roads &c. may be entered in our budget.—

4.— In submitting the above re-
=commendations I would respectfully state
that I have had 12 years experience in our
districts and that I have also had the ad-
=vantages of much consultation on the
subject with the forest Officers of Bengal
and the North West and the Inspector
General of Forests with whom I have travelled
over different parts of our presidency. De-
=marcation is now receiving much attention
and it is necessary to place several of our
Establishment on a firmer footing but
there is a difficulty in knowing what to
propose whilst this subject remains in
its present unsettled state, and I think
that Government will perceive that our
Establishments can be much larger and more
efficient

much valuable forests will in some cases be contained in them, and that felling cannot be restricted to free felling only as it would often be a hardship to force the inhabitants to go to tracts No. III for building timber when it is procurable in No. IV.—If they are placed under the Revenue Authorities Collectors must have proper Establishments for them; but this would not obviate the evils alluded to in para 1, there would still be the anomaly of 2 Establishments for one object, the same causes for jealousy, and openings for smuggling.—Under these circumstances I must recommend that tracts No. IV are placed under our Department and that we provide suitable Establishments for them, this will not prevent their being worked strictly under the orders of Collectors, and as in some districts it will lessen the Collectors' receipts (though the total receipts will

No. 53. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 18th December 1868, No. 1,082:—

1. Now that our Establishments are being greatly increased and Forest Conservancy is gradually being placed on a firm footing, and Demarcation is occupying the attention of most of our Officers, it is time that Government should take into careful consideration the system of the *Jungle Conservancy Fund.* It is at present nowhere clearly defined, and in some districts the Revenue authorities have control over considerable tracts of forest, and the Native Revenue authorities issue licenses to fell timber, &c. There is no establishment, however, to look after these tracts, and it is the general complaint of our Officers that this system is a great encouragement to smuggling, and in every way opposed to true conservancy. It is in fact two departments working for one object in the same district, and there is no doubt that it causes much jealousy and clashing. That the Native Revenue authorities make considerable profit by the system there can be no doubt, and they, of course, will try and persuade Collectors to keep as much forest under the Revenue Department as possible; but where tracts have been transferred from the Revenue authorities to our Department, the receipts have at once risen about Rupees 400 per cent., though Conservancy regulations have been brought into force, and the more forest handed over to our department in a district, the easier conservancy becomes, and smuggling is much easier to check. I am convinced, therefore, that it would be greatly to the interests of Government, if the Jungle Conservancy Fund could be confined to topes and avenues in all those districts where we have establishments, or if village jungles are to be placed under it, that it should be only with reference to free felling.

2. With reference to demarcation, I propose to divide forests into four classes as follows:—

No. I. *Reserved Forests.*—Strictly reserved and regularly worked by the department. No grazing allowed, and no felling on license.

No. II. *Reserved Forests.*—Same as No. 1, only grazing allowed.

No. III. *Unreserved Forests.*—All 2nd Class forests worked on the voucher and license system. Grazing allowed. No free felling allowed, except in special cases, with permission from the Collector or Forest Officer.

No. IV. *Village Forests.*—Large tracts according to the requirements of villages. Demarcated in communication with the Revenue authorities. Open to all free felling for agricultural purpose, and firewood on passes from the Native Revenue Officials. Felling for building-timber to be open to the inhabitants on purchase of a voucher and license, but not to traders, except in special cases where there may be a surplus amount of timber.

3. The question for consideration is, under whom are tracts No. IV. to be placed, if they could be curtailed in extent, and if felling could be confined to free felling for agricultural purposes, the case would be simple, and I would recommend that they should be handed over entirely to the Revenue authorities. I find, however, that these tracts must be very large in some districts, and that much valuable forests will, in some cases, be contained in them, and that felling cannot be restricted to free felling only, as it would often be a hardship to force the inhabitants to go to tracts

No. III. for building-timber, when it is procurable in No. IV. If they are placed under the Revenue authorities, Collectors must have proper establishments for them; but this would not obviate the evils alluded to in paragraph 1: there would still be the anomaly of two establishments for one object, the same causes for jealousy, and openings for smuggling. Under these circumstances, I must recommend that tracts No. IV. be placed under our department, and that we provide suitable establishments for them; this will not prevent their being worked strictly under the orders of Collectors, and, as in some districts, it will lessen the Collectors' receipts (though the total receipts will be much enhanced); any sums that may be required for nurseries, topes, avenues, roads, &c., may be entered in our budget.

4. In submitting the above recommendations, I would respectfully state that I have had twelve years' experience in our districts, and that I have also had the advantages of much consultation on the subject with the Forest Officers of Bengal and the North-West, and the Inspector General of Forests, with whom I have travelled over different parts of our Presidency. Demarcation is now receiving much attention, and it is necessary to place several of our establishments on a firmer footing; but there is a difficulty in knowing what to propose whilst this subject remains in its present unsettled state, and I think that Government will perceive that our establishments can be much larger and more efficient where we have the entire control than where two establishments are working for the same object.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 6th January 1869, No. 25.

Forests, No. 1.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Ed. T. O'Connor.

Revenue 868-69. 3

Letter Department.

No. 3980.

From

The Offg. Conservator of Forests

To, The Secretary to Govt.

Fort St. George R. O.

Dated 18th December 1868

Received 21st do

No. 1052.

Conservancy Forests

Subject.

Requests orders on the

subject of the Jungle Con-

servancy Regulations &c.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

No. 25.

6th Jany 1869.

Copies to the Conservator of Forests

13 do do

Govt. of (1869) Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 6th.

Read. Encl.

G. O., 6th January 1869, No. 25.

From the Conservator of Forests
& Board 1869 A 809.

JANUARY.

Nos. 53-54.

Pro of the Board of Revenue 5 June 1869
A 1955

Jungle Conservancy.—Conservator of Forests letter on this subject, referred to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

the same object.-

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servt

J C Nicholson Major
Offg Conservator of Forests