

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2322	Press Mis
87-88		
Dated	3 — 10 —	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd October 1867.*

No. 87. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, (Revenue—Forests,) to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 31st August 1867, No. 5:—

1. The Despatch from your Excellency in Council, numbered 5, Forests, and dated the 25th of June last, which transmitted the report of the Officiating Conservator of Forests for the year 1865-66, and your Proceedings thereon, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The decrease of profit in this year is chiefly accounted for by the injudicious abolition of the seigniorage on bamboos, which was restored in March 1866.

	1865-66.	Rs.
Receipts ...	...	3,21,581
Expenditure ...	...	2,59,802
Net profit ...		61,779
Profit of 1864-65...		72,133

3. It is very satisfactory to me to learn that works connected with plantations have been pushed forward with energy and success. The subject is one

of great importance to the prosperity of the country. Lieutenant Walker deserves credit for the arrangement which he has made with the Railway Company with respect to fuel for locomotives in the Salem District. Under the former system, both the Government and the Company seem to have been defrauded. I am glad to learn that the supply in this Collectorate is still sufficient, but, as Lieutenant Walker justly remarks, it will be advisable to keep up the supply by applying measures of conservancy to additional tracts of firewood jungles.

4. I regret to observe that similar prudence does not seem to have been exercised in regard to the Sholas in the Neilgherries. Secretary Earl de Grey and Ripon, in his Despatch of the 16th of May (No. 16) 1866, called for an explanation as to certain observations in the Forest Report for 1864-65, which seemed to indicate that there had been a great sacrifice of one of these sholas. But no reply has been received to that portion of His Lordship's Despatch. From the expressions in this report, it would seem that the tenant of the Devi shola has not even fulfilled the conditions on which this shola was made over to him, and that other large tracts of these sholas have been sold. I trust that you have already issued orders to prohibit the alienation from the Forest Department of any more of these tracts of jungle or firewood.

5. I observe that Major Morgan complains of the want of medicines for his establishment, although he had indented for them, and mentions especially quinine and chlorodyne. Care should be taken that a sufficient supply of such medicines should be provided for all Forest establishments. It is no less the duty than the interest of Government to take the best measures in their power for preserving the health of those who are exposed to the effects of such unhealthy localities as the forests.

6. Another point alluded to in the report, seems to me to be far from satisfactory. Two fires are mentioned as having destroyed a large amount of wood in the Devi shola, but no explanation of the origin of them is given. I desire to receive more information than the papers supply in regard to two fires from which so much damage, as is implied in Captain Beddome's report, resulted. It is also far from creditable to the Forest Department of the Annamallays that the disastrous

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losses by fire which occurred in those forests should be attributable to the want of proper arrangements to secure the depôts from the annual fires. As Dr. Cleghorn has made a separate report to you on this matter, I shall not notice it further here, since you will, doubtless, have issued instructions which will prevent such results in future.

7. I rely on your assurance, that the delays which have hitherto occurred in sending home these annual reports shall not recur.

8. The extension of the Forest Act to the Presidency of Madras is, I observe, under your consideration. The subject seems, from the remarks of the local Forest Officers, one of some urgency.

No. 83. ORDER THEREON, 3rd October 1867, No. 2,322.

Forests, No. 5.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Conservator of Forests for his information and guidance.

2. The Proceedings of Government noted in the margin will be transmitted to the Secretary of State

30th August 1866, Nos. 800, 801.
10th October " " 262-265.

with reference to paragraph 4 of this Despatch, and the attention of the Board of Revenue and the Conservator of Forests will be requested to the observation contained in the latter part of it.

3. Paragraph 5 will be communicated to the Inspector General of the Medical Department, through the Public Department, for his information and guidance.

4. The fires alluded to in paragraph 6 have received the attention of Government, and the papers on the subject noted in the margin will be transmitted to the Secretary of State.

Proceedings, 9th January 1866, Nos. 67, 68,
(paragraph 4 of the Order).

Do. 29th March 1866, Nos. 307, 308.

Do. 26th " " 315-318, (para-
graph 6 of the Conservator's letter, dated 15th
January 1866).

Do. 24th April 1866, Nos. 380, 390.

Do. 1st June " " 83, 89.

Government, dated 15th October 1866, No. 2,799, regarding the extension of the Forest Act to this Presidency.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Conservator of Forests
.. the Board of Revenue.
.. the Public Department.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department

N^o. 2322.

*Proceedings of the Madras Govt
under date the 3^d. Oct^r 1867*

*Read the follo-
wing Despatch from the
Home Govt.*

*(Here enters 31st Aug.
1867, No 5/-*

*Ordered to be in-
communicated to the Con-
servator of Forests for his
information and guidance.*

*2. The Pro: of Govt
noted in the margin will
be transmitted to the Secy.
of State with reference to
para 4 of this Despatch,
and the attention of the
Board of Revenue and
the Conservator of Forests
will be requested to the
observation contained*

*1866, Nos 800 & 801-
" " 262 to 265-*

in the latter part of it-

3. Para 5 will be com-
municated to the Inspector
General of the Medical
Department, through the
Public Dept., for his in-
formation and guidance-

4. The files alluded
to in para 6 have received
the attention of Govt and
the papers on the subject
noted in the margin ^{with} have
transmitted to the Secy of
State:-

Pro: 9th Jan'y 1866, Nos 67 & 68 (para
4 of letter)
"- 20th March - " - 307 & 308 -
"- 20th do - " - 315 to 318 -
(para 6 of the Govt letter
of 15th Jan'y 1866) -
"- 24th Apr'l 1866, Nos 389 & 390 -
"- 1st June - " - 88 & 89 -

5. The Bd of Revenue
will again be requested to
submit their reply to the
order of Govt dated 15th
Oct'r 1866, No 2799, about
the extension of the Forest
Act to this Presidency at
an early date -

13th Feb 1867
14th -
5 -
Ld Secy of the Govt
P. of Revenue
Public Dept.

Revenue 1864 Bu 115
No 155 from 1864

1864 1863 22

No of the Madras Coast
of 3rd October 1864

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1864-88