

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 2785

DATED 2nd June

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sanctioning with remark, the work of planting
fundan Shola in the Madurai District

BACK PAPERS.

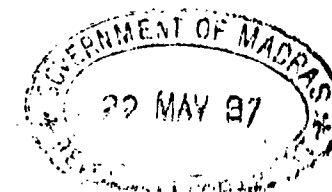
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 4319



The Hon. Mr. J. C. J. J.

From

The Board of Revenue, Land Revenue
Madras

Order misc No. 27858/22/116/97
by 16/5/97 June 97

Forest No. 450 Misc

The work referred to is sanctioned and that the Board's proposal that the expenditure in connexion therewith may, as in the past, be incurred on the annual estimates sanctioned by the Conservator is approved.

Dated 18th May 1897

Received 22-5-97

Registered 25-5-97

Enclosures 1

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government papers relating to the Gurdan shola plantations in the Madure District and soliciting its formal sanction for an estimate amounting to Rs. 29,324 for the same.

The Board of Rev LR
Acct General

Note

The facts are concisely stated

C 29/5/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

The Conservator & Bd both think it will pay eventually but at present the revenue cannot be foretold with sufficient accuracy.

Me
26/5/87

In 1887 the Bd approved of the proposal to plant up the Gundan Sholah at Kodaikanal. The work was carried on till 1893 under the Conservator's sanction. In 1893 an estimate for 13,000 Rs was submitted to the Bd. The Bd called for certain particulars as to probable financial result. But it appears that owing to the mispricing of the madra & oppia this information has just been furnished by the Conservator himself. Meantime 22,968 Rs in all have been spent & 6376 Rs are required to finish it.

B.M.
25.5.97

Me
26/5/87

BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), 13TH SEPTEMBER 1887, FOREST No. 520.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE).

J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., C.S.I.

READ—the following letter from the Collector of Madura, dated 2nd July 1887, Circular No. 265:—

ABSTRACT.—Submitting, for early orders, the question of abandoning the existing plantations at Kodaikanal and forming in lieu of them a new permanent plantation in Gundan sholah at Kodaikanal on the Palni hills.

Reference on the above, dated 8th August 1887, to the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

READ—the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, dated 12th August 1887, No. 1197:—

ABSTRACT.—Submitting, with remarks, letters from the Collector of Madura giving up his wish to get rid of the Eucalyptus or Post-office plantations, and agreeing with the Conservator that it will be best to keep it for the present.

READ—the following letter from the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, dated 2nd September 1887, No. 1387:—

ABSTRACT.—Submitting remarks on Collector's endorsement, dated 2nd July 1887, No. 265, and giving sufficient reasons for not spending money this year on the Gundan plantation and sholah.

RESOLUTION—dated 13th September 1887, Forest No. 520.

Mr. Turner, Collector of Madura, addressed the Board by an endorsement, dated 2nd July 1887, on a letter of Colonel Walker's to him, dated 17th June 1887, taking objection to Colonel Walker's action. Colonel Walker's letter contained his refusal to sanction certain estimates Mr. Turner had prepared for the extension and planting of Gundan sholah in the current year 1887-88.

	RS.	A.	P.
The planting estimate was for	...	...	...
The fencing estimate was for	...	...	...
Total	745	4	4

Colonel Walker's objections were (1) that there was no money; (2) that the fencing of the area to be planted must be done first, and that as the wire for the purpose would have to come from England, there would be no time; (3) that nurseries were wanting; (4) that at present the Forest Department were better employed on work on the plains.

2. Mr. Turner's objections to Colonel Walker's action are (1) that Gundan sholah is at present being cut down contrary to his wish, though he admits its destruction to be inevitable in the present state of the demand and the means of supply of

wood for Kodaikānal; (2) that Colonel Walker's scheme involves the destruction and sale of the three plantations now existing in Kodaikānal, which are on building sites and which are almost useless as sources for the supply of firewood; (3) that Colonel Walker opposes his scheme of planting up Gundan sholah in every possible way; (4) that Colonel Walker has destroyed to a great extent the great Kodaikānal sholah by jardinage fellings; (5) that it is quite useless to plant any more in the Post-office plantation. Mr. Turner adds that, in his opinion, the tope rules should be introduced on the hills.

3. Colonel Walker, in his letter, dated 12th August 1887, encloses one from Mr. Turner in which Mr. Turner gives up his wish to get rid of the Post-office plantation and agrees with Colonel Walker that it will be best to keep it for the present. Colonel Walker agrees in the Collector's proposal to disafforest the other two plantations (the Acacia and the Parappar), desiring only to retain five acres in the latter plantation. The Board think that it will suffice to retain the Forester's bungalow and two acres of ground round it for a garden. It appears from the statement submitted that the Acacia plantation will fetch about Rs. 700 and the Parappar plains many similar plantations which have been reserved, and which should be disafforested, and he thinks one notification had better go for all to save trouble. As the Government of India will necessarily have to be addressed on the subject, this course appears to the Board to be the best. In this connection, however, the Board point out to the Collector and Conservator that all that the Forest Department can sell is the timber. The land after it ceases to be reserved as forest lapses to the custody of the Collector, and he may be authorized to sell the sites of the plantations at Kodaikānal in suitable blocks for what it will fetch. The money so realized will not, however, be credited to the Forest Department.

4. Colonel Walker, in his letter, dated 2nd September 1887, replies to the Collector's endorsement. The Board consider that he gives sufficient reasons for not spending money *this year* on the Gundan plantation and sholah. There is no money and no time, and ample provision has been made in the Madura budget for next year for fencing 188 acres and planting and maintaining 15 acres. As Colonel Walker shows, it is useless to plant before fencing is ready, and he proposes the wire-fencing should be ordered at once from England to be ready next year. The Board do not think wire-fencing is necessary. Blue-gum fencing (post and rails) as used at Ootacamund is quite sufficient, and the trees may be cut for the fence from the plantations to be disafforested. The inspection notes of Colonel Walker of August 1886 show that he had the planting of Kodaikānal in his mind, but it appears that owing to an inefficient district staff the work on the Palni hills for the last two years has been badly done.

5. As to the cutting of the Kodaikānal sholah, the working of the jardinage system appears to the Board to be open to objection, and they would wish to see all further cutting in it stopped, though of course there is no objection to cutting out dead or decaying trees. The sholah, they consider, should be fenced to keep out cattle. The provision of seed for nurseries seems not to have been so neglected by Colonel Walker as the Collector thought. He sent a quantity of seed last year to the hills with directions as to how it was to be used.

6. As the Collector and Conservator are agreed as to the retention of the Post-office plantation, it may be continued as a reserve. No more money should, however, be spent on planting up failures in it.

7. The planting up of the area adjoining the Gundan sholah should be earnestly taken in hand next year. The Conservator remarks that young plants put out in the autumn are not strong enough to withstand frost, and that is a matter on which the district authorities must be guided by his professional advice.

8. Colonel Walker appears to have visited Madura as often as he has visited other districts, viz., once a year; but he never seems to have made a point of meeting and conferring with the Collector. It is the Conservator's duty before going to a district to arrange to meet the Collector on arrival and to discuss forest matters with him both before and after his inspection.

9. As to the tope rules they have proved almost useless on the Níliris, and the Board do not see that much is likely to be gained by extending them to the Palnis.

10. In conclusion, while the Board are bound to support the Conservator in his objection, on financial grounds, to the expenditure this year on the Gundan sholah, which the Collector was so eager to have carried out, they sympathise strongly with the Collector in his desire to secure an adequate fuel-supply for the Kodaikānal settlement by replanting that portion of the Gundan sholah which has been felled and by planting up the adjoining grass lands. The Conservator appears to be quite ready to second the Collector in the matter, and as it is a work of some little magnitude and likely to occupy some years in carrying out to completion, it is only right that it should be worked out on paper in a businesslike manner before any expenditure is undertaken. The Conservator has made, or will make, the necessary allotment of funds in his budget for 1888-89 for the work, and it therefore only rests with the Collector to see that careful plans and estimates are prepared and submitted to the Conservator for sanction as soon as possible. He should also lose no time in sending in his annual plan of forest operations for 1888-89. The Board also are of opinion that the condition of the plantations and the fuel-supply generally on the Palnis is not creditable to the District Forest-officer, Mr. Gass, nor commensurate with his prolonged residence on those hills.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed)

M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Madura.
" Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle,
with a file of demi-officials returned.
Copy to the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.
" " Examiner of Forest Accounts.

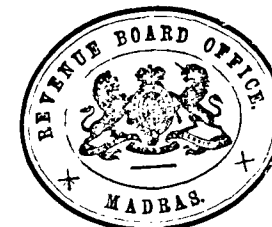
Exd. J. Henricus.

1887.
Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue),
MADRAS.

Printed September 30th.

Proceedings, dated 13th Sept. 1887,
Forest No. 520.

Passing orders on certain papers relating to
Kodaikānal plantations on the Palni hills,
Madura district, and requesting the Collector
to forward his plan of operations for 1888-89.



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
(Land Revenue)

Forest NO 450 Misc, dated 18th May 1897

Read letter from the Conservator of Forests,
Southern Circle, dated 19th May 1897, NO. 1091 submitting to the
Board with his approval for sanction Madura Collector's Endorse-
ment forwarding the District Forest Officer's Office note submit-
ting an estimate of Rs. 13,000 for Gundanshola plantation, and the
following reference thereon dated 28th June 1895:

The District Forest Officer's attention should be drawn
to para 2 of his Office-note, disposed of in Board's Proceedings
Forest NO 318 Mis, dated 23-3-92, in which he remarked that in ad-
dition to preparing an estimate of the expenditure on works con-
nected with the maintenance and formation of the plantation, he
had been endeavouring also to show the expenditure incurred in
the cutting and removal of firewood, and on roads, buildings, cattle
tools etc supplemented with a statement of probable financial
results, a map and a working scheme of the block. As all the inform-
ation referred to above has not been furnished, the District Forest
Officers should be asked to submit the same, his attention in
this connection being invited to the sample form of estimate -
(form NO 2) appended to the Government of India Resolution commu-
nicated in Government Order dated 15th February 77, NO 670.

2 In replying to this reference, the estimates for portions
of the plantation already sanctioned and referred to in para 3 of
the District Forest Officer's note dated 3-3-93, NO 3560 should be
submitted for reference.

3 The Conservator's remarks in paras 4 & 5 of his letter
read above should receive the District Forest Officer's attention
Read

Read letter from the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, dated 24th April 1897 Dis NO 640.

Resolution.

The papers read above will be submitted to Government.

2 In its Proceedings Forest NO 520 dated 13-9-87, the Board directed that the planting up of the grass land adjoining the Gundan sholah should be arranged for in order to secure sufficient supply of fuel for the Kodaikanal settlement. Accordingly, about 200 acres of land were taken up for the purpose and divided into 10 compartments, one compartment being planted every year. It was anticipated that thinnings could take place 6 years after planting and that the demand for ~~fuel~~ fuel could meanwhile be met from fellings in the Gundan sholah itself. It was further estimated that 7 tons per acre could be obtained from the first thinnings at the end of 6 years, 15½ tons per acre in the second thinnings at the end of 8 years, and 39 tons per acre from fellings at the end of the 10 years' rotation.

2 The work was put in hand in 1887-88, and estimates for the works carried out each year were submitted to the Conservator and his sanction was obtained for the expenditure up to 1893. With the first letter read above, the Conservator of Forests Southern Circle forwarded a consolidated ~~estimate~~ estimate for Rs. 15,000, which provided for the planting up of the whole area and for maintaining the ~~tim~~ plantations. In its reference order dated 28/6/93 the Board returned the papers to the Conservator for a statement of the probable financial results of the plantation and of the cost incurred on capital works such as roads, buildings, cattle etc connected with the plantation and for certain other miscellaneous information. The extraordinary delay that has occurred in complying with this order is partly explained in the Conservator's letter, but it is clear that the District Forest Officer, Mr. Peake, is very much to blame, and even after more than 3 years' delay the Conservator was obliged to take the matter in hand himself, as the District Forest Officer could not find time to dispose of it. The Board has on several occasions been compelled to find fault with the Madurai District Forest Office, and this instance of delay shows that the work is not yet up to date. Mr. Peake has now been transferred to a lighter charge and it

is hoped that his successor will be able to put things into better order.

3 With the second letter read above, the Conservator submits a note explaining the history and the future of the plantations - which he has prepared after personally inspecting the locality. Mr. Hooper points out that the original estimate for 10 years' rotation and for light thinnings after 6 years was too sanguine, and adds that at least 12 years' rotation would be necessary. He considers that it is not possible to forecast with any degree of accuracy the revenue to be derived from the plantation until after the close of this rotation, and submits accordingly only a statement of the past expenditure on the plantation and that required to complete the work.

4 The total charges already incurred on the plantation from 1887-88 to 1896-97 amounted to Rs 22,948 and the Conservator estimates for a further expenditure of Rs. 6376 during the current and the next three years, thus bringing the total cost of the work to Rs. 29,324. This expenditure is classified as follows:-

1	Planting including cost of plants-----	Rs 11,138
11	Maintenance-	
	Establishment-----	5438
	Fencing-----	594
	Demarcation-----	134
	Fire-protection-----	2480
		8,646
111	Supplementary expenditure-	
	Roads-----	4039
	Buildings-----	1667
	Cattle-----	3834
		9,540
	Total	29,324.

5 Excluding the expenditure on roads, buildings etc, the regular cost of the plantation is expected to amount to about Rs. 20,000. As the major portion of the expenditure has been already incurred, on annual estimates sanctioned by the Conservator, the Board ventures to submit that the same course may be allowed to be followed as regards the expenditure during the current and succeeding years. The formal sanction of Government for the work is, however, necessary under the provisions of the Forest Code, and the Board requests that the same may be accorded. There can be no doubt

that the plantation will eventually prove a paying concern after the
trees attain maturity and regular fellings commence.

(True Copy and Extract)

Receiv

Secretary

To
The Secretary to Government, R.D. with letter and enclosure in original
to be returned and with a copy of B.P.F. NO 520
13-9-37.
The Conservator of Forests, S.C.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed _____

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No
189

DATED

CURRENT N

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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