Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 766

Dated 7th September 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forest Administration Report

Coming. to the Board of Revenue; with remarks, a letter from the government of India review-ing the — of the Madras Presidency for 1896-96.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

9104 97 Fo. 914 d 5-11-97

9109 97 Fo. 5697 d 5-11-97

532 98

2210/98

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
20 AUG 97
1897

File No. 174 of 1897.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Serial No. 4.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

FORESTS.

To

THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. $\frac{798}{174-4}$-F.

Dated Simla, the 16th August 1897.

SUBJECT.

Reviews the Report of Forest Administration in the Madras Presidency for 1895-96.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 829 R. & A. D.—18-8-97.—20.

No. $\frac{798}{174-4}$-F.

FROM

DENZIL IBBETSON, ESQ., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
Forests.

Simla, the 16th August 1897.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 370-A. dated the 21st May last, with which you forward the orders of the Madras Government on the Report on Forest Administration in the Madras Presidency for the year 1895-96, and to communicate the following remarks.

2. It is explained in paragraph 5 of the Madras Government's orders on the report, that although the additions made during the year to the area of Reserved forests amounted to 858 square miles, final notifications were issued for only 808 square miles, as against 913 square miles in the previous year. The Government of India acknowledge the force of the considerations set forth in paragraph 5 of the resolution as explaining the slower progress of forest settlements, but are glad to observe that every effort will be made to bring the work to a close within the period estimated. It is important to complete the settlement operations at as early a date as possible, as the work of selecting and demarcating the areas to be reserved, and the subsequent attendance on the Forest Settlement Officer, necessarily interfere greatly with the current executive duties of Forest Officers of all grades. It is observed that 12,388 square miles of the forest area in the Madras Presidency have already been constituted reserves under section 16 of the Forest Act, that 4,733 square miles have been notified under section 4 and are in various phases of settlement, and that the programme for ultimate reservation includes nearly 20,000 square miles, or upwards of 22 per cent. of the raiyatwari area of the Presidency. This is a very satisfactory result.

3. The Government of India observe that the "preliminary demarcation" which is a first step towards forest settlement, and which properly forms part of the

settlement operations, has been included throughout together with the final demarcation of the settled forest, and discussed in the chapter which deals with the measures taken to secure the State property from encroachment. The Government of India think that it would be more convenient to keep these two matters distinct ; and that the inclusion of the preliminary demarcation in Form No. 46 renders the figures of that table misleading.

4. It is observed that the figures given in paragraph 17 of the report and in Form No 47 respectively do not agree. This may be due to the fact that they relate to different periods ; but if this is the case, the fact should have been explained. The figures given in the body of the report have been accepted in the Government resolution ; and to judge from these, the satisfactorily large outturn of survey work and low cost-rate of past years have been maintained. During the last eight years 5,110 square miles have been surveyed the annual outturn of the final topographical survey has now risen to nearly 1,000 square miles ; and since it has been decided to further strengthen the Forest Survey Staff of the Presidency by the transfer of an additional survey party, it may be hoped that the survey of all forest reserves for which accurate maps are required will be completed within the next few years. It would appear that the figures in Form No. 47 include the preliminary surveys of areas to be notified under section 4 of the Forest Act. The remark already made regarding preliminary demarcation is equally applicable here. Such surveys form part of the forest settlement proceedings, whereas Form No. 47 is intended to show the progress made in the survey of permanently settled Government property.

The Government of India are pleased to see that the preparation of working-plans is now receiving serious attention. It is true that during the year such plans were completed for only 96 square miles ; but others, covering an area of 808 square miles, were under preparation, and in consideration of the fact that the Forest staff in many districts is still largely employed on forest settlements, the progress was perhaps as great as could be expected.

5. The Government of India concur in the opinions expressed by the Madras Government in paragraph 14 of the resolution regarding breaches of forest law. The Board have no doubt stated facts which in some measure explain the high percentage of acquittals ; but the fact remains that the proportion is higher than in many other provinces where the same considerations apply with equal force.

A further improvement has taken place in fire-conservancy ; the area successfully protected by special measures has increased by 700 square miles ; and though, for reasons fully explained in the report, a temporary rise in the cost-rate took place in the Northern Circle, the average rate for the Presidency again shows a considerable decrease. A most satisfactory feature is that this decrease has been continuous for the last four years.

The Government of India are glad to observe that the system of leasing grazing has been virtually discontinued, that the good results that were anticipated from the *parcellaire* system have ensued, and that its extension to other districts is in contemplation. They also cordially concur in the remarks of the Madras Government, contained in paragraph 16 of their Resolution, on the subject

of grazing by sheep and goats. The absolute necessity of excluding these animals, at any rate for certain periods, from areas on which the reproduction of tree-growth is desired, may at once be admitted. But nothing short of the fact that in no other way is it possible to secure to the people the supply of forest produce that is necessary to them, can justify the virtual denial to them of the means of supporting these useful animals.

6. The Chapter on the improvement of forest growth contains much that is highly interesting, and shows that due attention is paid to sylvicultural questions. It is clearly shown that where the forests are protected from fire and where grazing can be restricted and controlled, reproduction may be entrusted to nature, and arboriculture need be resorted to only in special cases. The facts reported regarding the natural reproduction of the *Ceara*-rubber have been noticed with special interest. The problem of supplying the steadily increasing demand for rubber is daily becoming more and more difficult, and the possibility of creating natural rubber-producing forests should not be lost sight of.

It would be interesting if the history of the attack by caterpillars on the new leaves in the sâl tract in Ganjam could be more fully reported upon, and if steps could be taken for the identification of the insect, as similar occurrences have taken place in other parts of India. Ths authorities of the Indian Museum at Calcutta may be able to furnish assistance, if entomological advice is not available nearer at hand.

Thinnings and other operations for the improvement of the growing stock have been carried out only to a limited extent ; but now that the subordinate establishment has been increased and that the selection of reserves is nearing completion in several districts, it is hoped that greater attention will be paid to these matters, which are next in importance only to protection from fire and the regulation of grazing. The Government of India are glad to observe the constant expansion of regulated fellings.

7. The demand for forest produce showed considerable variations in the several districts, but the result for the Presidency is an increase under every head. It is difficult to institute any statistical comparison between the respective advantages of departmental and private extraction,—among other reasons, because, as pointed out in the report, the former frequently deals with produce of a superior quality. The Government of India admit that the special circumstances of particular cases must be allowed full weight in dealing with them ; but they are satisfied that whenever the proper execution of regular fellings can be secured by private agency, it is ordinarily advisable to contract departmental operations in favour of private enterprise, due care being at the same time taken that no monopolies grow up, and that the raiyat is able to supply his wants in small quantities and at a cheap rate.

The marked increase in the yield under minor forest produce, amounting to over 22 per cent., was to some extent due to a further rise in the grazing revenue, but mainly, it appears, to greater activity in the markets for tanning material. With regard to the question of imposing a royalty upon mica, the Government of India understand that the demand for this mineral has very largely and suddenly increased during the past few years, and that the prices now obtained for mica of good or fairly good quality are most remunerative.

8. The financial results of the year's working are exhibited in the following table:—

Year.	Circle.	Receipts.	Charges.	Surplus.	Proportion of Surplus to gross Revenue.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.
Forest year ...	Northern ...	7,23,859	3,83,877	+ 3,39,982	47
	Central ...	9,39,733	5,60,995	+ 3,78,738	40
	Southern ...	5,04,038	5,24,116	— 20,078	...
	Total in 1895-96 ...	21,67,630	14,68,988	+ 6,98,642	32
	„ „ 1894-95 ...	19,77,182	14,54,298	+ 5,22,884	26
	Increase in 1895-96	1,90,448	14,690	1,75,758	6
Financial year ...	Northern ...	6,68,061	3,77,645	+ 2,90,416	43
	Central ...	9,21,402	5,41,857	+ 3,79,545	41
	Southern ...	5,21,105	5,26,104	— 4,999	...
	Total in 1895-96 ...	21,10,568	14,45,606	+ 6,64,962	31
	„ „ 1894-95 ...	18,94,029	13,86,345	+ 5,07,684	27
	Increase in 1895-96	2,16,539	59,261	1,57,278	4
	Average for the five years ending 1894-95.	17,81,608	13,30,135	4,51,473	25

The extraordinary expenditure amounted to about Rs. 1,20,000 during the year, but against this may perhaps be set off the extraordinary revenue derived from timber upon land taken up for cultivation.

9. The Government of India have already addressed the Madras Government separately* regarding the curtailment of some of the returns furnished with Forest Administration Reports. It would appear that sufficient care has not always been taken to secure accuracy in the figures embodied in the returns. Thus, the detail of expenditure upon new works and upon repairs given in Form No. 46 do not agree with those given in abstract G of paragraph 14 of the report; while

*Circular No. 12-F.-245—1 dated 25th June 1897.

the total which is common to both differs, as pointed out by the Conservator, from the audited figures of the year. So again, the figures of Form No. 52 do not agree with those given in Appendix F. to the report. It would greatly facilitate reference to the tables appended to the report if the number of the form were repeated in the heading of every page.

10. The report itself forms a useful summary of the progress made in the forest administration of the Presidency, and the Government of India agree that it reflects credit on the compiler. They also concur with the Madras Government that the officers of the Department deserve credit for the good results achieved, and I am to convey their warm acknowledgments to the Governor in Council for his exhaustive review of the year's work.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Appendix showing the discrepancies noticed in the Madras Forest Administration Report for 1895-96.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

FORM No. 54.

(*List of Topes.*)

The addition of the detailed area figures gives a total for the Circle of 3,535 and not 3,555 acres. The Grand Total for the Presidency is correspondingly affected.

FORM No. 72-A.

(*Timber and other produce cut, collected and removed by consumers or purchasers.*)

Rs. 3,046 is here shown as the amount realized from sales of minor produce in the Godavari District, while according to Form No. 56, Rs. 5,376 was thus realized.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

FORM No. 53.

(*Area of Plantations.*)

The areas entered under Regular Plantations in column 3 against Trichinopoly and the Vellangadi reserved forest in the Tanjore District have been excluded from the list in 1895-96 because they are now being treated as reserved forest. This should also be done in the case of the area entered against Cuddapah, which is stated in footnote (*b*) to be included in reserved forests.

FORM No. 54.

(*List of Topes.*)

According to the return for 1894-95 there were 111 topes aggregating an area of 1,752 acres in the Nellore District. This area has been omitted in the return for 1895-96 without any explanation.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

(*Timber and other produce cut, collected and removed by consumers or purchasers.*)

It is here shown that 2,444 bamboos were extracted by purchasers from the North Malabar forests, whereas according to Form No. 56 the number was 2,044.

2. The propose
eastern portion of Anju
Conservator and sanctioned by the
dated 23rd June 1896.

3. It is also stated that the Anju nsion No. I submitted for appr
Board's Proceedings, No. 214, dated 1st June 1897, is made up of the western p
of the old Anjur Extension and Senkundram Extension No. 4.

4. It is not understood why this was not explained in the former papers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter and enclosures, in original, to be returned.
„ Collector of Chingleput, through the Conservator
of Forests, Central Circle.

ORDER—No. 783, Revenue, dated 14th September 1897.

Forest No. 173.

The draft notification submitted with Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 214, dated 1st June 1897, is approved and will be published in the Fort St. George and the Chingleput District Gazettes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue),
with maps and Collector's letter.
„ the Superintendent, Government Press, with notification.

				...the south-east corner of survey ...Kattankolattur village, the line runs east-...eastwards to the south-west corner of survey ... 312; thence along the south side of survey ...No. 312 to its south-east corner. *East.*—Thence southwards along the west side ...ey No. 230 to its south-west corner; thence a straight line to the khanaam stone at the westernmost angle of survey No. 309; thence along the west side of survey No. 309 to the north-east corner of survey No. 311 (inside field) and on in the same straight line to the west side of the aloe fence of the South Indian Railway; thence along the west side of the same fence to a cairn on the north boundary of Peramanur village about thirty-four yards east of an angle of the Kattankolattur main reserve. *South.*—Thence westwards along the north boundary of Peramanur village to the angle of the main reserve above described; thence following the boundary of the main reserve to the next boundary stone on the north boundary of the Peramanur village. *West.*—Thence north-north-westwards following the east boundary of the Kattankolattur reserved forest to the starting point. *N.B.*—The fields above referred to are all of Kattankolattur village.
Do.	Chingleput.	31–1	Kavanur extension No. 1.	*West, north* and *east.*—Starting from the village boundary stone at an angle of the Kavanur reserved forest east-north-east of the northernmost corner of survey No. 49 of Konadi village, the line runs north-eastwards, eastwards and southwards along the demarcated boundary of the Kavanur reserved forest to a cairn due east of the north-east corner of survey No. 56 of Konadi village. *South.*—Thence westwards to the north-east corner of survey No. 56 above described; thence along its north side to the starting point.
Do.	Chingleput.	46–1	Sonallur extension No. 1.	*North.*—Starting from a village boundary stone at the trijunction of Polacheri, Siracheri and Talambur shrotriem villages, the line follows the village boundary of Talambur shrotriem to the north-west corner of survey No. 221. *East.*—Thence a straight line south-west to the north-east corner of survey No. 219, both of Siracheri village. *South.*—Nil. *West.*—Thence north-west along the demarcated boundary of the Sonallur reserved forest to the starting point.
Do.	Chingleput.	46–2	Sonallur extension No. 2.	*North.*—Starting from a village boundary stone at the southernmost point of survey No. 113 of Mambakkam village, the line runs eastwards straight to the south-west corner of survey No. 204; thence along the south sides of survey Nos. 204 and 202, both of Sonallur village, to a khandam stone on the boundary of the Sonallur reserved forest about 2 chains north of the point where it is intersected by the Velichai-Madras cart-track. *East.*—Thence south-south-west along the demarcated boundary of the Sonallur reserved forest to its junction with the boundary of the Mambakkam reserved forest at a village boundary stone. *South.*—Thence along the demarcated boundary of the Mambakkam reserved forest to the village boundary stone at the trijunction of Sonallur, Kolattur and Mambakkam villages. *West.*—Thence northwards along the Mambakkam village boundary to the starting point.

any ...
to deal with the ...
Chingleput, for the ti...

3. His Excellency the Governo...
by section 14 of the Act, to appoint t... ...pted, to...
the Revenue Department, who shall hea... ...m the orders of the Forest Se...
sections 11, 12 and 13 of the Act.

Erd. Shaik Karim.

25 Copies.

the Govt of [illegible] in the Appx

Read Cno 7373 of 97

Order No 7668 7th Sept. 1897

Communicated to the

Board of Revenue

2 Para 2 of the letter.

The remarks contained in this para regarding the importance of completing forest settlement work at as early a date as possible should be read with those made ~~& expressed~~ by Govt in the concluding portion of para 6 of G.O. No 370 Rev: dy 21st May 1897 and should be communicated to all the officers concerned. ~~in connection therewith~~

3 Paras 3 and 4 of the letter

The Board will be requested to see that, in future reports, information relating to preliminary demarcation and survey of proposed reserves and that relating to final demarcation and survey of settled reserves are separately furnished as regards the discrepancy pointed out by the Govt of India between the figures given in para 17 of report and those given in Form No 47 appended thereto, the

observ

P.S. Vide para 10 of

Then our Cno 7373

7/9/97

7/9/97

observes that as the headings of the latter clearly showed, the two never purported to go over exactly the same ground and that obviously therefore the figures therein given could not have agreed. The Board will however be requested to report fully how the form in question was prepared on the last occasion

4 Para 6 of the letter.

as will be seen from the papers printed in G.O. No. 712 dy 4th Oct. 1894, on the question of the advisability of extending the cultivation of rubber trees in this Presy was more than once carefully considered by H.E. the G in C. and the conclusion arrived at was that the practicability of their successful growth having been established by experiments and demonstrated to planters, any further experiments in the same direction on any large scale were uncalled for. He however, is of the opinion now expressed by the Govt of India, H.E. in C. is prepared to reconsider that conclusion and the Board will be requested to draw up in consultation with the Collector of the Nilgiris and the Conservators of the Southern and

1. the font of
well as in the appx

and Central circles a report showing how best the wishes of the Supreme Govt in this behalf can be given effect to.

5 A detailed inquiry into the destruction by caterpillars of new leaves in the Sal tracts of Ganjam must await the arrival of a competent entomologist and the Govt of India has already been requested in another connexion to state whether it would be possible to spare at any early date the services of such an expert for employment in this Presy (G.O. no 634 Rev: dy 27th July 1897) In the meantime, the Board will be requested to furnish what information it is able to gather on the subject and also to arrange for the transmission of pupæ of the insects for identification to Dr Bowne, the Offg Supdt of the Govt Central museum.

6 As indicated by the Govt of India, the special attention of all Forest Officers should now be drawn to the

important a

importance of taking in hand without further delay the subject of operations necessary for the improvement of the growing stock.

7. Para 7 of the letter

The views expressed in this para that as far as possible the system of the removal of forest produce by private agency should be substituted for ~~that~~ by Departmental operations should be acted on, ~~and the Board will also be requested to submit a separate report on the question of imposing a royalty on mica~~

8 Para 9 of the letter

The circular ~~referred to~~ quoted was referred for the Board's remarks in G.O. noted in the margin, Rev: dy 7th ~~Aug~~ July 1897. The special attention of the Board will be drawn to the remarks contained therein on the necessity for devoting sufficient care to secure accuracy in the figures embodied in the returns and the Board will also be requested to explain the cause of the discrepancies noticed by

The Govt observes that the rate of royalty on mica was fixed at 5% ~~on Rs~~ ad valorem ~~in~~ G.O. 618 dy 13 Nov 96.

The point was not referred to in the G.O. and in the report at page 39 a casual remark was made to the effect that under minor products in Bellary the removal of mica and of certain other items contributed to the increase.

In the Secretariat as in the Board's office there is a Special Establishment to deal with "Forests". Here the Superintendent is assisted by an assistant and a list of their permanent subjects. The figures are not consequently checked in detail but exactly as in the body of the report

To the Board of Rev: dR.
Rev. 13-9-97 with copy of G.O. 634 27-7-97
the Supt S.C.M.
Rev. 25-9-97
W.R. 24/9/97
[illegible] 4/9/97.

by the post of
para as well as in the appx
to the letter
W.R. 24/9/97

India

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	} 1897.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 766, 7th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Forest Administration Report.

Communicating to the Board of Revenue, with remarks, letter from the Government of India reviewing the — of the Madras Presidency for 1895-96.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following letter from DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India Department of Revenue and Agriculture (Forests), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, the 16th August 1897, No. 798 F.—174–4 :—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 370-A, dated the 21st May last, with which you forward the orders of the Madras Government on the report on forest administration in the Madras Presidency for the year 1895–96, and to communicate the following remarks.

2. It is explained in paragraph 5 of the Madras Government's orders on the report, that although the additions made during the year to the area of reserved forests amounted to 858 square miles, final notifications were issued for only 808 square miles, as against 913 square miles in the previous year. The Government of India acknowledge the force of the considerations set forth in paragraph 5 of the resolution as explaining the slower progress of forest settlements, but are glad to observe that every effort will be made to bring the work to a close within the period estimated. It is important to complete the settlement operations at as early a date as possible, as the work of selecting and demarcating the areas to be reserved, and the subsequent attendance on the Forest Settlement-officer, necessarily interfere greatly with the current executive duties of Forest officers of all grades. It is observed that 12,388 square miles of the forest area in the Madras Presidency have already been constituted reserves under section 16 of the Forest Act, that 4,733 square miles have been notified under section 4 and are in various phases of settlement, and that the programme for ultimate reservation includes nearly 20,000 square miles, or upwards of 22 per cent. of the raiyatwari area of the Presidency. This is a very satisfactory result.

3. The Government of India observe that the "preliminary demarcation" which is a first step towards forest settlement, and which properly forms part of the settlement operations, has been included throughout together with the final demarcation of the settled forest, and discussed in the chapter which deals with the measures taken to secure the State property from encroachment. The Government of India think that it would be more convenient to keep these two matters distinct; and that the inclusion of the preliminary demarcation in Form No. 46 renders the figures of that table misleading.

4. It is observed that the figures given in paragraph 17 of the report and in Form No. 47 respectively do not agree. This may be due to the fact that they relate to different periods; but if this is the case, the fact should have been explained. The figures given in the body of the report have been accepted in the Government resolution; and to judge from these, the satisfactorily large outturn of survey work and low cost-rate of past years have been maintained. During the last eight years 5,110 square miles have been surveyed, the annual outturn of the final topographical survey has now risen to nearly 1,000 square miles; and since it has been decided to further strengthen the Forest Survey Staff of the Presidency by the transfer of an additional survey party, it may be hoped that the survey of all forest reserves for which accurate maps are required will be completed within the next few years. It would appear that the figures in Form No. 47 include the preliminary surveys of areas to be notified under section 4 of the Forest Act. The remark already made regarding preliminary demarcation is equally applicable here. Such surveys form part of the forest settlement proceedings, whereas Form No. 47 is intended to show the progress made in the survey of permanently-settled Government property.

The Government of India are pleased to see that the preparation of working-plans is now receiving serious attention. It is true that during the year such plans were completed for only 96 square miles; but others, covering an area of 808 square miles, were under preparation, and in consideration of the fact that the Forest staff in many districts is still largely employed on forest settlements, the progress was perhaps as great as could be expected.

5. The Government of India concur in the opinions expressed by the Madras Government in paragraph 14 of the resolution regarding breaches of forest law. The Board have no doubt stated facts which in some measure explain the high percentage of acquittals; but the fact remains that the proportion is higher than in many other provinces where the same considerations apply with equal force.

A further improvement has taken place in fire-conservancy; the area successfully protected by special measures has increased by 700 square miles; and though, for reasons fully explained in the report, a temporary rise in the cost-rate took place in the Northern Circle, the average rate for the Presidency again shows a considerable decrease. A most satisfactory feature is that this decrease has been continuous for the last four years.

The Government of India are glad to observe that the system of leasing grazing has been virtually discontinued, that the good results that were anticipated from the *parcellaire* system have ensued, and that its extension to other districts is in contemplation. They also cordially concur in the remarks of the Madras Government, contained in paragraph 16 of their resolution, on the subject of grazing by sheep and goats. The absolute necessity of excluding these animals, at any rate for certain periods, from areas on which the reproduction of tree-growth is desired, may at once be admitted. But nothing short of the fact that in no other way is it possible to secure to the people the supply of forest produce that is necessary to them, can justify the virtual denial to them of the means of supporting these useful animals.

6 The chapter on the improvement of forest growth contains much that is highly interesting, and shows that due attention is paid to sylvicultural questions. It is clearly shown that where the forests are protected from fire and where grazing can be restricted and controlled, reproduction may be entrusted to nature, and arboriculture need be resorted to only in special cases. The facts reported regarding the natural reproduction of the *Ceara*-rubber have been noticed with special interest. The problem of supplying the steadily increasing demand for rubber is daily becoming more and more difficult, and the possibility of creating natural rubber-producing forests should not be lost sight of.

It would be interesting if the history of the attack by caterpillars on the new leaves in the sâl tract in Ganjám could be more fully reported upon, and if steps could be taken for the identification of the insect, as similar occurrences have taken place in other parts of India. The authorities of the Indian Museum at Calcutta may be able to furnish assistance, if entomological advice is not available nearer at hand.

Thinnings and other operations for the improvement of the growing stock have been carried out only to a limited extent; but now that the subordinate establishment has been increased and that the selection of reserves is nearing completion in several districts, it is hoped that greater attention will be paid to these matters, which are next in importance only to protection from fire and the regulation of grazing. The Government of India are glad to observe the constant expansion of regulated fellings.

7. The demand for forest produce showed considerable variations in the several districts, but the result for the Presidency is an increase under every head. It is difficult to institute any statistical comparison between the respective advantages of departmental and private extraction,—among other reasons, because, as pointed out in the report, the former frequently deals with produce of a superior quality. The Government of India admit that the special circumstances of particular cases must be allowed full weight in dealing with them; but they are satisfied that whenever the proper execution of regular fellings can be secured by private agency, it is ordinarily

advisable to contract departmental operations in favour of private enterprise, due care being at the same time taken that no monopolies grow up, and that the raiyat is able to supply his wants in small quantities and at a cheap rate.

The marked increase in the yield under minor forest produce, amounting to over 22 per cent., was to some extent due to a further rise in the grazing revenue, but mainly, it appears, to greater activity in the markets for tanning material. With regard to the question of imposing a royalty upon mica, the Government of India understand that the demand for this mineral has very largely and suddenly increased during the past few years, and that the prices now obtained for mica of good or fairly good quality are most remunerative.

8. The financial results of the year's working are exhibited in the following table:—

Year.	Circle.	Receipts.	Charges.	Surplus.	Proportion of surplus to gross revenue.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.
Forest year	Northern	7,23,859	3,83,877	+ 3,39,982	47
	Central	9,39,733	5,60,995	+ 3,78,738	40
	Southern	5,04,038	5,24,116	— 20,078	..
	Total in 1895-96	21,67,630	14,68,988	+ 6,98,642	32
	,, in 1894-95	19,17,182	14,54,298	+ 5,22,884	26
	Increase in 1895-96	1,90,448	14,690	1,75,758	6
Financial year	Northern	6,38,061	3,77,645	+ 2,90,416	43
	Central	9,21,402	5,41,357	+ 3,79,545	41
	Southern	5,21,105	5,26,104	— 4,999	..
	Total in 1895-96	21,10,568	14,45,606	+ 6,64,962	31
	,, in 1894-95	18,94,029	13,86,945	+ 5,07,634	27
	Increase in 1895-96	2,16,539	59,261	1,57,278	4
	Average for the five years ending 1894-95	17,81,608	13,30,135	4,51,473	25

The extraordinary expenditure amounted to about Rs. 1,20,000 during the year, but against this may perhaps be set off the extraordinary revenue derived from timber upon land taken up for cultivation.

9. The Government of India have already addressed the Madras Government separately * regarding the curtailment of some of the returns furnished with Forest Administration Reports. It would appear that sufficient care has not always been taken to secure accuracy in the figures embodied in the returns. Thus, the detail of expenditure upon new works and upon repairs given in Form No. 46 do not agree with those given in abstract G of paragraph 14 of the report; while the total which is common to both differs, as pointed out by the Conservator, from the audited figures of the year. So again, the figures of Form No. 52 do not agree with those given in Appendix F to the report. It would greatly facilitate reference to the tables appended to the report if the number of the form were repeated in the heading of every page.

* Circular No. 12-F—245-1, dated 25th June 1897.

10. The report itself forms a useful summary of the progress made in the forest administration of the Presidency, and the Government of India agree that it reflects credit on the compiler. They also concur with the Madras Government that the officers of the department deserve credit for the good results achieved, and I am to convey their warm acknowledgments to the Governor in Council for his exhaustive review of the year's work.

Enclosure.

Appendix showing the discrepancies noticed in the Madras Forest Administration Report for 1895-96.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Form No. 54.

(*List of Topes.*)

The addition of the detailed area figures gives a total for the circle of 3,535 and not 3,555 acres. The grand total for the Presidency is correspondingly affected.

Form No. 72-A.

(*Timber and other produce cut, collected and removed by consumers or purchasers.*)

Rupees 3,046 is here shown as the amount realized from sales of minor produce in the Gódávari district, while according to Form No. 56, Rs. 5,376 was thus realized.

CENTRAL CIRCLE.

Form No. 53.

(*Area of Plantations.*)

The areas entered under regular plantations in column 3 against Trichinopoly and the Vellangadi reserved forest in the Tanjore district have been excluded from the list in 1895-96 because they are now being treated as reserved forest. This should also be done in the case of the area entered against Cuddapah, which is stated in footnote (*b*) to be included in reserved forests.

Form No. 54.

(*List of Topes.*)

According to the return for 1894-95 there were 111 topes aggregating an area of 1,752 acres in the Nellore district. This area has been omitted in the return for 1895-96 without any explanation.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

(*Timber and other produce cut, collected and removed by consumers or purchasers.*)

It is here shown that 2,444 bamboos were extracted by purchasers from the North Malabar forests, whereas according to Form No. 56 the number was 2,044.

Order—No. 766, Revenue, dated 7th September 1897.

Forest No. 168.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

2. *Paragraph 2 of the letter.*—The remarks contained in this paragraph regarding the importance of completing forest settlement work at as early a date as possible should be read with those made by Government in the concluding portion of paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 370, Revenue, dated 21st May 1897, and should be communicated to all the officers concerned.

3. *Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the letter.*—The Board will be requested to see that, in future reports, information relating to preliminary demarcation and survey of proposed reserves and that relating to final demarcation and survey of settled reserves are separately furnished. As regards the discrepancy pointed out by the Government of India between the figures given in paragraph 17 of the report and those given in Form No. 47 appended thereto, the Government observes that as the headings of the latter clearly showed, the two never purported to go over exactly the same ground and that obviously therefore the figures therein given could not have agreed. The Board will, however, be requested to report fully how the form in question was prepared on the last occasion.

4. *Paragraph 6 of the letter.*—As will be seen from the papers printed in G.O., No. 712, dated 4th October 1894, the question of the advisability of extending the cultivation of rubber trees in this Presidency was more than once carefully considered by His Excellency the Governor in Council, and the conclusion arrived at was that the practicability of their successful growth having been established by experiments and demonstrated to planters, further experiments in the same direction on any large scale were uncalled for. In view, however, of the opinion now expressed by the Government of India, His Excellency in Council is prepared to reconsider that

conclusion; and the Board will be requested to draw up, in consultation with the Collector of the Nilgiris and the Conservators of the Southern and Central Circles, a report showing how best the wishes of the Supreme Government in this behalf can be given effect to.

5. A detailed investigation of the destruction by caterpillars of new leaves in the sâl tracts of Ganjám must await the arrival of a competent entomologist, and the Government of India has already been requested in another connexion to state whether it would be possible to spare at any early date the services of such an expert for employment in this Presidency (G.O., No. 634, Revenue, dated 27th July 1897). In the mean time, the Board will be requested to furnish what information it is able to gather on the subject and also to arrange for the transmission of specimens of the insects for identification to Dr. Bourne, the Officiating Superintendent of the Government Central Museum.

6. As indicated by the Government of India, the special attention of all Forest officers should now be drawn to the importance of taking in hand without further delay the subject of operations necessary for the improvement of the growing stock.

7. *Paragraph 7 of the letter.*—The view expressed in this paragraph that as far as possible the system of the removal of forest produce by private agency should be substituted for departmental operations should be acted on. The Government observes that the rate of royalty on mica was fixed at 5 per cent. *ad valorem* in G.O., No. 618, Revenue, dated 13th November 1896.

8. *Paragraph 9 of the letter.*—The circular quoted was referred for the Board's remarks in G.O., Mis. No. 3431, Revenue, dated 7th July 1897. The special attention of the Board will be drawn to the remarks on the necessity for devoting sufficient care to secure accuracy in the figures embodied in the returns, and the Board will also be requested to explain the cause of the discrepancies noticed by the Government of India in this paragraph as well as in the appendix to the letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue),
with copy of G.O., No. 634, dated 27th July 1897.
„ Superintendent, Government Central Museum.

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswami.

40 Copies.

Proceedings of the Revl Dept No 767 dt 3. 9. 97

Read the following letter from the Govt of India (Department of Finance & Commerce) dt. 24. 8. 97 No 3745 Ex

I am directed to enclose an extract from the marginally noted statement submitted by the Accountant Genl of Madras and to request that the Columns showing "period of employment" may be completed and the extract returned.

Order thereon, No 767 dt 3. 9. 97.

The Revenue Department will be requested to supply at an early date the information required by the Govt of India in regard to Nos 7, 13, 14, 15 & 16 in its list and the Public Dept in regard to Nos x c &c.

(Signed) J. F. Price
Chief Secretary

To The Rev. Dept
The Public Dept

Enclosure

No	Name of officer & service or Dept to which he belongs	Province	Period of Employment	Pay & allowances.
7	Mr. T. E. Buckley I.C.S.	Madras, Land Rev. Agricultural service	From 26.3.97	Pay Rs 1500
13	" G. W. Elphinstone I.C.S	Madras. L.R.	Period not given	Pay Rs 768-5-4 Ag Al. 265-8-11
14	" S. G. Roberts. I.C.S	Do	Do	Pay Rs 3850-0-0 Ag allowance 265-8-11
15	" N. Macmichael. I.C.S	Do	Do	Pay 560-0-0 Ag allowance 200
16	" P. J. Pope I.C.S	Do	Do	Pay Rs 385 Ag allowance 265-8-11