

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 (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1636

20-3-99
Order no. 1159 of 20 March 99

Recorded

16-3-99

18/3/99

From The Secretary to the
Commissioners of
Land Revenue
Board of Revenue

No. 82

Dated 16 February 1899

Received 7th March

Registered 8th "

Enclosures —

Spare copies —

Secy
No remarks of Govt are called for
I am preparing a note on the
revision of the Anamalai
Rules & hope to submit
to the Govt. before the holidays

14
18/3/99

SUBJECT
Communicating with remarks to the
Collector of Coimbatore and the Conservator
of Forests, S. C. G. O., effecting certain
modifications in the forms of agreements
for the lease of forest lands on the
Anamalais, considering that the
execution of the agreements should
proceed with as soon as possible
after the corrections now ordered
have been carried out and
requesting the Govt. Solicitor to state
whether anything has been issued

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	573	P	5.10.98
	1014	P	4.12.97
	111	P	20.2.97
	495	P	28.9.96

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed March th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 82, 16th February 1899.

FEBRUARY.

Communicating, with remarks, to the Collector of Coimbatore and the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, Government Order effecting certain modifications in the forms of agreements for the lease of forest lands on the Anamalais; considering that the execution of the agreements should be proceeded with as soon as possible after the corrections now ordered have been carried out; and requesting the Government Solicitor to state whether anything further is required in the way of express stipulation so as to reserve to Government all rights in and control over headwaters, waterfalls and streams.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(LAND REVENUE).

Read—the following Government Order, No. 46, Revenue, dated 16th January 1899:—

Read—again G.O., No. 1014, Revenue, dated 4th December 1897.

ABSTRACT.—The draft forms of agreements for the lease of lands for coffee cultivation on the Anamalais submitted by the Government Solicitor, Madras, approved subject to certain remarks and modifications.

Read—again the following G.O., R. No. 815, Revenue, dated 12th May 1898:—

Read—the following letter from A. W. BRODIE, Esq., Coonoor, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 20th March 1898:—

I have the honour to request that you will kindly let me know when the leases for the lands taken up on the Anamalais last year will be ready.

Read—the following letter from A. W. BRODIE, Esq., Coonoor, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 2nd May 1898:—

I have again the honour to request that you will be kind enough to let me know when the Anamalai leases for the land that I paid for on 4th May 1897 will be ready. I am probably going to England shortly and shall be glad to have the matter settled as soon as possible.

Order—R. No. 815, Revenue, dated 12th May 1898.

Mr. Brodie is referred to the Collector of Coimbatore, who has received orders on the subject.

2. The Collector of Coimbatore is requested to explain the apparent delay in the matter. The form of the agreements to lease was finally approved by the Government by G.O., No. 1014, Revenue, dated 4th December 1897.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To A. W. Brodie, Esq., paragraph 1 only.
" the Collector of Coimbatore.

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Read—the following letter from J. A. CUMMING, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 23rd May 1898, Ref. on No. 520-Cur. of 1897-98:—

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. R. 815, dated 12th current, requesting me to explain the apparent delay in the issue of leases for lands taken up for plantations in the Anamalais, I have the honour to point out that G.O., No. 1014, dated 4th December 1897, communicated with Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 5, dated 7th January 1898, was received in this office on the 10th January; a further reference to the Board was made in this office Reference on No. 849-Sub., dated

19th January 1898; in the reply of the Board (Mis. No. 160, dated 16th March 1898), which was received on the 20th March, certain alterations in the agreement to lease were ordered and the Conservator was called upon to report on the agency by which survey should be executed. I had only recently assumed charge of the district and called for and perused the connected papers and on the 28th March forwarded them to the District Forest-officer with instructions to take steps to get the leases executed.

2. At that time the Conservator and District Forest-officer were in the Anamalais, and as a result of their observations a further reference was made through me by the District Forest-officer. This reference contained views and statements considerably at variance with those recorded in the existing papers regarding the value of the forests handed over for conversion into coffee estates and the matter appeared to me of such importance that before forwarding it, I thought it advisable to visit the forests myself. This I accordingly did last month and was thus enabled to endorse the District Forest-officer's office-note more effectually than would have been possible, had I no personal knowledge of the forests in question. The papers should by now be with Government, and it will be evident that until orders on them are received, no leases can be issued.

3. The importance of reserving the right to fell and remove all timber in the areas granted has since been enhanced by the probability of a demand for 3 lakhs of sleepers from these forests in the next two or three years. As the new road runs through the areas to be leased, it is naturally from those areas that the required sleepers can most easily and profitably be supplied.

Read—the following Reference of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 228, dated 1st June 1898:—

Reference—Forest No. 228, dated 1st June 1898.

The Board has received from the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, a report and enclosures dealing with points noticed during inspections of the Anamalai coffee tract by the District Forest-officer, the Collector of Coimbatore and the Conservator. These will be disposed of in due course, but one point calls for immediate reference to Government, as complaints have already been received regarding the delay in the execution of leases.

2. It will be remembered that in the proposals agreed to at the conference attended by applicants for leases, it was agreed that no lessee should carry on trade in timber, and that the District Forest-officer should be at liberty to remove any trees from unopened land.*

3. Government considered the restriction too sweeping and after some discussion a list was adopted in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 111, dated 20th February 1897, prescribing twelve trees which the District Forest-officer is empowered to remove from uncleared portions of lessee's holdings, the lessee being at liberty to trade in the others on the payment of prescribed rates of seigniorage.

4. Recent enquiries in connection with the possibility of supplying sleepers to the railways and timber to the Kolar mines have attracted attention to the very great value for such purposes of several evergreen trees notably the *Mesua Speciosa*

and other varieties of *Mesua* which exist in great abundance in the Anamalai evergreen forests, and the District Forest-officer, the Conservator and the Collector unite in recommending that the different varieties of *Mesua* as well as of *Hopea* and the *Bassia Longifolia* be added to the list. The Board trusts that Government will see its way to accept this recommendation, but, if not, a further suggestion made by the Conservator may be adopted, and the varieties above mentioned substituted for the present

4 BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), FOREST No. 82, 16TH FEBRUARY 1899.

for teak, rosewood and vengai which are deciduous trees and therefore are not to be found in any portions of the tract which is likely to be leased out for some time to come. It is in any case essential that *Mesua* should be included in the list, its value for railway sleepers being well established (*vide* Gamble's "Timbers", page 27), and the profit obtainable being far in excess of what would be received in the form of seigniorage if *Mesua* were left free for removal by lessees as an ordinary classified tree.

5. In dealing with the question, the Board has observed a defect in the recently-approved form of *lease which has hitherto escaped notice.

* G.O., No. 1014, Revenue, dated 4th December 1897.

6. Paragraph 4 deals with reserved and classified trees and refers to a schedule prescribing the rates to be paid for reserved trees.

7. Paragraphs 9 and 14 deal with "excepted" trees which can be cut on uncleared land by the District Forest-officer and not by the lessees and reference is made to the same schedule, whereas the word "reserved" in paragraph 4 is a technical forest term, while the trees excepted under the lease include both "reserved" and "classified" trees as prescribed in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 111, Revenue, dated 20th February 1897, quoted in paragraph 3, *supra*. An additional schedule containing this list should therefore have been added and referred to in paragraph 9 of the lease. It is to this list that the Board now recommends the addition of the different varieties of *Mesua* and *Hopea* and also *Bassia Longifolia*.

8. The alterations which seem necessary are—

Paragraph 4, lines 10 and 11.—For "trees of the kind hereinafter expressed to be hereby reserved" substitute "reserved trees."

Paragraph 9, line 2.—For "second" substitute "fourth."

Add the following schedule:—

"The fourth schedule above referred to"—

Tectona Grandis (Teak).

Dalbergia Latifolia (Rosewood).

Pterocarpus Marsupium (Vengai).

Lagestracmia *Microcarpa*
(Benteak).

Artocarpus Integrifolia (Jack).

Artocarpus Hirsuta (Wild Jack).

Mesua Speciosa and other
varieties.

Hopea Parviflora and other varieties.

Terminalia Paniculata.

Terminalia Tomentosa.

Diospyrum Ebumum.

Acrocarpus Frazinifolius.

Calophyllum Elatum.

Cinnamomum Zeylanicum.

Bassia Longifolia (Katillupai).

9. From the correspondence, as well as from the wording of paragraph 5, it will be seen that the list of minor produce given in the third schedule is meant to be illustrative and not exhaustive. The District officer's note suggests that the words "etcetera" be added to the list, and the Board supports the recommendation.

10. For the reason given in paragraph 1, *supra*, the favour of very early orders is solicited.

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Read—the following Reference of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 247, dated 7th June 1898:—

Read—the following letter from W. RHODES JAMES, Esq., Coonoor, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 10th May 1898:—

I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that in consequence of the considerable and unexpected delay in the completion of the leases for the Anamalai

ment would apparently have no redress.

(3) Under paragraph 3 of the lease, the
fall and dispose of all timber,

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lands some friction and annoyance has been caused by reason of the inability of the vendees of certain blocks of land to complete the purchase and payment, as until the leases are signed there exists no negotiable instrument.

I shall regard it as a favour if you could kindly name a near date for the completion of the leases.

Read—Board's Reference on the above.

Forwarded to the Collector for remarks and explanation of the delay.

Read—again the following letter from J. A. CUMMING, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated 25th May 1898, Ref. on Cur. No. 539:—

With reference to Ref. on Forest Register No. 1119 of 1898, dated 19th May 1898, I have the honour to enclose a copy of my reply to a similar reference received direct from Government and to enquire whether, under the circumstances, the Board is of opinion that leases can be issued without awaiting further orders.

I would suggest that if there is likely to be much further delay in the settlement of the question of the terms of the leases, it would be well to issue at once a simple form of agreement to lease, merely giving the approximate boundaries of each block and stating that "the lease will be subject to certain conditions and restrictions and this agreement is conditional on the acceptance of the same by the lessee."

I request the favour of very early orders, so that, if it is decided to issue agreements to lease at once I may get them executed without delay.

Endorsement by C. E. BRASIER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, dated 3rd June 1898, No. 4606.

Forwarded.

The procedure now recommended by the Collector is almost similar to that under which land was taken up for coffee cultivation on the Shevaroy hills.

In such an important matter as this is, I do not see why Government interests should be sacrificed merely to expedite the lessee's speculative operations though doubtless some inconvenience may arise through delay in those cases in which the land has changed hands before the contract with Government has been executed.

In cases in which the land has been taken up for cultivation by the lessee himself no such inconvenience can arise however.

Reference—No. 247, dated 7th June 1898.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

The Board has not yet had time fully to consider the Collector's proposal to stop the grant of planting leases in the Anamalai reserve, but the papers will be disposed of in a few days. If Government is disposed to consider the propriety of reverting to the original proposal to retain the timber trade entirely in the hands of the Forest Department, receipt of the papers may be awaited. If not, the execution of agreements to lease to those to whom blocks have already been assigned may be proceeded

with as soon as orders have been passed on Board's Reference Order, No. 228, dated 1st June 1898.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore, with copy of

Reference Order, No. 228, dated 1st June 1898.

Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle,

with copy of Reference Order, No. 228,

dated 1st June 1898.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 227, dated 11th June 1898:—

Read—the following letter from C. E. BRASIER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 21st May 1898, No. 4323:—

I have the honour to forward, herewith, an office-note from the District Forest-officer, South Coimbatore, with the Collector's endorsement and remarks thereon relative to various matters which have arisen in connection with the lease of lands for coffee cultivation in the Upper Anamalais. The note deals with—

(1) the desirability of requiring Mr. Windle to vacate certain land which he has squatted and erected certain buildings on;

(2) the advisability of reserving from lease about 250 acres of land required as camping ground, elephant grazing ground, and for preserving the water supply in the stream which runs through the same;

(3) the inadvisability of granting any more land on lease in this locality on account of the value of the forest which it contains;

(4) the questionable suitability of the land now leased out for coffee cultivation;

(5) the advisability of altering the conditions of lease occasioned by the finding of certain timber trees which do not find place among the list of trees which Government may remove free under the present draft agreement.

2. With reference to the first two points referred to, a perusal of the office-note and the Collector's remarks thereon will suffice to fully demonstrate their necessity.

3. In connection with the third—and which appears to me to be the most important suggestion—I have to report having inspected a portion of the forest in question during the latter end of March. This course suggested itself to me on perusal of the papers, as it was quite evident therefrom that if a cart road was opened and if the evergreen forests contained the hard-wooded species of trees common to such forests in the Tinnevely district, and which Colonel Beddome states in his *Flora Sylvatica* are mostly also to be found on the Anamalais, then an enormous timber trade (which by-the-by I understand has arisen under somewhat similar conditions at Periyár) would probably be soon developed. In order to give some idea of the standing stock, I had an enumeration survey taken of a small surveyed area consisting, however, of some of the poorest description of the forest. The results of this survey are appended, and it will be seen therefrom, and as pointed out by the District Forest-officer, South Coimbatore, that there exist 112 trees of valuable species per acre and that, out of these, 40 trees are of the genus *Mesua*, a timber tree eminently suitable for supplying sleepers as well as for all descriptions of mining purposes, a demand in which exists almost at our doors. I refer, of course, to the Kolar Mines where enormous quantities of timber are daily transported from Calicut and Palghat and sold at very remunerative prices. It will therefore be seen that quite independent of any local demand, we have here two sources of demand which alone would furnish us with sufficient work, the minute a cart road is through from the plains to these valuable forests. As regards the profit we might expect from such contracts, it will be necessary to refer to details of prices

and costs of supply both in the case of sleepers and wood for the mines, respectively. First with regard to sleepers, I observe that the cost of creosoted pine sleepers for the Calicut-Cannanore extension is estimated at Rs. 6-2-0 and Rs. 4-14-0 according as the sleeper is a 9-foot or 10-foot one. The cubic contents of these descriptions of sleepers is $3\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet and $3\frac{1}{8}$ cubic feet, respectively, or, say, $3\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet and $3\frac{1}{8}$ cubic feet. The cost of felling, sawing and carting I estimate (after carefully going into the matter and taking as my guide the cost of felling and carting from the present leased forests on the Anamalais and the cost of sawing hard wood in Malabar) to be 7 annas per cubic foot for delivery at Coimbatore Railway station. This is, of course, after allowing for the extra distance for carting from the Upper Anamalais and something extra on account of the locality and extra hardness of the wood. Thus, the actual cost per sleeper works out at Rs. 1-8-6 and Rs. 1-6-0, respectively, excluding indirect charges, such as supervision and feed and keep of elephants. These are somewhat difficult to estimate exactly and are also of a varying nature. Taking them approximately at 25 per cent of the above, we may conclude that each class of sleeper will cost the department Rs. 1-14-6 and Rs. 1-11-6, respectively, leaving us a profit of Rs. 4-3-6 and Rs. 3-2-6 per sleeper or about Rs. 1-3-3 and Re. 1 per cubic foot, respectively, presuming we get the same rate as the Railway Company is prepared to pay for creosoted sleepers from England. As regards the profits we might expect by supplying this timber in the log to the Kolar Mines, it is necessary to consider what timber of a somewhat similar nature realizes there. From enquiries on this point I understand that—

	Per Cubic Foot.
	RS. A. P.
Iru bogam (<i>Hopea parviflora</i>) sells at	1 12 0
White cedar (<i>Cedrela toona</i>) sells at	1 10 0
Ben teak (<i>Lagerstramia Microcarpa</i>) sells at	1 6 0
Iru (<i>Xylia dolabriformis</i>) sells at	1 3 0

Even supposing we only realize Rs. 1-4-0 per cubic foot (i.e., nearly the lowest rate), we would realize a profit of 8 annas per cubic foot, as the cost of delivery at Kolar including all charges, viz., felling, squaring, hauling by elephants, carting, tram freight, loading and unloading, should not exceed 12 annas per cubic foot. I state this after making full enquiries regarding rates, &c., of the different descriptions of work above referred to.

4. The District Forest-officer in his note estimates the value of the forest at Rs. 800 per acre and I cannot say that he overestimates the case. This will be clear if we consider the value of an individual tree taking into consideration the net rates we might expect to realize. Take for instance a tree measuring two and a half feet in diameter and eighty-five feet to the first branch (there are many such), the actual cubic contents of this tree would be 417 cubic feet; deducting 50 per cent. for loss in bark, sapwood and squaring, we arrive at the cubic contents of the tree in the log as $208\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet and the value of the same would be about Rs. 104 or Rs. 208 according as it was sold in the log or cut up into sleepers.

5. In my estimate I have only dealt with one class of tree, but there are many others, such as *Bassia longifolia*, *Calophyllum elatum*, *Cullenia excelsa*, which would pay to work with a view to supply the mines or the local market. I did not, however, find any of the *Hopeas* although Colonel Beddome states in his *Flora* that they are found in the Anamalais which, I have no doubt, they are if looked for in their proper situations, viz., along rivers at a somewhat lower elevation than the forest I visited, which was about 4,000 feet, and I am therefore of opinion that in revising the list of trees which are to be reserved for use by Government, it would be very advisable to include all trees of the genus *Hopea* and omit teak, vengai, blackwood and *Supin-lus* which are not to be found in the areas taken up although existing, I believe, in a small portion of the area which it has been decided to lease out. If any of this is taken up at some future date, these trees may be inserted in the list of reserved trees to be entered in the lease relative to this area. After considering therefore the value of the forests both on account of the timber trees which are known to exist there, as well as the timber trees which are not known to exist but which may afterwards be found there, I can come to no other conclusion but that the recommendation of the Collector and District Forest-officer not to lease out any more of this superb forest is a wise one.

6. As regards the suitability of the locality for the cultivation of coffee, there certainly at present exists among coffee planters generally, and more especially on the Shevaroy, a consensus of opinion that coffee does not yield such good crops in districts with such a heavy rainfall as that of the Anamalais as it would in localities with less rainfall. The conditions of soil and situation generally of the land on the Anamalais are very similar to those existing in the Tinnevely ghât forests, where coffee has proved anything but a success. I am therefore of opinion that for this reason, if for no others, it would be wise for Government to wait a while in order to see how coffee succeeds before leasing out any more land.

7. As regards the last proposal, viz., the modification of the list of trees given in the schedule to the agreement so as to include the *Mesuas* now omitted therefrom, I would point out that, if this is not done, it will, of course, remain open to Government to include these trees in the classified list of trees on which the lessee would have to pay $\frac{3}{4}$ of the seigniorage rate for classified trees in case of removal for sale, and in this connection it has to be considered whether it would be advisable to allow the lessee to work the trees on these terms or to include them in the list of trees given in the schedule as trees reserved to Government. If the former of these two courses be adopted, it might happen that the lessee might not care to work the trees under the terms of agreement, in which case Government would be precluded from doing so unless we first compounded with him to forego his rights, which I submit would be rather a ludicrous position for Government to be placed in seeing that we originally held possession of the trees and parted with them for a comparatively small consideration. Further it will be gathered from the information given in the previous paragraphs of this letter that the estimated profits from departmental working would be much higher than the $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas per cubic foot (i.e., $\frac{3}{4}$ of Rs. 7-8-0 per 20 cubic feet, the seigniorage rate on first-class squared timber) which Government would become entitled to when this species of tree was included in the seigniorage lists and in the event of the lessees working the same for sale. For these reasons I strongly recommend that not only should the two *Mesuas*, viz., *Ferrea* and *Speciosa*, be included in the schedule of trees to be reserved to Government, but that all trees of the Genus *Hopea* be similarly treated. It is also quite possible that *Bassia longifolia* (*Katiluppai*) may be found suitable for sleepers or mining purposes and I would therefore recommend that it also be included in the list of reserved trees.

The final proposal of the District Forest-officer, supported by the Collector, viz., that the words, &c., be added to the list of minor forest produce also seems advisable, and I recommend it for adoption.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ENUMERATION survey of trees on an area of 62 acre of evergreen forest in Paralai, Anamalai Reserved Forest.

Girth.	Names of trees.											Soft wood.
	Shurli (<i>Mesua speciosa</i>).	Vaga (<i>Calophyllum elatum</i>).	Jack.	Amelver amora.	Karpu.	Ilupai (<i>Bassia longifolia</i>).	Nage.	Ebony.	Vaga Eugenia.	Kundi.	Shola Vengai.	
1 to 2'	6	1	..	2	4	3	..	3	..	..	..	412
2 to 3'	3	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	2	..	..	37
3 to 4'	6	1	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	..	1	20
4 to 5'	5	1	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	1	12
5 to 6'	1	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
Over 6'	4	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	14
Total ..	25	6	1	3	5	15	..	10	2	1	2	502
Percentage ..	4.37	1.04	.17	.52	.87	2.62	..	1.73	.36	.17	.36	87.37

N.B.—Total number of trees, 572.

country is opened out. Eventually the Government would apparently have no redress. (3) Under paragraph 3 of the lease, the lessee may fell and dispose of all timber, &c., except as restricted in paragraph 4. He may therefore obtain the land on payment of Rs. 5 per acre, clear it, sell all reserved and classified timber on payment of $\frac{3}{4}$ seigniorage, and all other timber without any restriction. It is therefore within the range of possibility that a lessee may fell everything on the land, sell the timber, realising perhaps Rs. 100, perhaps Rs. 1,000 per acre, and then abandon the land and allow Government to resume it. I submit that this possibility should be guarded against by absolutely prohibiting the sale or export of any timber. I have already been told that one lessee wishes to export timber, so I am raising no false alarm in pointing out what may happen. In paragraph 5 of the lease, the right to collect certain specified minor produce in unopened parts of the estates is reserved to Government; as stated above we do not know the growth of these forests, either as regards timber or minor forest produce; in schedule 3 attached to the lease, I find neither mace nor gamboge and doubtless other available products are omitted; I would therefore propose the addition of "etcætera" at the foot of schedule 3.

This may safely be done.

(Intld.) J. A. C.

14. I should be glad of early orders on the questions of the terms of the lease, and the grant of further areas; several areas have been applied for, and one area of 313 acres has to be sold by auction on the 14th May; this sale must, I presume, be held, whatever decision is now arrived at, as bidders may come from a distance, but Government can buy the land in, should the sale prove unsatisfactory. There is another sale advertised for October, but there is time to publish the cancellation of this sale, if it is determined not to lease out any more of the land at present.

Endorsement by J. A. CUMMING, Esq., Acting Collector of Coimbatore, dated 6th May 1898, Ref. No. 498-Cur.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, through the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

the existence of which is generally known, but the lease has been drawn up with reservations concerning only the timbers and produce which are generally known; the mesuas (iron wood) are not

Probably other valuable timbers will be found, as more is ascertained about these forests. I cannot recommend additions to the schedule piecemeal, but see below

and ordinary endorse it.

These forests have been hitherto inaccessible and little known. It was proposed to open them up that it was proposed to lease them for coffee. Government has now agreed to make a main road through them, and the object for which they were leased has been attained.

In Board's Proceedings, Forest Mis. No. 925, dated 12th July 1894, it is laid down that blocks of land containing valuable timber should not be leased out. The making of the road will enhance the value of the timber on these hills to such an extent that, I submit, no further leases should be granted at all events until we have ascertained more accurately the extent to which we can profitably work the forests.

Resolution—Forest No. 227, dated 11th June 1898.

With his letter recorded above, Mr. Brasier, the Acting Conservator, Southern Circle, forwards an endorsement by Mr. Cumming, Acting Collector of Coimbatore, submitting with his remarks on the margin an office-note from the District Forest-officer, Mr. Lodge, asking for orders on certain points connected with the management of the portion of the Anamalai reserved forest which it has been decided to lease out to planters. All these officers have recently inspected the locality.

Paragraphs 1 to 8 of the District Forest-officer's note refer to matters with which the Collector is competent to deal and on which he has passed orders. They will therefore be omitted from the printed record submitted to Government.

2. In paragraphs 8 to 11, Mr. Lodge deprecates the grant of any more coffee land for plantation purposes on the ground, amongst others, that from a revenue point of view it is distinctly preferable to keep the hills under forest, and while expressing a desire to estimate the revenue at too low rather than too high a figure, he places the eventual annual receipts from timber at 21 lakhs of rupees, though it would take ten years or so to make roads and otherwise develop operations.

3. In paragraphs 3 and 4 of his letter, the Acting Conservator gives figures showing the cost of bringing the timber to market, and the present prices, and remarks that he cannot say that the District Forest-officer has over-estimated the case.

4. Mr. Lodge starts by saying he understands that the land granted has been described as "useless shola." The Board has been unable to trace this description. In paragraph 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 211, dated 15th May 1896, submitting the original proposal for leasing the land, it is stated that the entertainment of applications will enhance the value of the forest which remains uncleared by facilitating the opening out of communications, and although it is mentioned further on that the evergreen forest contains few timber trees which at present have any marketable value, the next clause indicates that they are believed to be likely to have a marketable value when the country has been opened and Nos. V, VI and VII of the conditions submitted with the Board's Proceedings provide carefully for the retention of the timber trade in the hands of the Forest Department. These conditions [(d), (e) and

* Board's Proceedings, No. 211, dated 15th May 1896.

that the lessees should not be allowed to

† Paragraph 8 of letter in Government Order, No. 694, dated 4th December 1896.

‡ Paragraph 3 of letter in Government Order, No. 111, dated 20th February 1897.

with the remark that the forest rights will,

(f)] were accepted at the conference held with the planters* and when Government modified them, the Collector again urged remove wood from the hills at all† and afterwards submitted‡ a long list of evergreen trees to be added to those which Government had proposed to allow the District Forest-officer to remove. This last proposal was supported by the Board no doubt, become more valuable, as the

country is opened out. Eventually the Government sanctioned a list of in Government Order, No. 111, dated 20th February 1897. Through the omission this list was omitted in the draft form of lease, but the Board has requested sanction for its inclusion in Board's Reference, No. 228, dated 1st June 1898.

10 BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), FOREST No. 82, 16TH FEBRUARY 1899.

in favour of coffee estates, there is almost as much to be said in favour of forest estates; in Germany 40,000,000 cubic feet of wood are used annually for the manufacture of paper; Great Britain imports minor forest produce to the value of £8,000,000 per annum, in Germany 3,000,000 people are maintained by forest industries (figures from Schlich's Manual of Forestry); at present a large proportion of the Indian forest produce is wasted for want of local industries; we import paper, matches, papier-maché, &c., which ought to be made locally, and the wood from which these articles ought to be made rots in the forests.

12. There is still another point to be considered, viz., is the land now being leased out, suitable for coffee? The proposed plantations are chiefly at an elevation of about 4,000 feet, above which coffee is said not to succeed well; the rainfall is from 150 to 200 inches, whereas coffee is said to do best with 50 or 60 inches. The clearings already made are practically clear fellings, and 150 inches of rain on bare soil steep slopes are likely to wash off the soil, so that if the estates prove a failure and are abandoned, Government will get back rocky slopes in place of the evergreen forest it gave. Of the 16,000 acres already given, only about 600 acres have yet been cleared, and I submit that considering the value of the forests which it is proposed to destroy, it is advisable not to lease out any more land, at any rate until at least half of the 16,000 acres has been opened out and the results of the experiment have been noted. Some estates were opened in 1865; of these three remain and the rest have disappeared; the same thing may happen again.

13. In conclusion, I have to suggest one or two small alterations in the terms of the lease which it is proposed to grant for lands already assigned. My recent visit to the hills showed me that there are many valuable timber trees and many varieties of minor produce in these evergreen forests, the existence of which is not generally known, but the lease has been drawn up with reservations concerning only the timbers and produce which are generally known; the mesuas (iron wood) are not

throw these forests open to coffee, but this aspect of the matter raises the question whether we are not sacrificing too much for coffee.

We do not get a fair price for the lands. There is little or no competition at the sales, though it is a matter of common report that one estate changed hands for Rupees 35,000 shortly after the sale, and it is pretty certain another passed for Rupees 15,000.

It has yet to be ascertained whether coffee will succeed. If it fails, other products may do better, but it is within the range of possibility that these estates may not pay.

In that case instead of the forests that have taken centuries to attain their present growth and represent a very considerable value *in posse*, we shall be left with bare hill sides.

It seems advisable therefore to sell no more land—

(1) In order to see how coffee succeeds in the lands already granted.

(2) In order to give time for a more careful survey of the forests to ascertain their resources and the extent to which they can be worked.

(Intld.) J. A. C.

Probably other valuable timbers will be found, as more is ascertained about these forests. I cannot recommend additions to the schedule piecemeal, but see below

Read—the following Office-note from F. LODGE, Esq., District Forest-officer, to the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle (through the Collector of Coimbatore), dated 9th April 1898.

Comparatively little seems to be known at present of the resources of these forests as they have been very little explored.

(Intld.) J. A. C.

9. If, instead of considering only the present stock and immediate yield per acre, one considers the continued annual yield, it works out to Rs. 70 as follows: With the heavy rainfall in these forests, growth must be fairly rapid; I assume that it takes eighty years for trees to attain maturity; at 112 trees per acre, 1.4 would attain maturity annually; the minimum annual outturn would be $200 \times 1.4 = 280$ cubic feet, and the net revenue at As. 4 per cubic foot = Rs. 70. This is excluding the trees of unknown quality, soft wood trees, and minor produce, such as mace, cinnamon, gamboge, &c., which properly worked ought to yield a considerable revenue. It is also assuming that the number of valuable species per acre would remain unchanged, whereas under proper treatment their number would increase; the figure arrived at (Rs. 70) may therefore be taken as the minimum net revenue per acre per annum, provided the produce can be brought to market. If I have over-estimated, I trust that the Acting Conservator in forwarding this note will enter his estimate, as he saw the forests at the same time as I did.

10. The net annual revenue from the whole area would then amount to Rupees 21,00,000, that is to say, Rs. 70 per acre on 65,000 acres, less 16,000 acres already leased out for plantations, and say 19,000 acres grass and rock (from what I saw, 9,000 would be more correct, but I wish to under rather than over estimate the revenue). The development of the forest would naturally take some time, and it would be fully ten years before the whole area could be worked, as roads would have to be made, but the ultimate yield would justify a much greater expenditure on roads than the three lakhs which I understand are to be spent on a main road to the coffee estates which will not return to Government 3 per cent. of the revenue realisable from the forests.

The road is being made for the benefit of the planters, but the District Forest-officer's estimate shows this road could be

11. Thus from a revenue point of view it is distinctly preferable to keep the hills under forest. There are, of course, other

country is opened out. Eventually the Government sanctioned a list of in Government Order, No. 111, dated 20th February 1897. Through the inclusion this list was omitted in the draft form of lease, but the Board has requested its sanction for its inclusion in Board's Reference, No. 228, dated 1st June 1898.

5. It will thus be seen that the local officers and the Board all along desired that the trade in timber from the reserved forests should be retained absolutely in the hands of the Forest Department, and the only new question for decision is whether the present Acting District Forest-officer, Acting Conservator and Acting Collector have thrown such new light on the subject as to call for a reconsideration of the orders already issued by Government with respect to—

- (a) the grant of plantation leases;
- (b) the permission accorded to planters to trade in timber subject to the payment of seigniorage.

6. The recent application for sleepers from the Public Works Department, Railway Branch, has drawn special attention to the value of *Mesua speciosa* and *ferr. a* and other varieties of *Mesua* which, owing to their hardness, are not ordinarily in great demand in the market,* and the Acting Conservator is probably correct in believing that the timber is well adapted for use in the Kolar Mines, though some enquiry seems desirable on the point as it is not mentioned amongst the timbers which the Conservator has found to be already in use there.

* It has been proved to answer for sleepers equally well with Pyakado, but the cost of cutting the hard wood, its weight, and the freight from the Tennasserim forests to Calcutta prevents its being much used. It is used for building, for bridges, gun-stocks and tool handles, but its more general use is prevented by its great hardness, weight and the difficulty of working it. (Gamble's Manual of Timber trees, page 27.)

7. There seems no reason to doubt the correctness of the Conservator and the District Forest-officer's valuation of the probable annual yield of the forests, but as the revenue depends not only on the yield but on the market, the Board is compelled to regard the estimate of a net annual value of 21 lakhs of rupees as chimerical and adheres to its opinion that the value of such portions of the forest as remain uncleared will be largely enhanced in value by the opening out of communications and other incidental facilities for the development of a trade in timber which will result from the growth of a large planting industry in the locality.

8. As pointed out in former papers,† the windswept character of the tract makes it most improbable that any planter will ever attempt to open out more than one-half of his holding, but it is possible that there may be a certain amount of shifting cultivation as years pass on, and if it is not considered safe to rely on planters leaving untouched as large an area of forest as the department can adequately deal with, some of the best stocked areas might be definitely reserved for the timber trade, it being clear that as soon as the road has been made, it will be possible to meet the existing considerable demand for sleepers and for the Kolar mines.

9. As regards point (b), it is for Government to decide whether sufficient ground has been shown for reversion to the original proposal that all timber trading rights should be reserved under the leases granted to planters. Such a reservation, it may be observed, would not preclude the Forest Department from allowing the planters to engage in the trade on payment of such rates as might be found to suit the market of the day. In addition to the reasons urged by the Local officers and already referred to above the District Forest-officer in sub-paragraph 3 of paragraph 13 of his note points out the possibility of a lessee abandoning all idea of planting, clearing the whole of his holding for the sake of trading in the timber thereon, and then allowing Government to resume the land in a denuded state.

10. In paragraph 12 of his note, the District Forest-officer endeavours to strengthen his recommendation for the discontinuance of planting leases by questioning the suitability of the land for coffee cultivation, and pointing out that, if the plantations

are, Government will get back rocky slopes in place of the fine evergreen at gave.

11. There is, no doubt, a certain amount of risk that something of the kind may happen on a small scale, but coffee planters of the present day are aware of the conditions under which coffee failed in other localities with a heavy rainfall and Government has allowed the cultivation of other products also. In any case when the immense area of forest available is borne in mind, it seems clear to the Board that the unsuitability of the land will be discovered before any serious damage has been done.

12. Most of the points discussed in paragraph 13 of the District Forest-officer's note have been dealt with in Board's Reference, No. 228, dated 1st June 1898. With regard to the remarks in paragraph 4 of the lease, it is observed that timber sold locally by a lessee is sold subject to its liability to the payment of seigniorage before it leaves the forest and the provisions of the Forest Act are sufficient to secure its collection.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest Mis. No. 574, dated 29th August 1898:—

Read—the following letter from H. A. GASS, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, to the Collector of Coimbatore (South), dated 9th August 1898, No. 741:—

There is, I hope, a prospect in the near future of being able to carry on operations in felling and conversion into sleepers in the forests on the Cochin side of the watershed on the Anamalais.

2. I do not, however, consider it will be possible to make such operations a financial success or indeed to carry them on to any extent, without the aid of sawing machinery, and a most essential adjunct to the machinery, to cheapen transport—a timber-run or wire rope-way—from the crest of the hills overlooking the plains, to the setting up of which the hill-slopes lend themselves admirably.

3. The motive power should be water and the abundant supply at all seasons would make it possible to develop all the power that can be required for working the wood-working machines with a "Pelton wheel" as motor.

4. It is, however, of first importance to the interests of Government to secure absolute control over all places where a waterfall of any size exists, as for example at Parayankadavu, to the necessity for excluding which I alluded in paragraph 18 of an office-note, extracts from which were embodied in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 211 of 15th May 1896.

I have therefore the honour to request you will please ask the District Forest-officer to scrutinize the boundaries of all applications for land, and see that they are so altered as to secure to Government all places where a good vertical fall or head of water can be obtained.

5. I am not sure that such alteration can now be made in the cases of individuals to whom lands have already been assigned, or if a clause can be inserted in their lease-deeds to enable Government to open water-courses and tap-streams passing through their land.

6. I have referred above to the opening of a wire rope-way. The long distance and the configuration of the ground would make it necessary to have a more substantial and costly one than that now in course of construction on the Mount Stuart side, and it would probably be advisable to have an endless moving rope worked by a turbine or Pelton wheel from the waterfall above the waterfall estate, or from

2. With regard to the ad where fresh rushes from the hills, disposal of cases in water-courses from above the falls in each case can be done at a reasonable collector is a point for investigation by the District Forest-officer.

No. 741.

Copy submitted to the Board of Revenue for favour of orders with regard to paragraph 5.

COIMBATORE,
9th August 1898.

(Signed) H. A. GASS,
Acting Conservator of Forests,
Southern Circle.

Resolution—Forest Mis. No. 574, dated 29th August 1898.

The Conservator's attention will be drawn to the twelfth condition enumerated in the appendix to G.O., No. 495, Revenue, dated 28th September 1896, which reserves to Government its existing and customary rights in streams running through the leased lands. The Board considers that it would be inexpedient to suggest the insertion of any further condition in the form of lease which is already elaborate enough and has been the subject of prolonged discussion. The question of the extent to which the condition just referred to safeguards the interests of Government need not be decided until occasion for its interpretation actually arises, more especially as another stipulation enables Government to resume possession on easy terms of any portion of the leased lands which may be required for public purposes.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

" Secretary to Government, Revenue

Department, for information, with copy of the Conservator's letter.

Order—No. 46, Revenue, dated 16th January 1899.

Miscellaneous.

The papers read above relate to certain suggestions made by the Board of Revenue for the modification of the forms of agreements to lease forest lands on the Anamalai hills approved in G.O., No. 1014, dated 4th December 1897.

2. Some of the Board's proposals are intended to correct mistakes in the draft forms so as to bring them into accord with the conditions laid down by the Government in G.Os., No. 495, dated 28th September 1896, and No. 111, dated 20th February 1897. These will be dealt with below. The Board further proposes certain modifications of these conditions. No material modification can be admitted in the case of the leases to be granted to those applicants who have already been granted lands or who have made a deposit in accordance with rule IV of the rules appended to G.O., No. 495, dated 28th September 1896. Such modifications will, therefore, be considered in connection with the general revision of the rules for the lease of forest lands on the Anamalai hills which is now engaging the attention of Government.

3. The Collector of Coimbatore has already been directed not to admit any fresh application for lands on the Anamalais, nor to proceed with sales in cases where no deposit under rule IV referred to above has been made, pending the completion of the bridge-path to Sirukundru. He will now be informed that the revised rules which will shortly be issued will govern all future applications and leases, and that the promulgation thereof should be awaited.

573
5-10-98

Following modifications proposed by the Board of Revenue to be executed under the existing rules are now accepted by the Government:—

(i) To substitute for the words "trees of the kind hereinafter expressed to be hereby reserved" occurring in paragraph 4, lines 10 and 11, the words "reserved trees."

(ii) To add to the Agreements a "fourth schedule" specifying the trees which the Forest Department may cut from uncleared land and to substitute the word "fourth" for the word "second" in paragraph 9, line 2 of the Agreements. This schedule will contain the names of the 12 trees mentioned in paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 111, dated 20th February 1897.

(iii) In paragraph 5, lines 2 and 3 of the draft Agreement to omit the words "such as is mentioned in the third schedule hereunder written but" and insert, at the end of the paragraph, the following sentence: "The chief items of minor produce are specified in the third schedule hereunder written; but the schedule is not exhaustive."

5. Under the second schedule to the Agreement a seigniorage rate is prescribed in respect of nine only of the "reserved trees." The Government considers that it is desirable to state in the Agreement the seigniorage rates for all "reserved trees." The Board of Revenue is accordingly requested to insert in the second schedule to the Agreements the names of the reserved trees at present omitted therefrom and the rates of seigniorage to be charged for such trees.

6. In the case of "classified trees" the maximum rates to be levied have been fixed by paragraph 4 of the Agreement at three-quarters of the rates notified for the South Coimbatore division. The Board of Revenue is requested to direct the Collector to intimate to the lessees the rates to be actually levied in respect of those trees and any change that may in the future be made in the rates. The draft Agreement in paragraph 4 refers to these rates as "determined by the Government." This is as between the lessor and the Government as lessee; but it is not meant thereby that the Government itself shall in each instance fix the rates. Authority to do so has been duly conferred under the Forest Act on the Collector, and it is sufficient if he fixes the rates as in other cases.

7. With regard to the question raised in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 574, dated 29th August 1898, the Government considers that it is desirable to embody specifically in all the leases now to be executed, the terms of rule 12 of the leasing rules set out in the appendix to G.O., No. 495-R, dated 28th September 1896. The Government Solicitor should also be asked to advise whether anything further is required in the way of express stipulation so as to preserve to Government all rights in and control over headwaters, waterfalls and streams: and to insert conditions accordingly.

8. The Government considers that the execution of the Agreements should be proceeded with as soon as possible after the corrections now ordered have been carried out.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 82, dated 16th February 1899.

Communicated to the Collector of Coimbatore and to the Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, for information and guidance.

2. With regard to the admission of fresh applications and the disposal of cases in which the prescribed deposit has not been made, the attention of the Collector is drawn to paragraph 3 of the Government Order and he is directed to await the promulgation of the revised rules referred to.

3. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government Order, the Collector is requested to state the seigniorage rates which he proposes to charge for all "reserved trees" other than those mentioned in the Second Schedule to the "agreements to lease."

4. The Collector will be instructed to intimate to the lessees the rates to be actually levied in respect of "classified trees," subsequent changes, if any, being of course also communicated to them from time to time.

5. As desired by Government in paragraph 7 of its Order, the terms of rule 12 of the leasing rules referred to should be embodied specifically in all the leases now to be executed. The Government Solicitor will be requested to make the necessary addition to the draft lease and to state whether anything further is required in the way of express stipulation reserving to Government all rights in and control over headwaters, waterfalls and streams and if so to insert conditions accordingly.

(True Copy and Extract.)

Luciel Davidson

Acting Secretary.

To the Collector of Coimbatore.

" Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.
" Government Solicitor.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. Md. Pahlavan

Following modifications proposed by the Board of
"ase" to be the existing rules are

When copied _____ 189
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____, DATED
189 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1159

DATED 20th March 1899

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.P. (d.b.) Coming: with rem. ards.
to the Comr: of Comibature & the Conservator of
Forests, Southern Circle, Govt: Order Effecting
Certain Modifications in the form of agreement
for the lease of forest lands on the Annamalais;
Considering that the execution of the agreement
should be proceeded with as soon as possible
after the corrections now ordered have been carried
out; and requesting the Govt: Secretary to State
whether anything further is required in the way of
Express stipulation so as to reserve to Govt: all
rights in & control over headwaters, waterfalls &
streams.

whether any

25/3