

THE BOMBAY FORESTS

BY

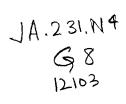
W. E. Copleston, C.S.I., Chief Conservator of Forests, Bombay Presidency

Published by order of the Government of Bombay

~~ ~~

.

BOMBAY, 1925 : PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS nce One Rupee. Copies obtainable from the Superintendent of Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, Poona, or from any recognized Bookseller.



CONTENTS

					Page
Foreword					1
The Public need for Timber and other Forest Pro	duce	••	••	••	1
Income from Forests. Its gradual growth	••			•••	2
Commercial development				••	3
History of Forest Conservancy in Bombay		••	••	••	4
Continuity of a fixed Forest Policy essential	••	••		••	5
Forests a fine investment. Development impossible	e if funds a	re stinted		••	6
Area of Bombay Forests	••	••		••	7
Variety in types of Forest in the Presidency		••		••	7
Effect of Forests on temperature and water supply	·	••	••		9
Public interest in Forestry. Need for propaganda	••	••	••	••	11
Canadian and American interest in Forestry	••		••	••	13
Timber a crop and not a mine	••	••	••	••	14
Changes noticeable in this Presidency	••	••	••	••	16
Forest Settlements			- • ·	••	17
Villagers' Privileges in the Forests		••	••	••	17
Forests beneficial to local population			••	••	18
Forest Fires		••		••	18
Necessity for periodical closure to grazing	••	••	••	••	19
Damage by man	••	••	••	••	20
Forest restrictions	••		••	••	22
Working plans and Sylviculture	••	••	••	••	23
Forest improving wherever fire protection is succ	essful	••	••	••	24
Regeneration	••		••	••	25
Sowing and Planting	••	••	••	••	26
Thinning	••		••	••	29
Improvement Fellings	••	••	••	•••	29
'Let nature be your teacher '	••	••	••	••	31
Transport	••	••	••	••	32
Exploitation in Kanara	••	••	••	••	34
Sawmills	••	••	••	••	36
Forest Engineering	••	••	••	••	37
Sind Forests	••	••	••	••	37
Satpuras in East and West Khandesh Divisions	••	••	••	••	40
Forest Development in the Surat Dangs	••	••	••	••	42
The Bhil	••	••	••	••	49
Duties of the Forest Officer	••	;;	••	••	50
Protection of agricultural crops against damage by		nais	••	••	52
The Forests are improving and becoming more va	aluable	••	••	••	56

8 8--la

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

No.		Page
		20
1. Promising young Teak Forest ruined by an outbreak of illicit hacking		20
2. Mischievous damage to Sandalwood. Vigorous young trees hacked	down	21
before heartwood has formed	· ··	21
3. Young Sandalwood killed by intentional firing of jungles. Bark of stem	s burnt	22
completely away	••	22
4. A clearing planted up with Teak in Kanara	••	27
5. View of four-year old plants in Kanara plantations		28
6. View of three-year old plants coming into leaf	:	29
7. Natural Forest with the Teak, the trees with the big leaves, much overtop	ped and	
suppressed by less valuable species		30
8. The same Forest as in Fig. 7 after improvement felling freeing the Teak,	which	
can now develop into fine timber	••	31
Constructing dam for floating timber with help of elephants in the Kaneri F	liver	33
10. Elephants passing logs through the dam on the Kalinadi River		34
11 & 12. Method of transport in Sind		38
13. An area clear felled and ready for sowing in Sind		39
14. Area drilled for sowing Babul seed. Seventeen-year old Babul Forest i ground	n back-	40
15. Two and half year old Babul showing portion cleaned and portion to be cle	aned	41
16. Lime masonry culvert with Teak timber top in the Surat Dangs. Spans		
clear headway 8 ft., road width 16 ft. Cost Rs. 1,700		42
17. Retaining wall on the Subir-Nawapur Road (Surat Dangs). Construct	ed with	
Bhil labour. Length 103 ft., height 171 ft., and top width of wall 21		
Rs. 1,121		42
18. Road constructed along precipitous rocky hill side. The entire width of	the road	
is carried on a stone construction length 110 ft., height 12 ¹ / ₂ ft. Cost Rs.		43
19. Karanjara sawmill in North Dangs cutting up waste material left by co		
in their coupes	1111 401010	44
20. Devipara Bridge (South Dangs)	. • •	45
20. Government Sawmill at Chikhalda, South Dangs, utilising waste mater	ial from	
logging operations	Adi II OIII	46
22. Interior of Chikhalda Mill	••	47
23. Departmental fellings in North Dangs-Bhils preparing logs	••	48
	••	49
24. Dangi families on road construction	••	50
		54
 Typical of the ruined condition of many of the Teak Forests The two Teak trees on the left of the picture are hollowed out from top to 	 . hattam	
· · · · ·	> DOLLOM	55
by jungle fires	-ı. -ı.	55
28. The damaged forest shown in Fig. 27 replaced by sound young straight Te	цк))