

CHAPTER XI.

FORESTS.

AN account of the early history of forest conservancy in South Canara is given in chapter I of the first volume of this manual. The subjoined statement shows the extent of forest land in each taluk in 1893 :—

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Conservation.

Taluk.	Reserved forests.		Reserved lands.		Total.	
	No.	Extent.	No.	Extent.	No.	Extent.
		ACS.		ACS.		ACS.
Coondapoor ...	4	1,985	116	142,223	120	144,208
Kásaragód ...	1	2,560	62	38,040	63	40,600
Mangalore ...	9	4,357	4	30,541	13	34,898
Udipi ...	7	29,437	65	73,843	72	103,280
Uppinangadi ...	2	25,600	734	305,797	736	331,397
TOTAL ...	23	63,939	981	590,444	1,004	654,383

On the 30th June 1893 there were 63,939 acres of reserved forests and 590,444 acres of reserved lands. Most, if not all, of the latter will eventually become reserved forest. Uppinangadi has the largest extent of forest land, and in both Coondapoor and Udipi there are over 100,000 acres. Taking the district as a whole, there are 1,022·47 square miles, or about 26 per cent. of the total area, under the control of the forest department. This gives an extent of 0·62 acres of forest land to each inhabitant.

The receipts and charges of the department for the last five years are shown in the margin.

Revenue and expenditure.

Year.	Receipts.	Expenditure.
	RS.	RS.
1888-89 ...	79,065	63,370
1889-90 ...	49,834	52,176
1890-91 ...	56,208	49,594
1891-92 ...	48,246	50,174
April 1892- June 1893.	76,738	61,723
TOTAL ...	3,10,091	2,77,037

The average annual surplus amounted to Rs. 6,611. The figures exhibit considerable variations both in receipts and expenditure and in 1889-90 and 1891-92 the expenditure exceeded the receipts by about two thousand rupees in each year. These variations are, in the main, due to the

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fact that forest conservation, in an extensive scale and in a systematic manner, is still in its infancy and a regular scheme of work has hardly yet been adopted.

Establishment.

The permanent establishment of the department consists of one district forest officer, three rangers, five foresters, and 45 forest guards, besides a number of clerks, attenders and peons. In addition to these, a small temporary establishment is employed annually to watch the forests.

Forest offences.

The number of offences against the forest laws has increased from 205 in 1888-89 to 831 in 1892-93. The majority of the offences are cases of unauthorized felling of trees in reserved forests. The increase in the number of offences is more apparent than real and is due to the greater care bestowed on the conservation of forests and bringing offences to light. A large proportion of the offences are compounded for a money payment by the offenders.

Year.	Number of offences.
1888-89	205
1889-90	411
1890-91	262
1891-92	403
1892-93	831