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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***P. W.* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. <i>1199</i>	Press
<i>331-332</i>	~~Mis.~~
Dated <i>20-4-</i>	<i>1868.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1d.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th April 1863.*

No. 331. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Revenue Department:—

Sanctioning an increased rate of seigniorage
for wood-fuel supplied to the Railway Com-pany. } (Here enter 8th April 1863, No. 943.)

No. 332. ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1863, No. 1,199.

RAILWAY, No. 27.

Communicated to the Consulting
Engineer for Railways.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th April 1868.*

No. 211. Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Camp at Ootacamund, 23rd March 1868, No. 616 :—

1. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Government Order, No. 2,739, dated 19th November 1867, I have the honor
* No. 92, dated 20th March 1868. to forward a letter* from the Consulting

Engineer for Railways, together with a copy of his correspondence with the Railway officers on the subject of an increased rate of seigniorage upon Railway fuel.

2. After due consideration and consultation with my Assistants and with the Collectors of districts, I came to the opinion that the present rate should be raised from Annas 6 to Annas 10 per 1,000 lbs. To this proposal the Railway officers agree.

3. Mr. Wright, the Locomotive Superintendent, requests that a date should be fixed for the new seigniorage to come into operation, giving a reasonable time for the alteration and renewal of contracts. The increased rate will of course have to fall upon the Railway Company and not upon Contractors, but I would suggest that it should not be put into force until the 1st of June, and that all wood delivered on and after that date should be charged with the additional seigniorage, whether it was said to be felled before the order or not; the two months' law will enable all wood at present felled to be brought to depot at the old rates; but if we ruled that all wood felled up to date should be subject only to the former rates, our establishment would be put to much trouble to take stock of what is now felled in different jungles and not brought to depot.

4. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Consulting Engineer's letter, I would remark that the country between Cuddapah and Raichoor (through which the North-West Line is to run) is not under the Forest Department.

From the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to the Conservator of Forests, dated Madras, 20th March 1868, No. 92.

1. In reply to your letter, dated the 13th January last, No. 479, I have the honor to
• No. 92, 18th March. enclose a copy of a letter,* with enclosures, which I have received from the Agent of the

Madras Railway Company, on the subject of the proposed increase in the seigniorage rates.

2. In requesting your special attention to Mr. Barton Wright's remarks, I beg to state that, for the reasons assigned by him, his request to have the introduction of the increased rate deferred for a short time, appears to me reasonable.

3. I cordially support the recommendation contained in the last paragraph of Mr. Wright's letter. I have remarked several tracts of waste land adjoining the North-West Line, on which I conceive that fuel plantations might advantageously be grown. Between Cuddapah and the Paupugnee river there is a considerable extent of waste land, on which I feel sure Banbool trees might be easily raised. There is another similar tract to the west of Gooty. To the north of Adoni, near Kosgee, the line passes through a large extent of waste land, which I have no doubt could be turned to profitable account in the growth of firewood.

From the Agent and Manager, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 18th March 1868, No. 92 :—

1. Upon the receipt of your letter of the 27th January, No. 23, informing me that the Conservator of Forests, after consultation with his Assistants, and also with the Collectors of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th April 1868.*

Salem, Cuddapah and Coimbatore, had determined to raise the seigniorage rates on fuel from 6 to 10 Annas per 1,000 lbs, I referred the subject to the Locomotive Superintendent, and have

* No. 55, dated 16th March.

now the honor to enclose a copy of that Officer's reply,* and to request you to be good enough

to favor me with an answer to the points raised in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

2. It appears to me only fair that the increased seigniorage rates should not affect existing contracts, and that, as represented by Mr. Wright, a certain amount of law should be allowed to us before their introduction.

From the Locomotive Superintendent, to the Agent and Manager, dated Perambore Works, 16th March 1868, No. 58.

1. With reference to the Consulting Engineer's letter, No. 23, dated 27th January 1868, Letter from Conservator of Forests, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, No. 347, 26th October 1867, forwarding copy of the correspondence noted in the margin, on the subject of the proposed increase in the rate of seigniorage for fuel, I Order of Government thereon, No. 2,739, 19th November 1867, regret to find that it is considered necessary by the officers of the Conservancy Department to raise the price by so considerable an amount as is contemplated, the increase being no less than an advance of 66 per cent. on present rates.

2. I am not competent to give an opinion on the question of the cost of reproducing timber in the various localities from whence we draw our supplies; but from what I have observed of the growth of timber in places which had been cleared along the line west of Coimbatore, I am inclined to think that in those districts, at all events, the reproduction of wood for fuel may be managed at a very small cost, although I can readily understand that much greater expense and difficulty will be experienced in the carrying out of similar operations in the Salem and Cuddapah districts. Considering, however, the statement furnished by Captain Beddome on this point, and embodied in the Consulting Engineer's letter, there would appear to be no legitimate ground on which to base any appeal against the proposal to levy an increased seigniorage on wood fuel.

3. It appears to me desirable that a certain amount of law should be allowed us, that is to say, a date should be fixed, giving us a reasonable time for the alteration or renewal of existing contracts, from which date this increased rate shall be brought into operation.

4. Large quantities of wood have been already cut and made ready for delivery on many parts of the line, and I presume that we will be allowed to take all timber so cut and prepared, under the old regulations, at the existing rate of seigniorage.

5. As our agreements with contractors now stand, the amount of seigniorage has to be deducted from their bills, and paid by the Railway Company into the Government Treasuries of the districts in which they respectively supply, and this increase in the seigniorage will involve new agreements, as the payment of it by the contractors would simply ruin them.

6. Since writing the above I have been over the line with the Inspector General of Forests of India and the Acting Conservator of Forests for Madras, and these gentlemen seem fully alive to the desirability of taking such measures as will provide for the regular supply of firewood for Railway use.

7. Reserves and plantations are already started in the Salem district under Lieutenant Campbell Walker's superintendence, and the Inspector General of Forests of India and the Conservator for Mysore are disposed to take up and plant the land selected by Lieutenant Vansomeran and myself in the neighbourhood of Maloor station, on the Bangalore branch, provided they can obtain possession of the same.

8. In connection with this subject, it is very desirable that the Conservancy Department should turn their attention to the supply of wood fuel for Railway purposes in any suitable places within a reasonable distance of the line between Cuddapah and Raichoor.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th April 1868.*

No. 212.

ORDER THEREON, 8th April 1868, No. 949.

Forests, No. 9.

1. The Government sanction the increased rate of seigniorage for wood-fuel supplied to the Railway Company, viz., Annas 10 per 1,000 lbs., and direct that it be brought into force from 1st June 1868, as proposed by the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

2. The Government desire that Major Beddome will take an early opportunity of inspecting the localities indicated by Major Shaw Stewart as suitable for the formation of fuel reserves on the North-West Line, and reporting what can be done in the matter. The subject is of the highest importance, and the fact that the tract in question is not now in charge of the Forest Department does not affect the point.

3. The Collectors of Cuddapah and Bellary will be instructed to afford Major Beddome every assistance in his inquiries.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests,
,, the Revenue Board.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Department of Public Works.
,, the Collector of Madras.
,, the do. of North Arcot.
,, the do. of Salem.
,, the do. of Malabar.
,, the do. of Trichinopoly.
,, the do. of Tanjore.
,, the do. of Coimbatore.
,, the do. of Madura.
,, the do. of Tinnevely.
,, the do. of Cuddapah.
,, the do. of Bellary.
,, the do. of Kurnool.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

P. W. 1868
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John Edgar Brady

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