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Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

8th September 1857

Back Numbers 43-44

Order No 901 dated 8th Sept 1857

Absence

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th September 1857.

No. 43. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 10th August 1857, No. 2688.

Read letter from the Collector of Chingleput dated 30th May 1857,* reporting on the conservancy of the Streehurricottah jungles with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation dated 5th February 1857, No. 141, Revenue Department.

* *In Cons. 26th June* 1857.

Read also letter from the same officer dated 29th June 1857,† furnishing further information with regard to the toll levied on palmyra trees and charcoal.

† *In Cons.* 10*th Aug.* 1857.

(Here enter No. 183.)

With their Proceedings to Government dated 3d September 1856, the Board of Revenue submitted a report from the Collector of Chingleput on the conservancy of the Streehurricottah jungles.

2. On that occasion the Board recommended that the management of the jungles should continue to be conducted by the officers of Government as a preferable arrangement to renting them out.

3. The objections urged against leasing out the jungles were however over-ruled by Government on the ground that the sub-renters would probably be, not strangers, but the merchants who now employ laborers for felling the trees, and that the re-growth of the trees would be sufficiently provided for if the renters were not permitted to dig up the roots.

4. It will be seen from the first of the above recorded reports that in accordance with the views of Government the Collector has divided the jungles into eight parts and intends offering the lease of one of them, for the coming Fusly, to unreserved public competition. The same course will be followed year by year with a fresh portion, so that each range will have seven years for re-growth.

5. With reference to the remark of Government that the establishment at Streehurricottah was apparently maintained for the management of the jungles; that it cost about 30 per cent. of the revenue derived from the jungles and could be dispensed with under the leasing system. Mr. Shubrick explains that the duties attached to the management of the jungles were only additional to the Revenue and Police functions exercised by the Peishcar of the Division which consists of 49 villages with a revenue, on the average of the last five years, of Rupees 23,584. The cost of the Establishment is 107½ Rupees per month, or Rupees 1,290 per annum, so that its ratio to the revenue is little more than 5½ per cent. Mr. Shubrick adds that no part of the Establishment can be dispensed with, and that although under the leasing system the servants will be relieved of the duty of taxing and weighing the wood, this relief will be counterbalanced by their having to investigate cases of trespass which the Collector anticipates will arise out of the leasing system.

Pro. to Govt. 17*th July* 1855.
From Govt. 9*th August* 1855, *No.* 946,
R. D.

6. Adverting to the Extract from Lieut. Chamber's Report which accompanied the Government order, Mr. Shubrick states that the Toll levied on firewood amounts to 40 per cent. of the cost of cutting, and not to 100 per cent. as surmised by Lieut. Chambers. The rate was approved by Government and the Board in 1855.

7. The rates of toll on Palmyra trees and charcoal are admitted by the Collector to be very high and objectionable in character. They were imposed by the former proprietor of the Jungles, and Mr. Shubrick recommends that they should be altogether abolished as they do not exist in any other part of the District, and the produce of the Palmyra is rented out separately from the jungle trees. He is not aware that any other jungle products such as dyes, &c., are taxed (as observed by Lieut. Chambers) to a degree which prohibits their exportation, it being customary to sell them to the highest bidders. The toll levied on Palmyra trees is stated by the Collector in the second letter at the head of these Proceedings to be Rupees 1-1-6 on each tree, and that on charcoal Rupees 11 per Garce. The former brought in Rupees 20-3-9, and the latter Rupees 78-10-5 in Fusly 1265 on exportations made by Lieut. Chambers.

பரத்தப்பட்டது
செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் ஜா. திருவேங்கடம்
செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் 11/06
செப்பனிடு முடித்த நாள் 1/07
சரிபார்க்கும் முதல் மு. தி. பார். எ. கையொப்பம்
துணைப் பார்க்கும் அ. தி. பா. எ. கையொப்பம்
ஆய்வு உதவியாளர் கையொப்பம்

8. The Board are of opinion that the toll on Palmyra trees and charcoal may be abandoned for the future as unnecessary and objectionable imposts.

Proceedings to Government 17th July 1855.
From Government 9th August 1855.
Proceedings to Chingleput 22d August 1855.
From Chingleput 12th December 1855, in Consultation 22d February 1856.
Proceedings to Government and Chingleput 22d February 1856.
From Government 17th March 1856.
Proceedings to Chingleput 2d April 1856.
From Chingleput 27th May in Consultation 3d September 1856.
Proceedings to Government 3d September 1856.
From Government 5th February 1857.
Proceedings to Chingleput 13th February 1857.
From Chingleput 30th May in Consultation 26th June 1857.
Proceedings to Chingleput 26th June 1857.
From Chingleput 29th June in Consultation 10th August 1857.
Proceedings to Government and Conservator of Forests 10th August 1857.

Ordered that a copy of these Proceedings be laid before Government, and another together with copies of the previous correspondence on the conservancy of the jungles in question, be forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, to whose management it is presumed the jungles must be transferred for the future.

(A true Extract.)
(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, No. 901; dated 8th September 1857.

With these Proceedings, the Board of Revenue submit letters from the Collector of Chingleput, having reference to the arrangements ordered in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 5th February 1857, No. 141, for the conservation of the Streeharricottah jungles.

2. Mr. Shubrick reports in his letter of the 30th May last that, in accordance with the views of Government, he has divided the jungles into eight parts, and that he intends offering the lease of one of them for the then coming Fusly to unreserved public competition, so that by following the same course year by year, each range may have seven years for regrowth. The Government trust that the change will prove beneficial in every respect, and they desire that the Board will request Mr. Shubrick to report upon its working in his annual report on the settlement of the District.

3. In para. 6 of their order above alluded to, the Government observed that the greater part of the establishment of 42 persons at a cost of about 175 Rupees per mensem, maintained at Streeharricottah for the jungles, would become unnecessary under the new system of leasing out the jungles; the Collector explains that the management of the jungles was only additional to the Revenue and Police functions exercised by the Peishear of the division which consists of 49 villages, with an average revenue of Rupees 22,584; that the cost of establishment amounts to 5¼ per cent. on the revenue and not 30 per cent. as assumed by Government, and that no part of the establishment can be dispensed with. Mr. Shubrick adds that the relief afforded to the servants by the new system will be more than counterbalanced by their having to investigate cases of trespass which he anticipates will arise out of the leasing system. Under these circumstances, the Government will not disturb the existing establishment.

4. The Collector next refers to the taxes alluded to by the Superintendent of the east coast canal in his report on the canal for 1855-56. The first point adverted to in the report is the heavy tax on wood cut in the jungles. The Collector states that it amounts to 40 per cent. of the cost of cutting, and not 700 per cent. as surmised by that officer, but that under the system of renting the jungle the subject drops. The question needs therefore no further notice.

5. The taxes on Palmyra trees and charcoal, Mr. Shubrick admits are very high and objectionable in character. He states that they were imposed by the former proprietors of the jungles, and recommends that they should be altogether abolished as they do not exist in any other part of the District, and the produce of the Palmyra is rented out separately from the jungle trees which are to be cut down. The Board concur with the Collector in his proposal to abandon the taxes, but the Government do not see that they or Mr. Shubrick, give any reason why there should be a tax on firewood and none on charcoal; both are fuel and if one may be taxed, both may. The same argument holds good with Palmyrahs. All other wood is taxed, and there can be no reason why Palmyras used for building should not be taxed as well as all other wood used for precisely the same purpose. From para. 7 of the Board's Proceedings it appears that no Palmyra or charcoal were exported except by Lieutenant Chambers. The rates on these two articles may be too high, and therefore the trade in them restricted. If such is the case, the Government will be prepared to authorize a reduction, and the Board will be good enough to give the subject further consideration.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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Revenue Department.

No. 2688

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th August 1857.

Read letter from the Collector of Chingleput dated 30th May 1857 reporting on the Conservancy of the Streharricottah jungles with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation dated 5th February 1857. No. 141. Revenue Dept.

In Con. 26 June 1857.

Read also letter from the same Officer dated 29th June 1857 furnishing further information with regard to the toll levied on Palmyra trees and Charcoal.

In Con. 10th August 1857.

(Here Enter No. 183)

With their Proceedings to Government dated 3d September 1856 the Board of Revenue submitted a Report from the Collector of Chingleput on the Conservancy of the Streharricottah Jungles.

2. On that occasion the Board recommended that the management of the Jungles should continue to be conducted by the officers of Government as a preferable arrangement

arrangement to renting them out.

3 The objections urged against leasing out the Jungles were however overruled by Government on the ground that the Sub-renters would probably be, not strangers, but the merchants who now employ labourers for felling the trees, and that the regrowth of the trees would be sufficiently provided for if the renters were not permitted to dig up the roots.

4. It will be seen from the first of the above recorded Reports that in accordance with the views of Government the Collector has divided the Jungles into eight parts and intends offering the lease of one of them, for the coming Fasly, to unreserved public competition. The same course will be followed year by year with a fresh portion, so that each range will have seven years for regrowth.

5. With reference to the remark of Government that the Establishment at Streburriecottah was apparently maintained for the management of the Jungles; that it cost about 30 p^{c} of the Revenue derived from

from the Jungles and could be dispensed with under the leasing system. Mr Shubrick explains that the duties attached to the management of the Jungles were only additional to the Revenue and Police functions exercised by the Peishcar of the Division which consists of 19 Villages with a revenue on the average of the last five years, of Rs. 22,584. The cost of the Establishment is 107½ Rs. per month or Rs. 1290 per annum, so that its ratio to the revenue is little more than 5½ per Cent. Mr Shubrick adds that no part of the Establishment can be dispensed with and that all the under the leasing system the servants will be relieved of the duty of taxing and weighing the wood, this relief will be counterbalanced by their having to investigate cases of trespass which the Collector anticipates will arise out of the leasing system.

6. Adverting to the Extract from Secretary Chambers' Report which accompanied the Government order, Mr Shubrick states that the Toll levied on firewood amounts

to 10% of the cost of felling and not to 100% as surmised by Lieut. Chambers. The rates were affirmed by Government and the Board in 1855.

Rec'd for 14th July 1855.
Fwd to Govt 9th Augt 1855.
No 946 R.D.

7. The rates of toll on Palmyra trees and Charcoal are admitted by the Collector to be very high and objectionable in character. They were imposed by the former proprietor of the jungles and Mr Shubrick recommends that they should be altogether abolished as they do not exist in any other part of the District. and the produce of the Palmyra is rented out separately from the jungle trees. He is not aware that any other jungle products such as dyes, &c are taxed (as observed by Lieut Chambers) to a degree which prohibits their exportation it being customary to sell them to the highest bidders. The toll levied on Palmyra trees is stated by the Collector in the second letter at the head of these Proceedings to be A. 1. 6 on each tree, and that on Charcoal Rs 11 per Garce. The former brought in Rs 20. 3. 9 and the latter Rs 95. 10. 5, on July 1760 on exportations made by Lieut Chambers

The

8. The Board are of opinion that the toll on Palmyra trees and Charcoal may be abandoned for the future as unnecessary and objectionable imposts.

Ordered that a Copy of these Proceedings be laid before Government and another together with Copies of the previous Correspondence on the Conservancy of the Jungles in question, be forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, to whose management it is presumed the Jungles must for the future be transferred.

Pro to Govt 17 July 1855.
From Govt 9th August 1855.
Pro to Chingleput 22d augt "
From Chingleput 12 Decr 1855 In Con 22d February 1856.
Pro to Govt and Chingleput 22d February 1856.
From do 17 March 1856.
Pro to Chingleput 2d april 1856.
From Chingleput 24th May in Con 3d Sept 1856.
Pro to Govt 3d September 1856.
From Govt 5 February 1857.
Pro to Chingleput 13 February 1857.
From Chingleput 30 May in Con 26 June 1857.
Pro to Chingleput 26 June 1857.
From Chingleput 29 June in Con 10 Augt 1857.
Pro to Govt & Conservator of Forests 10 Augt "

(A true Extract)

J. A. Shaw
Ag Secretary

To

H. Forbes Esqr
Ag Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

J. A. Shaw

Rev.e Dep.t

No. 901

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 8th August 1857.

Read the following

Extract from the Rep: of the

Board of Revenue.

Here enter 10th August 1857

No. 2688

With these Pro-
-ceedings the Board of
Revenue submit letters
from the Collector of
Chingleput, having re-
-ference to the arrange-
-ments ordered in Ex-
-tract Minutes Consulta-
-tion dated 5th February
1857 No 141, for the con-
-servation of the Structure
-picotahs Irrigated.

Mr

Revenue 1857 Aug.t
Cons: 8th Consn.
No 901
Extract from the
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
Dated 4th
Aug.t 1857.
2. Ends. Returned

No 2688

Sd Rep.n 8th Aug.t

Mr Chief Sec.y with the
Board's compliments, a letter
from the Collector of
Chingleput, & Extract
in the Consultation of the
Madras Govt. noted margin,
and recommending the
adoption of the Trichinopoly
Rate in Palnaud Taluq.

29 Aug.t 57 Rec.d

* Consult.n August 5th 1857 No 141
" " 8th " " 20 20
" " 5th February " 7 72
Copying out & d. to Sec.y
8th Oct.r Returned 18th Nov.r 45
Pol.l: Dep.t 20.

No 443.

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2. Mr Shubrick re-
-ports in his letter of
the 30th May last that in
accordance with the
views of Government,
he has divided the jun-
-gles into eight parts,
and that he intends
offering the lease of one
of them for the then
coming July to unreserved
public competition, so
that by following the
same course year by year,
each range may have
seven years for regrowth.
The Government trust
that the change will
prove beneficial in every
respect, and they desire
that the Board will
request Mr Shubrick
to report upon its working
in

in his annual report
on the settlement of the
District.

3. In para 6 of their
order above alluded to,
the Government observed
that the greater part
of the Establishment
of 42 persons at a cost
of about 175 Rupees per
annum, maintained
at Sreeharricotah for the
jungles, would become
unnecessary under the
new system of leasing
out the Jungles; the
Collector explains that
the management of the
Jungles was only ad-
-ditional to the Revenue
and Police functions
exercised by the Resident
of ...

of the Division which consists of 49 Villages, with an average revenue of Rupees 22,584; that the cost of Establishment amounts to 5 1/2 per cent on the Revenue and not 30 per cent as assumed by Government, and that ~~therefore~~ no part of the Establishment can be dispensed with. Mr Shubrick adds that the relief afforded to the Servants by the new system will be more than counterbalanced by their having to investigate cases of trespass which he anticipates will arise out of the Leasing system. Under these circumstances the Govt will not disturb the existing Estb-

4 qd The Collector next refers to the taxes alluded to by the Superintendent of the East Coast Canal in his report on the Canal for 1865/66. The first point adverted to in the report is the heavy tax on wood cut in the jungles. The Collector states that it amounts to 40 per cent of the cost of cutting, and not 100 per Cent as surmised by that Officer but that under the system of ~~working~~ renting the jungle the subject drops. The question needs therefore no further notice.

5. The tax on Palmyra trees and Charcoal, Mr Shubrick admits are very high and objectionable in Character. He states that they were imposed by the former proprietors of the jungles and recommends that they should be altogether abolished

abolished as they do not exist
in any other part of the District,
and the produce of the Palmyra
is rented out separately from
which are to be cut down
the Jungle Areas. The Board
concur with the Collector
in his proposal to abandon
the taxes, but the Government
do not see that they or Mr.
Shubrick, give any reason why
there should be a tax on
firewood and none on Charcoal;
both are fuel and if one may
be taxed, both may. The same
argument holds good with
palmyra ks. All other wood is
taxed, and there can be no
reason why palmyras used
for building should be taxed
as well as all other wood used
for precisely the same purpose.
From para 7 of the Board's
Proceedings it appears that
no palmyra or Charcoal
were

[01]

were exported except by Lt.
Chambers. The rates on these
two articles may be too high,
and therefore the trade in them
restricted. If such is the case,
the Government will be
prepared to authorize a reduction
and the Board will be good
enough to give the subject
further consideration.

3 Copies to the Bd of Rev.
with 2 Encls Disp: 9

Copy in a G. L. to C.
of 4th December 1857 No 45
Pena 20
Collections &c

Revenue 1857 Deptt. R
Cons: 8th Septr.

No 901.

Extract Mins: of Cons:
of 8th Septr. /57.

Extract 18 of Rev. of 24 Nov /57
& No 1437 in Cons 12 Janry /58

Passing orders on the several points reported by the Coll. of Chingleput respecting the conservancy of the Sreehurricottah Jungles.

No 43 & 44.

Sg. Chy. to R. 4 Feb.