1
789

Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultation

15th June 1858

Back nos 16 to 19

Order No 789 to 79 4th June 1858

8 sheets - 12s

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு-1

செப்பளிடுபவர் பெயர்: ஜி. கோவிந்தசாமி

செப்பளிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக்-கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் : 7/08

31/10/08 சரிபார்க்கும் முதல் முறையாள கையொப்பம்

18/11/08 சரிபார்க்கும் 2ம் முறையாள கையொப்பம்

11.08 இறுதிச்சரி உயர்நிலையர் கையொப்பம்

2
789

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 15th June 1858.

No. 16. Read the following Papers.

From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D. dated Fort Saint George, 27th May 1858, No. 1878.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, a letter from the Collector of Chingleput, dated 11th Instant, No. 114, reporting on the manner in which the system lately adopted in renting out the Streeharicotta Jungles, has affected the interests of the classes who maintain themselves there.

In Con. 27th May 1858.

2. Mr. Shubrick was called upon for this report in Extract Minutes Consultation 21st April 1858, No. 509, R. D. The Government had then had under consideration Mr. Williams' account of his visit to the Forest together with a Memorandum by Dr. Cleghorn which accompanied it, and as the subject is very fully discussed in these papers and in the Minutes of Consultation reviewing their contents, the Board have desired me to submit the additional information now supplied by Mr. Shubrick without delay, observing that the Government are desirous of considering the expediency of continuing the new system before it becomes necessary to issue a fresh lease. The remarks which the Board desire to offer will therefore be very brief, although the subject is one of much importance to the interests of the classes who inhabit the jungle, and no less to the town of Madras which depends on this tract for fuel.

In Con. 27th May 1858.

3. Adverting to the letter now submitted to Government, the Board remark that Mr. Shubrick appears to have checked the uncompromising destruction commenced by the renter, by such restrictions as the terms of the lease left it open to him to impose; although his interference was too late to prevent considerable mischief. As regards the way in which the change has told upon the Yenadies and resident wood-cutters, the case is very clear; the former are in danger of losing altogether those peculiar products of the Forest which afford them employment and subsistence, while the villagers who at first worked for the renter have now been replaced by strangers, their chance of employment being further reduced by the introduction of carts to transport the faggots.

4. The revenue derived to Government from the wild honey, and bees' wax and from the numerous herbs which are valuable either for medicinal properties or as dyes, was no doubt unimportant; but the destruction of products of this kind (which would inevitably follow the withdrawal of all shade) would be matter of regret. The Board are also disposed to question the possibility of any thing beyond mere brushwood replacing the growth which has been so completely removed by the renter; both the soil and the position of this tract shew that the formation of the existing jungle has been very gradual. That it has maintained itself in spite of the quantity annually cut from it for fuel up to this time, is probably attributable to the irregular character of the wood-cutter's operations which prevented any considerable tract from being denuded of shade and shelter, and in part also to the appreciation which these people had of the source which supplied them with employment.

5. These considerations are brought forward as deserving attention when the continuance of the new system is in question; obviously the preservation of the Forest is to be best secured by working it (under certain restrictions) through the agency of the class which depends on its existence for employment and support.

Note.—A Petition No. 1372 of 1858 from the wood-cutters of the Streeharicotta Forest, complaining of the loss of their means of livelihood, was recently presented to the Board.

6. The Board think such a system might be organized; they do not however propose to enter on the subject unless called upon to do so by Government.

No. 17. From AUSIF JUNG BAHADOOR; to the Honorable W. ELLIOT, Esq., Councillor, &c. &c. &c., dated Madras 27th May 1858.

RESPECTED SIR,

On the 7th February 1858, I presented a petition to Government requesting them to allow me to cut fire-wood from Circar Jungle for price in order to make coals required for the use of the Steam Boat Carnatic, which I have purchased by laying out a large sum of money by commuting the pension which I was drawing from Government; but I am not aware what was done in the matter. I have rented in last year one eighth part of the Strecharicottah Jungle in order to procure fire-wood for the Steamer, which is running along the Cochrane's Canal; but robberies having been committed in the said Jungle by cutting wood to my great loss, in consequence of my having been prevented from cutting wood for a period of 3 months in order that the fire-wood already cut under Ahmany, may be removed, and my complaints to the local authorities proving of no avail I was obliged to transfer the rent to another party, and thereby I am subject to great inconvenience from want of Coal, and the said rent expense by the end of next month. I beg your honor would be pleased to give me on rent the said Strecharicottah Jungle for the remaining 7 shares for the ensuing 7 years at the rate in which it was given to me last year in case the Jungle is to be rented as usual so that I may be relieved from the inconveniences as above stated and subject to any loss or profit which may be incurred in the said rent I engage to pay in advance the twelfth part of each Beriz in each month. If the Jungle is not to be rented I request to allow me to cut the different kinds of fire-wood for five years from the said jungle so much as can be available under Ahmany and pay the usual terms to the Cirkar while exporting them in boats. I beg most respectfully to represent your honor, that my grand-father the Nawab Wallajah of Carnatic granted several charitable allowances and Yomiahs of several thousands of Rupees to the poor, and the same is now continued by your Government in commemoration of the friendship you had on the said Nabob, and I his grand-son sold the pension which the Government conferred on me with a belief that Captain Rollins, Lieut. Houze the Engineers of the Garrison and Superintendent of canal had promised to give me the contract of conveying chunam shells in my Steam Boat in order that I may gain some profit by it; but owing to the discontinuance of the Public Works and my attempts having failed I have sustained great loss. And your honor I believe will not condescend to reject my offer for the rental of the said jungle and see me starving, and my Steam Boat idle and without a work.

Under these circumstances I earnestly solicit your honor will be pleased to do me the favor of complying with my solicitation.

No. 18. From G. S. FORBES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department dated Fort Saint George, 28th May 1858, No. 1916.

SIR,

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit for the information of Government a letter from the Collector of Chingleput, reporting on a petition forwarded to him for report through the Board of Revenue with Extract Minutes Consultation, 10th March 1858, No. 315, R. D.

Dated 30th April in Cons. 28th May 1858.
In Cons. 26th March 1858.

2. The Petitioner Itima-ood Dowlah styling himself a grandson of the Nabob Wallajah, after mentioning two instances in which contracts promised to him had been broken off, in consequence of the suspension of Public Works; prayed to be allowed to supply himself with charcoal for working a small Canal Steamer between Madras and Doorgarauzapatam, by cutting wood at *Government charge* in the limits of two villages in the Chingleput District. The Collector of Chingleput observes that such a demand is on the face of it unreasonable, and that the Petitioner being renter for the Strecharicottah jungle this year, had the means of supplying himself with charcoal. The Board think it probable that the Petitioner's request to be allowed to cut wood "at the Circar charge" meant only that he might be freed from any tax for cutting it, but they cannot recommend compliance with the application and desire me to observe that the Petitioner has sub-rented the jungle contract which he obtained for 8,500 Rupees in eight portions of 1,500

* *From Chingleput* 11*th in Cons.* 27*th May* 1858.
To Government 27*th* „ „

Rupees each, so that it yields him a clear profit of 1,500 Rupees, This information is gained from a report* on the present state of the jungle which the Board are now submitting to Government.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, No. 789; dated 9th June 1858.

1. With their earlier letter of the 27th May, the Board of Revenue submit the report of Mr. Shubrick, the Collector of Chingleput, on the unfavorable consequences which, the Conservator of Forests and his Assistant, Mr. Williams, represented, had followed the present system of leasing the Streehurricottah Jungles. The representations of these officers were taken into consideration in Extract Minutes 21st April last, No. 509; and the points upon which the Government particularly required information were, first, the effect of the lease on the rights of the villagers, who were said to be prevented by the renter from even cutting wood for yoke bars, or for fencing their cultivation, while the renter on the other hand recklessly, cut down the trees reared and nursed by the villagers; and secondly, the effect of the lease on the Yanadies, who it was apprehended would be deprived of their means of support, in the total clearance of those spontaneous products of the soil on which they depended. Mr. Shubrick's report, on the whole, bears out the representations of hardship which Mr. Williams submitted. In regard to the first point, the Board notice that Mr. Shubrick appears to have checked the uncompromising destruction commenced by the renter, by such restrictions as the terms of the lease permitted him to impose; although his interference was too late to prevent considerable mischief, the cutting having extended to the trees in the ryots' holdings, and to their hedgerows, and even to the avenue leading to their temple. As regards the next, they remark that the Yanadies are in danger of losing altogether those peculiar products of the forest, such as honey, wax, roots, &c., which afford them employment and subsistence; while the villagers who at first worked for the renter have now been replaced by strangers, their chance of employment being further reduced by the introduction of carts, to transport the faggots from the jungle to the canal bank. After remarking that although the revenue derived to Government from the wild honey and bees wax, and from the numerous herbs, valuable either as medicines or dyes, is unimportant, yet that the destruction of such products by the withdrawal of all shade is a matter of regret, the Board proceed to question the possibility of any thing beyond mere brushwood replacing the growth, which has been so completely removed by the renter, both the soil and the position of the tract shewing that the formation of the jungle had been very gradual; adding that the fact of the jungle hitherto maintaining itself in spite of the quantity annually cut from it for fuel, is partly attributable to the irregular character of the woodcutters' operations, and partly to the appreciation which these people had of the source of their employment.

2. In the Petition from Asuf Jung Bahadoor, the present renter, he complains of heavy loss to which he has been subjected by losing the first three months of his contract, that period having been allowed to the former contractors to remove the timber they had felled, but which interval, he says, they employed in clearing away more than they were entitled to; but from the second letter of the Board recorded above, in which they report on a previous petition presented by the same individual, though styling himself differently, the Government observe that he made a clear profit of 1,500 Rupees, by sub-renting his contract of the jungle to eight sub-renters. Although the renter himself has not thus been the actual author of the inconveniences to which the villagers have been subjected, he nevertheless contributed to them, by sub-renting his farm at an advanced sum to under Contractors, who to reimburse themselves for their outlay, doubtless felt themselves at liberty to cut down the trees where and how they pleased. This only shews that the Collector ought to exercise more care to guard against these evils; he should if possible secure a renter who will work out his own contract in good faith, and thus save the spoliation which has followed the sub-renting of the contract, against which practice a specific condition should be inserted in the lease.

3. The Government would however point out that although it is clear from the disclosure of the above facts, that the villagers have been subjected to annoyance by the proceedings of the renter, and the interests of Government injured by his indiscriminate destruction of trees to the root, yet the evil is not in the system, but in the manner in which it has been misused. It

Rev Dept

4/789 C/o

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the May 1858

Read the following
letter from the Secretary
to the Board of Revenue

(Here enter 27th May 1858 at p. 1678)

Consulted & Revised 1871

1. After perusing the
reports of Dr Cleghorn and his
Assistant Mr. Williams, on the
present system of Casing by the Sreehari-
Cottah Jungles, and its deplorable
consequences, in respect to the reproduc-
tive resources of this tract of jungly
land, and the welfare of its half
civilized inhabitants, the Govt were
led to entertain grave doubts of the
advisability of continuing the ar-
rangement recently authorized, of
permitting an eighth portion of the
jungle to be denuded each year by
the Renter, under the impression
that the denuded tract would re-
cover itself during the interval
of seven years it would be left un-
touched. The Govt accordingly denied
in Ex: Minis: Cons: 21st April last,

cannot be said that the present plan of leasing in portions has had a fair trial; and they are not prepared therefore to abolish it, merely because it trenches on the means by which the half savage Yanadies obtain their livelihood. Every forward movement in civilization must have a tendency of this kind; and were this objection to hold good, all the primæval forests of the country must be left untouched. As a system, the Government are still of opinion that the division of the jungle into eighths, and renting an eighth every year to the highest bidder, is preferable to that of taxing the bundles of cut wood, which is attended with the disadvantage of keeping up an establishment for levying the toll, counting the billets, weighing bundles, keeping accounts, making reports, and such like duties, as explained in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 5th February 1857, No. 141. The difficulties that have occurred in the past year as pointed out by Dr. Cleghorn, Mr. Williams, and the Board, must be met, not by abolishing the renting system, but by taking more care to bind the renter by penalty, to refrain from cutting wood close to the dwellings or temples of the people, or from hedgerows, and from cutting the stumps down to the very root. The Collector should carefully watch his proceedings, and bring him to account on the first breach of his engagement.

4. With this explanation of their views, the Government wish the Board immediately to communicate with the Collector, with a view of putting up another eighth of the jungle to rent for the ensuing fusly to the highest bidder; but care should be taken that, if possible, that the accepted bidder is a man of respectability, and one likely to work out his contract in good faith. In the lease, or Moochilka, a penalty should be specified for such cases as have been adverted to, and it should be a condition, to be clearly explained to the bidders, that no wood is to be cut after the end of March, as Mr. Shubrick explains that this reservation is necessary to save the brushwood from too close cutting, to perish during the withering heats that prevail after that month. The Government would wish it to be understood that even if the rent is not so great, this is not of so much consequence as the preservation of the wood. Meanwhile, the subject will be referred to the Conservator of Forests, in continuation of Extract Minutes Consultation of the 21st April last, his attention being particularly directed to paras. 6 and 7 of that order.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 509. that on the approaching expiry of the present lease, no further portion of the jungle was to be put up to auction until further orders, and having in the meantime called upon Dr. Cleghorn to consider the future treatment of this and similar tracts of jungle, and Mr. Shubnick, the Collr of Chingleput, to report upon certain facts brought to notice by Mr. Williams, as bearing heavily upon the Yanadies & villagers.

2. The Board of Revenue now submit Mr. Shubnick's report upon these circumstances; and it is observed that on the whole, he corroborates Mr. Williams' representations. The facts chiefly noticed by him were, first, the effects of the lease on the rights of the villagers, who were said to be prevented by the renter from cutting wood for * yoke sticks, or fencing their cultivation, while the renter on the other hand practically cut down the trees round and nursed

5
789

by the villagers, and secondly, the effect of the lease on the Yanadies, who it was apprehended would be deprived of their means of support, in the total clearance of those spontaneous products of the soil on which they depended. In regard to the first, the Board notice that Mr. Shubnick appears to have checked the uncompromising destruction commenced by the renter, by such restrictions as the terms of the lease left it open to him to impose; although his interference was too late to prevent considerable mischief. As regards the next, they remark that the Yanadies are in danger of losing altogether those peculiar products of the forest, such as honey, wax, &c, which afford them employment and subsistence; while the villagers who at first worked for the renter have now been replaced by strangers, their chance of employment being further reduced by the introduction of carts, to transport the fuel &c from the jungle to the canal bank. The Board

6
789

cut from it for fuel, is partly attributable perhaps to the irregular character of the wood cutters' operations, and partly to the appreciation which these people had of the source of their employment.

4. It is evident from the disclosure of the above facts, that the present system of renting is a bad arrangement, and must give place to another calculated to secure the well being of the Jamadies & resident villagers, and to prevent the jungle from being hopelessly exhausted. The Board of Revenue will be good enough therefore to make, as they propose, a new arrangement for the next forty years in which the preservation of the forest, by organizing a system of working the jungle thro' the agency of the class depending on it for employment and support. Meanwhile the subject will be referred to the Conservator of Forests, in continuation of the Mem: Cons: of the 21st April last, his attention being particularly directed to para 6th of that order. WWD

further remark that the revenue derived to Govt from the wild honey and bees' wax, and from the numerous herbs, valuable either as medicines or dyes, was unimportant, tho' at the same time they regret the destruction of products of this kind, which would inevitably follow the withdrawal of all shade; but it must be remembered that, even in this respect, the Zamindar will lose that source of employment which obtained for him the help of Govt, forming doubtless nearly the whole of his scanty subsistence.

3. The Board next question the possibility of anything beyond mere brushwood replacing the growth, which has been so completely removed by the renter, both the soil and the position of the tract shewing that the formation of the jungle has been very gradual; adding that the fact of the jungle nitherto maintaining itself in spite of the quantity annually

cut from it for fuel, is partly attributable perhaps to the irregular character of the wood cutters' operations, and partly to the appreciation which these people had of the source of their employment.

4. It is evident from the disclosure of the above facts, that the present system of renting is a bad arrangement, and must give place to another, calculated to secure the well being of the Zamindar & resident villagers, and to prevent the jungle from being hopelessly exhausted. The kind of Revenue will be good enough therefore to make, as they propose, a new arrangement for the next forty years, having in its object the preservation of the forest, by organizing a system of working the jungle thro' the agency of the class depending on it for employment and support. Meanwhile the subject will be referred to the Conservator of Forests, in continuation of Govt: Mem: Cons: of the 21st April last, his attention being particularly directed to para 6th of that order.

Board

N 2

7/1869 N° 789.

Extract from the Minutes of Commissioners
Under date the 9th June 1868

Read the following Papers

From the Secretary to the
Board of Revenue -

From Cuttack June 13th

From the Secy to the 13th Inst.

(Here enter 27th May /68 No. 1875)

(Here enter 27th " " ")

(Here enter 28th " " " 1910)

A

W

O. W W

1. With their earlier letter of the 27th May, the Board of Revenue submit the report of Mr. Sherwick, the Collector of Chittagong, on the unfavorable consequences which, the Conservator of Forests and his Assistant, Mr. Williams, represented, had followed the principle system of leasing the Sreebarie Hath Jungles. The representations of these officers were taken into consideration on the 21st April last, (No. 2 of 7th) and the points upon which the Board particularly required information were, first, the effect of the lease on the rights of the villagers, who were said to be

Section 28 Township 31 North Range 8 West

Land Grants

Renting of the Stra
riottah Jungles.

$ 8000

Location of the
Jungfolk Colony
in Chuckafuck
three new houses
erected — Dyaks
chosen for Penal
Settlement Headquarters
to be called Colony
Settlement Land

prevented by the renter from even
cutting wood for yoke bars, or
for fencing their cultivation,
while the renter on the other
hand recklessly cut down the
trees reared and nursed by the
villagers; and secondly, the
effect of the lease on the Canadian,
who it was apprehended would
be deprived of their means of
support, in the total clearance
of those spontaneous products of
the soil on which they depended.
Mr Shubrick's report, on the whole,
bears out the representations of
hardships which Mr Williams
submitted. In regard to the first
point, the Board notice that Mr.
Shubrick appears to have checked
the uncompromising destruction
commenced by the renter, by
such restrictions as the terms of
the lease permitted him to im-
pose; although his interference
was too late to prevent considera-
ble mischief, the cutting having

8/789

extended to the trees in the Ryots holdings, and to their hedgerows, and even to the avenue leading to their temples. As regards the next, they remark that the Canadians are in danger of losing altogether those peculiar products of the forest, such as honey, wax, roots &c., which afford them employment and subsistence; while the villagers who at first worked for the renter have now been replaced by strangers, their chance of employment being further reduced by the introduction of carts, to transport the faggots from the jungle to the canal bank. After remarking that all the revenue derived to-day from the wild honey and bees wax, from the numerous herbs, valuable either as medicines or dyes, is insignificant, yet that the destruction of such products by the wholesale of all shade is a matter of regret, the Board proceed to question the possibility of anything beyond mere bushwood replacing the

rowth, which has been so complied.
ly removed by the parker, both
the soil and the position of the
tract shewing that the formation
f the jungle had been very gra-
dual; adding that the fuels
f the jungle hitherto main-
taining itself in spite of the
quantity annually cut pro-
fitable, is partly attributable
o the irregular character of the
woodcutters' operations, and
hankly to the appreciation which
these people had of the source of
their employment.

2. In the petition from
Long Jung Bahadoor, the present
umber, he complains of heavy
oss to which he has been subjected
y losing the first three months
this contract, that period having
een allowed to the former contractors
remove the timber they had felled
but which interval, he says, they
employed in clearing away
more than they were entitled
o; but from the second letter of

9
1789

the Board recorded above, in which
they report on a previous petition
presented by the same individual
this styling himself different by
the first observe that he made a
clear profit of 1500 Rs, by sub
renting his contract of the jungle
to eight sub-
renters. Altho' the renter him-
self has not been the actual
cutter of the wood which he sold
the villagers, he nevertheless contri-
buted to them, by sub renting his
forest at an advanced sum to mo-
dern contractors, who to reimburse
themselves for their outlay, doubtless
felt themselves at liberty to cut
down the jungle, not only where & how they pleased.
This only shews that the Collector ought
to exercise more care to guard against
these evils; he should if possible
secure a renter who will work
out his own contract in good faith,
and thus save the speculation
which has followed the sub-renting
of the contract, against which
practice a penalty or condition should be
inserted. 3. Leave
the Post with however
permit out that although it is clear

from the disclosure of the above facts, that the villagers have been subjected to annoyance by the proceedings of the renter, and the interests of forest injured by his indiscriminate destruction of trees to the roots, yet the Forest does not see that the evil is not in the system, but in the manner in which it has been misused. It cannot be said that the present plan of leasing in portions has had a fair trial, and they are not prepared therefore to abolish it, merely because the system trenches on the means by which the half savage Jungadies obtain their livelihood. Every forward movement in civilization must have a tendency of this kind; and were this objection to hold good, all the primeval forests of the country must be left untouched. As a system, the Forest are still of opinion that the division of

10
789

the jungle into eighths, and renting an eighth every year to the highest bidder, is preferable to that of taxing the bundles of cut wood, which is attended with the disadvantage of keeping up an establishment for levying the toll, counting the billets, weighing bundles, keeping accounts, making reports, and such like duties, as explained in Dr. Mens. Cons. dated 5th Feb 1857 No 141. The difficulties that have occurred in the past year as pointed out by Dr Clapham, Mr. Williams, and the Board, must be such, not by abolishing the renting system, but by taking more care to bind the renter by penalty, to refrain from cutting wood close to the dwellings or temples of the people, or from hedgerows, and cutting the trees down to the very root. The Collr should carefully watch his proceedings, and bring him to account on the first breach of his engagement.

4. With this explanation of their views, the Govt wish the Board immediately to communicate with the Colr, with a view of putting up another eighth of the jungle to rent for the ensuing fasly to the highest bidder; but care should be taken that, if possible, that ~~the~~ he accepted bidder is a man of respectability, and one likely to work out his contract in good faith. In the case, or Morchittka, a penalty should be specified for such cases as have been adverted to, and it should be a condition, to be clearly explained to the bidders, that no wood is to be cut after the end of March, as Mr. Shubnick explains that this reservation is necessary to save the mushroom from too close cutting, to perish during the ~~two~~ withering heads that prevail after that months. The Govt would wish it to be understood that even if the rent is not

11
789

Great, this is not of so much
Consequence as the preservation
of the wood. Meanwhile the
subject will be referred to the
Conservators of Forests, in con-
tinuation of Ex: Mins: Cons:
of the 21st April last, this atten-
tion being particularly directed
to paras 6 and 7 of that order.

WHB

4 Copies of Rpt of Rev
with 3 Encls Qy 15
4 — Conservators of Forests
1 — Colr of Chingleput

Revenue 1858 Dep.t

Y.r to Com.s 15.th June

No. 769

Abstract Sums of Consultation

19.th June 58.

Tract from 3.d Oct.r July 58 No 98

Income 13 ~~D.o~~ 29 - 30 -

tract from 4.th Bill of Rev.e 11.th July 58 No IIII

in favor

of Christchurch Barbados £20 Sterling

& £29 Cur.y

Respecting the leaving

of the Three Hermitcattle

Smuggled in Chingleput

District -

Com.s 16 at 19.

C.h 21.st June 58.