Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultation

20th July 1858

Back nos 44 + 45

Order No 2825/17th July 1858

(Copy)

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு-1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர்:

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக்-
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்

சரிபார்க்கும்
முதல் முறையாக
கையொப்பம்

சரிபார்க்கும்
2ம் முறையாக
கையொப்பம்

உதவியாளர்
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

No. 44. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 19th June 1858, No. 2131.

Read again the following letters :—

From Ganjam, 31st May 1856, in Con. 12th October 1857.
" Vizagapatam, 27th December 1855, in Con. 12th October 1857.
" Vizagapatam, 26th April in Con. 15th July 1856.
" Rajahmundry, 21st April 1856, in Con. 12th October 1857.
" Masulipatam, 14th in Con. 20th August 1856.
" Guntoor, 26th May in Con. 15th August "
" Nellore, 18th June in Con. 14th August "
" Cuddapah, 25th in Con. 31st May 1858.
" Bellary, 29th April in Con. 9th May 1856.
" Kurnool, 3d May in Con. 21st July "
" Chingleput, 27th May in Con. 1st September 1856.
" North Arcot, 17th in Con. 22d May 1858.
" South Arcot, 17th October 1856, in Con. 17th January 1857.
" Tanjore, 3rd in Con. 7th May 1856.
" Trichinopoly, 1st in Con. 7th May 1856.
" Madura, 23rd July in Con. 11th August 1856.
" Tinnevelly, 30th December 1856, in Con. 7th January 1857.
" Coimbatore, 27th May in Con. 4th June 1856.
" Salem, 3rd in Con. 9th June 1858.
" Canara, 30th September in Con. 13th October 1856.
" Malabar, 22nd in Con. 28th July 1857.
" Madras, 6th in Con. 17th October 1856.

In Con. 14th April 1858.

In Minutes of Consultation, No. 355, R. D., under date the 3rd April 1856, the Government expressed their belief that much irregularity existed with respect to the taxing of Timber and Fuel in other Districts besides Canara; in some localities one or both of these articles being wholly free, in others taxed, while there is no common system followed as to the form or rule of the tax. In order to the correction of these anomalies the Board were therefore desired to institute enquiries and submit a comprehensive report on the whole of the taxes levied on Timber and Fuel cut in the Government jungles under whatever denomination.

2. The letters recorded above are the replies received to the Board's Circular calling for the necessary information on the subject from the Provinces.

E. M. C. of Govt. 19th Dec. 1856, No. 1332 R. D.
In Cons. 8th January 1857.

3. Since the requisition for a report was made, the Government have appointed a Conservator of Forests, and desired the Board to arrange for the transfer to him of all matters relating to Forests, and Forest Conservancy. Accordingly such papers connected with the subject as were undisposed of at the time were forwarded to Dr. Cleghorn and the Collectors

To Conservator of Forests 9th February 1857.

have since corresponded with him direct regarding the Forests of their District. The Board therefore suppose that Doctor Cleghorn's appointment has superseded the necessity of their submitting their sentiments, at all events, with respect to the taxation of Timber. It may be useful that they should notice briefly the information furnished to them relative to firewood.

4. The taxes paid on this article have already been partially reported to Government in the Proceedings of the Board under date the 12th December 1857, relative to Poolary and jungle rents, to the small extent in which they existed, these were abolished in Ganjam, Vizagapatam

and Rajahmundry by the order of Government dated the 27th March
In Cons. 19th April 1858. 1858, No. 400, Revenue Department. With a few exceptions Fuel is cut in the Government Forests free of all tax, and the Collectors in general deprecate any exaction for this prime necessary of life to the poor, as well as other classes. The exceptions are as follows.

5. In Masulipatam a tax is levied on firewood cut in certain Mangrove jungles, for the sake not of revenue but of preventing waste of an article very scarce, and very essential to the large station of Masulipatam, and of consequence also to protect the channels
27th March 1858. from being clogged with sand. The maintenance of the tax for these reasons was allowed by the Resolution of Government referred to above.

6. At the date of the Collector's report* revenue was col-
**From Guntoor 26th May in Con. 15th August 1856.* lected in the district for Fuel cut in Condaveed and the coast jungles, the rents of the latter were abolished by Government Proceedings, under date the 18th July 1856, No. 747, R. D.,† and
†In Con. 23d July 1856. orders were passed relative to the collections of the former which was included in the Poolary, in the Minutes of Consultation of Government, dated 27th March 1858.

7. In Nellore firewood for exportation is taxed; but that
27th March 1858. cut by the inhabitants for domestic purposes is free. This state of things has been approved of by Government.

8. The rent of the Streharicottah jungle in Chingleput has formed the subject of the correspondence noted marginally, and the subject is
To Government 27th and 28th May 1858. now under the consideration of Government. The rents of patches of jungle chiefly in Carangooly, Ootramaloor, and Chingleput Talooks were noticed in the Board's Proceedings of the 12th December 1857, and approved of in the Extract Minutes Consultation of the 27th March 1858.

9. In South Arcot, Trichinopoly, and Tanjore, the privilege of cutting firewood in certain jungles has been let out to the Porto Novo Iron Company without prejudice to the right of the inhabitants to obtain Fuel for their own consumption without payment. In Tanjore there is a brushwood jungle near Point Calimere whence a private individual rents the privilege of taking the drywood. It seems to the Board that the continuance of this rent is opposed to the principle generally followed of leaving the Fuel of the inhabitants of a district untaxed, and unless the Collector can shew special reasons for the restriction in this instance they would recommend that it should be removed.

10. The above are all the instances in which according to the reports of the Collectors, Fuel is subject to any tax. As a general rule the inhabitants of each District pay nothing for what they themselves consume. The exceptions being, where it has been deemed necessary to exact a price to prevent waste of a scarce article. In laying the replies of the Collectors before Government, the Board would suggest that as this subject is closely connected with the objects of his Department, they may be sent to Dr. Cleghorn for his consideration. The Board concur with the majority of the Collectors in thinking that the Ryots should pay no tax for the Fuel taken for their domestic use, but the Conservator may deem it desirable that the enjoyment of the privilege of free cutting should be subject to some regulation, in order that the Forests may not be wasted.

11. The Collectors of some few Districts mention Palmyra trees. Where these belong to private owners, no restriction should, in the Board's opinion, be placed on their being felled, for without the liberty of cutting when they think proper few individuals could be induced to plant. Palmyras on public lands, like Forests in general, would appear to belong to the Department of the Conservator whose attention the Board think might be very usefully directed to the question of the best mode of promoting the plantation of these serviceable trees on behalf of Government in

sandy wastes on the coast and other situations suited to their growth. The rule which obtains in some Districts of requiring each person who cutting a Palmyra to lay down a certain quantity of seed is also well worthy of his notice.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES, *Secretary.*

No. 45. ORDER THEREON, No. 982; dated 17th July 1858.

As suggested by the Board of Revenue in para. 10 of the above Proceedings, the Reports of the several Collectors submitted therewith, on the subject of taxing timber and fuel, together with the sentiments of the Board themselves, will be referred to the Conservator of Forests for consideration and report. Dr. Cleghorn's attention will be directed to the Board's views, in paras. 9 and 10, in respect to leaving the ryots free to cut fuel for their domestic use without tax, and in para. 11, in respect to the preservation and promotion of Palmyra plantations in sandy wastes on the coast or elsewhere.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Rev D 1/47

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982

Extract from the Minutes of Council Cadan
under date the 17th July 1858.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue -

(Here enter pg Sing pass a No 2259)

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The Secretary to the Board of Revenue

Sir Forest Department

I am directed to solicit a Copy of the Proceedings noted in the Margin for the use of this Office

I have &c

Secretary

Return to Rec'd of Rev. Dispd 19th

Conservator of Forests

Forest Office

No 30 Road Post 37-38
" 3 Alpe 3d " 3 4
" 23 29 " 7 8
" 22 July " 18 @ 20

Pensions 1865 No 10
Do to Dec 30th July

c No 982.

Colonel Amos of Ohio.

Dec 7th July 1865

Extract from Ltr 29th July 65 & Papers
Inclosed 12th Sept

From the Conservator of Forest
Dated 5th April 1866 No 604
Encl 10 Papers

Referring to the Con-
servator of Forests for Consider-
ation and report the Papers
of the several Letters from the
Subject of taxing timber and
fuel with Abstracting Instruc-
tions to the Boards Issued in
March 9th & 10th in respect to Ltr
Covering the Copy of Ltr to
Counsel for their Opinion the
use made without tax

No 41 & 45

Colby