

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <i>440</i>	<u>Press</u> <u>Mis.</u>
<i>9-10</i>	
Dated	<i>1. 8. 1862.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
1st August 1862.*

No. 9. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Camp Ootacamund, 22nd July 1862, No. 120:—

SIR,

1. In paragraph 7 of their Order No. 1,533, of the 16th of July 1862, Government observe that I have only provided for seigniorage upon the bandy load of wood and not upon the cooly load.

2. In Kurnool, Cuddapah and also in Salem, I gave much consideration to this subject. I found that in all three Districts much seigniorage was evaded by parties carrying away head loads of building and other valuable timber; it is impossible however with our limited Establishment to collect a tax upon head loads nor could we issue vouchers and licenses for such small quantities, and if parties can be allowed to fell without licenses and vouchers, conservancy will be very difficult, as it is much easier to stop the felling of timber without license, than to stop the removal of it. Formerly no one could take out a license for less than twenty-five bandy loads. I have now reduced this to five bandy loads and inserted a clause that no timber can be removed from the forests by coolies or on bullocks or donkeys. The number of bandies having been reduced to five, it is in the power of the smallest village to take out a license. The different species of Acacia and other timbers much used for ploughs and other domestic purposes have only been taxed at 1 Rupee per bandy load. About eight ploughs or more will go to the bandy load, so that the tax is very small and cannot with justice be grumbled at by any one. I have also inserted a clause that head loads of scrub jungle and firewood may be cut from low jungles by villagers for their own domestic purposes but not for sale.

3. The Board have laid down in their Rules that *bonâ fide* Ryots may cut timber without taxation, if however this is allowed it will be almost impossible for our Department to conserve the forests; parties felling without a license can at any time state that they are felling for the Ryots, and the wood merchants will complain against having to pay a seigniorage if others can cut without it and thereby undersell them. It is therefore my opinion that no timber should ever be felled without a regular license, and I have been very careful that the tax upon such timbers as are used by the Ryots for their ploughs, &c., should be very small.

4. Having now explained to Government how difficult conservancy will be if any parties are allowed to fell without a license and how any such indulgence will be certain to be abused I will await their further orders on the subject.

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1862, No. 1,640.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for their remarks on paragraphs 3 and 4.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

a License can at any time state that they are felling for the ryots, & the wood merchants will complain against having to pay a seignorage, if others can cut without it & thereby undersell them. It is therefore my opinion that no timber should ever be felled without a regular License & I have been very careful that the tax upon such timbers as are used by the ryots for their ploughs &c. should be very small.

4 Having now explained to Govt how difficult Conservancy will be if any parties are allowed to fell without a License & how any such indulgence will be certain to be abused, I will await their further orders on the subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir

Your most Obedient Servt

Fraser & Neave Esqrs

Offg Conservator of Forests

Dec. 18th July 1862 129-22
" 18th " 1862 129-22

Dec. 1862 Sept
1862 Sept 1862

The Officers
Conservation of Great

No. 120
The Clerk of the Court

dated 22nd July 1862

Dec. 28th July 1862

No. 120
Conservation of Great

Offering explanation
on the subject of

the grove not
provided for by

land in the Conservation
Rules.

No. 160. 1st Aug.
William Carter

No. 160

Referred to the

Board of the Council for their

remembrance of the

From W. E. George
1st Aug. 1862

1st Aug. 1862