M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1096	Press Mis.
118-119	
Dated 9. 8. 1862	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 118. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Camp Yercaud, Salem, 26th June 1862, No. 77:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report for the information of Government that I have inspected the establishment in this District, and I do not consider that it is in excess of what is required; by the Government Order, No. 1,312 of the 14th of June 1862, the expenditure sanctioned amounts to Rupees 755 per mensem or 9,060 per annum; the receipts for the last financial year 1861-62 amount to 28,354-15-5,* in addition to this, however, about 16,000 or 18,000 Rupees worth of Sandal-wood was cut during that year, and is now in store.

* 13,397 11 5 Licenses.
14,957 4 0 Tax upon Sleepers.
28,354 15 5 Total.

2. The following are the chief tracts of forest in this District:—

(1). *The Denkinacottah forests*, west of Salem, extending from Denkinacottah to the north, down to the banks of the Cauvery to the south, and in a westward direction from the vicinity of Salem to the Mysore frontier. These forests abound in Sandal-wood. They have not as yet been properly explored, but Teak, Chittagong, and Black-wood are reported as plentiful. The Pennagram forests on the banks of the Cauvery are reported to possess valuable Acha-wood, but they cannot be worked until a road is made up to them.

(2). *The Jávádi forests*, north of Salem near Tripatore.

(3). *The Ahtoor forests*, east of Salem and on the borders of the South Arcot District.

(4). *The Kotapatty forests*, north-east of Salem near Hurroor, adjoining the South Arcot District.

3. The Conservancy Department is working the Sandal-wood forests near Denkinacottah and they ought to yield Government a large revenue.

4. Government will now perceive that this District is very large and important, and that the revenue to be derived from it fully justifies the pay of a third class Assistant. One of the Overseers is stationed at Denkinacottah and I have stationed the other who was at Salem at Hurroor. The Assistant Conservator's duties are to traverse the four tracts abovementioned and to see that his establishment acts up to the orders of our Department.

5. The license system is in force here except for Sandal-wood. The forest subordinates however even down to Gumashtas* on only 8 Rupees per mensem have been in the habit of receiving the license money. I have now with the concurrence of the Collector introduced the voucher system, so that the revenue authorities alone receive the seigniorage money and the forest Officers grant the licenses; this change has enabled me to remove an Overseer from Salem, where he did nothing but issue licenses, and station him at Hurroor where there is plenty of real forest work.

* A Gumashta stationed at Pennagram has just been prosecuted for embezzling seigniorage money.

6. The Assistant here has only lately taken charge, the former Assistant, Mr. Blenkinsop, having died of cholera, and the establishment is not in such good working order as I could wish. The present Assistant will probably be promoted to the Anamallai Range, so I have thought it better to defer making a tour of the Denkinacottah forests until this is settled, as I shall then be accompanied by the Officer who is to work them.

7. The Sandal-wood cut last year was not sold, as, owing to a very short notice only of the auction having been given, there was only one bidder; some Bangalore merchants a few days ago offered to give 3 Rupees per Maund for five thousand Maunds of it, a deposit had been paid, but as the sale had not been concluded, I stopped it, as I consider that auction is the only proper way of selling it; since this several people have applied by letter and some in person; one offered 3 Rupees and a quarter per Maund, another offered to give more than any one else had

offered if we would state what that was, and others offered to send in tenders, these men were all applying on the first auction notice. I have ordered the auction to take place on the 1st of September, and have put notices in the Madras, Salem, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Trichinopoly, Mysore and Arcot Gazettes.

8. The Rules now in force for the conservancy of these forests are very vague, and some of the most valuable timbers are altogether omitted; below is a revised code of Rules which I now forward, if Government sanction the same, I will have copies struck off for circulation in the villages of the District in addition to having them printed in the District Gazette.

RULES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE SALEM FORESTS.

The seigniorage upon the following timbers in the rough to be as follows:—

3 Rupees per (two bullock) bandy load.

Teak	Tek
Satin-wood	Poorsh
Chittagong-wood	Aglay or Suli.
Ebony...	Tumbi.
Black-wood	Eeruputu or Eeráwaddi.

2 Rupees per bandy load.

Hardwickia binata	Ácha.
Conocarpus latifolius...	Vellay Nàgà.
Terminalia tomentosa	Karrà Mardà.
Terminalia Arjuna	Mardà.
Bassia latifolia	Illupi.
Terminalia chebala	Kàdukai.

The following timbers are not to be felled:—

The Sandal-wood.	The Wood Apple.
The Tamarind.	The Bêl fruit.
The Mango.	

1. Trees not specified above to be charged at the rate of 1 Rupee per bandy load as "jungle wood."

2. Licenses are not to be granted for less than five bandy loads, the time allowed to be one month.

3. Persons requiring timber, to pay the money for the number of bandies required, in advance, into one of the Táluq treasuries and receive from the Tahsíldár a numbered voucher in duplicate from the voucher cheque-book for the same. The Forest Department upon the receipt of the vouchers, grants a printed license for the number of bandy loads paid for, and attaches thereto the duplicate voucher; the name of the wood being specified or if not one of those named to be entered as "jungle wood." The number of bandy loads are checked off on the back of the license as the bandies pass through the named Thanah Station. When the number of bandies specified in the license have been checked off on the back of the license the documents are to be forwarded to the Tahsíldár, who submits them to the Collector.

4. Any one carting or felling timber to be always able to produce his license or voucher.

5. The portion of the forests in which the timber is to be felled will be entered in each license, also the village or Thanah Station through which it is to pass.

6. Time expired licenses to be given up even though the timber paid for has not been removed.

7. When any of the timbers specified, except Satin-wood, are cut of a less circumference than three feet, the license holder will be subject to the forfeiture of his license and the confiscation of the timber.

8. No timber to be carried away from the foot of the hills or from the jungles by coolies or on the back of bullocks or donkeys; this does not apply to scrub jungle or brushwood cut under paragraph 12.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th August 1862.

9. No one, charcoal burners or others shall be allowed to set fire to the jungles.

10. Charcoal burners are not to fell the specified timbers, and are only to fell in such places as may be assigned to them.

11. Firewood to pay a tax of 6 Annas per bandy load. Vouchers to be taken out for not less than five bandy loads, and tickets to be issued upon receipt of the same.

12. Villagers may cut fuel and firewood for domestic purposes in low jungles and brushwood without taxation, but not for sale.

13. Bamboos to pay a seigniorage of 12 Annas per bandy load, persons requiring the same must take out vouchers and licenses for not less than five bandy loads.

14. In the event of confiscated timber being sold by auction, one-half of the same will be paid to the informer provided that he is not a forest servant.

9. A portion of the forests near Ahtoor to the south and Kotapatty to the north are in the South Arcot District, they are in every way similar to the forests in this District, which they adjoin, but no conservancy prevails, the South Arcot wood cutters, too, do not confine their operations to that District but cross the boundary line and fell in the Salem District. I would propose that the Collector of South Arcot should put our Rules in force in that portion of this District, and issue licenses and vouchers similar to those issued in this District. If Government sanctions this I will furnish the Collector with a copy of our Rules and also of the licenses and vouchers and firewood tickets.

No. 119. ORDER THEREON, 9th August 1862, No. 1,696.

1. The Government approve generally of the Rules proposed by Captain Beddome. The Collector should be consulted as to the rates of seigniorage for timber and firewood, and Rule 8 should be altered, fixed rates of charge* being provided for timber removed otherwise than in carts.

* G. O. 16th July 1862, No. 1,538, paragraph 7.

2. Rule 14 stipulates that one-half of the sale proceeds of confiscated timber shall be paid to informers only when they are not forest servants. These servants are not highly paid and it seems to the Government that it may be advisable that the proposed reward should be held out to them also, to ensure activity on their part. Captain Beddome will consider and report on this point.

3. The forests of South Arcot, mentioned in paragraph 9, should for conservancy purposes be placed under the Assistant Conservator of Salem, in the same manner as those of North Arcot adjoining Cuddapah have lately been placed under the Sub-Assistant Conservator of the latter District.

4. A vernacular copy of the Rules should be furnished with each license, so as to prevent breach of them from ignorance. They can be printed for this purpose at the Collectorate Press on common paper.

5. Captain Beddome will take care that the establishment is brought into proper working order and that the Rules of the Department are acted up to.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Additional para, which may be numbered 2 per Order on Rev No 1883.

2 Rule 14 stipulates that one half of the sale proceeds of confiscated timber shall be paid to informers only when they are not forest servants. These servants are not highly paid and it seems to the Govt advisable that the proposed award should be held out to them also, to ensure activity on their part. Cases should sometimes arise and if not on this point.

JP

Add. Chgea in the
sequence to 42
the Jurisdiction
in Rule 14

Pr. 1696. 1595

The Govt. approve generally of the rules
proposed by Captain Beddome. The
Collector should be consulted as to
the rates of seignorage for Timber
and Firewood and rule 8 should
be altered, fixed rates of charge*
being provided for timber removed
otherwise than in Carts.

The Forests of South Arcot
mentioned in para 9 should for
conservancy purposes be placed under
the Assistant Conservator of Salem,
in the same manner as those of
North Arcot adjoining Cuddapah
have lately been placed under
the Sub Asst. Conservator of

the

* G.O. 16th July 162 R. 1538. Pg

the latter District.

A vernacular copy of the Rules should be furnished with each License, so as to prevent breach of them from ignorance - They can be printed for this purpose at the Collectorate press on common paper.

Captain Beddome will take care that the Establishment is brought into proper working order and that the rules of the Department are acted up to.

From Ft. St. George
20. augt. 1802

4 Copies Letter Cont. of Forests. Deshpandeys
14. " " Bd of Revenue

I D S

Rec.d 14th June 62 N.o 210 - 211

From Off.g Conservator Forests
d/ 31st Aug.t 62 & N 3056
in Rec.

N.o 1184 & 1169.

Rec.d 1862.
Rec.d of Govt for Dept.
Aug.t
V. 1883.

From

The Off.g Cons.r of Forests

To

The Secretary to Govt.

Revenue Department

Fort St. [redacted]

Dated 26th

Rec.d 1st July June 1862

No. 77

Enclosure

From [redacted] Cons.r of Forests 18 Aug.t 62
C N.o 2361 dr 8th.

Forwards the Report
upon the Salem Forests.

N.o 1696 9 Aug.t

With an Order
From the Off.g Conservator of
Forests d/ 4th Sept.r 62 & N.o
2561 in Rec.