

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 879	Press
251-252	~~Mis.~~
Dated	20 - 8 - 1963.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th May 1863.*

No. 251. Read the following letter from Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 27th April 1863, No. 509 :—

SIR,

1. In accordance with the Government Order No. 2,645, of the 20th December 1862, I have the honor to forward a code of Forest Conservancy Rules to be put in force in each District of the Presidency where the Forest Department has an establishment. The rules have been drawn up in communication with the Board of Revenue, and are approved of by them.* The rules are with some slight modifications similar to those lately sanctioned by Government, and put in force separately in different Districts, and, as I have now visited almost all our forests and establishments, I have had experience in seeing how they acted. As the seigniorage differs in each District, being regulated by the market value, &c., and as the list of reserved timbers also differs in each District, these lists will be published separately in the Gazette of each District. Rule No. 1 will, I hope, enable our Department to effectually stop the clandestine felling of Teak saplings for posts which has hitherto been so detrimental to forests in the Kurnool, Salem and Madura Districts.

2. If Government approve of the rules I will at once have them printed both in English and the Vernacular, and circulated in the different Districts.

Rules for the Conservancy of the Forests in the Madras Presidency.

1. All parties found felling trees or removing timber or firewood from Government jungles and forests in breach or disregard of the prescribed rules, will be liable to criminal prosecution for theft, mischief, or trespass, as the case may be, under the Penal Code, and to the confiscation of the timber, &c.

2. The trees and shrubs which fringe springs and mountain streams (to a distance of twenty yards from each bank) are not to be felled. Parties felling or recklessly injuring the same will be liable to criminal prosecution.

3. Charcoal burners, or others, setting fire to any of the Government jungles or forests, will be liable to be prosecuted for "Mischief" under the Penal Code.

4. A list of the reserved timbers and the seigniorage to be paid thereon, as published in the Gazette of each District, may be obtained by applying either at the Collector's Office, or at the Office of the Forest Department. Copy will also be kept in each village of any consequence in the District.

5. None of the reserved timbers (except Satin-wood, Red Saunders and Sandal-wood) are ever to be felled when the tree is less than three feet in circumference at three feet from the base.

6. As one of the chief objects of conservancy is to preserve saplings and young trees, and to restrict felling to such trees as have come to maturity, it is hereby ruled that when the reserved trees are found cut, or being brought out of the forests of a less circumference than three feet, the license holder shall be subject to the forfeiture of his license and to the confiscation of the timber.

7. All trees felled must be cut within three feet from the base.

8. All applications for license must state whether the timber required is to be brought out of the forest in the rough, or worked up, as the latter pays a higher seigniorage.

9. All timbers not included in the published list as reserved and bearing a fixed seigniorage, will be charged with a seigniorage of 1 Rupee per (two bullock) bandy load.

10. Ryots are allowed to cut the unreserved kinds of timber free of charge for agricultural purposes, within their village boundaries; but if they require the reserved kinds of timber they must pay the fixed seigniorage.

11. Villagers are in all cases allowed to cut firewood from low, scrub jungle for their own use free of taxation.

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12. Where firewood is liable to taxation, the seigniorage payable thereon shall be notified in District Gazette, and in the villages to which the rules may be applicable.

13. The preservation of village topes devolves upon the village authorities, subject to the orders of the Revenue Department.

14. For the convenience of parties not entitled to the right of cutting timber and firewood, and who may require less than one bandy load, tickets will be issued for bullock, donkey, or head loads of the unreserved sorts of timber. The seigniorage will be 4 Annas for the bullock load, 3 Annas for the donkey load, and 2 Annas for the head load. The reserved timbers can only be felled by parties taking out a voucher and license.

15. The seigniorage upon bamboos shall be levied at the rate published in the Gazette of each District. Ryots are allowed to cut bamboos for agricultural purposes, or for the *bonâ fide* erection of their houses, free of any taxation.

16. Charcoal burners shall not fell the reserved timbers, and may only fell unreserved timbers in such localities as shall be assigned to them by the Forest Department. In cases where seigniorage is payable upon charcoal, it will be published in the District Gazette.

17. Parties wishing to fell timber in Government forests shall pay the seigniorage for the number of bandy loads required in advance into one of the Talook Treasuries, and shall receive from the Tahsildar a numbered voucher (in duplicate) from the Voucher Cheque Book for the same. The Forest Department, on receipt of the voucher, shall grant a printed license for the number of bandy loads paid for, and shall attach thereto the duplicate voucher, the name of the wood being specified, or (if not one of the reserved kinds) the same being entered as jungle wood. The number of bandy loads shall be checked off on the back of the license as the loaded bandies pass through the first village, either by the village authorities, or by the forest Peon or Daffadar. When the full number of bandies specified in the license has been checked off on the back of the license, the documents shall be detained and forwarded to the Tahsildar, who shall submit them to the Collector in due course.

18. The portion of the forest in which the felling is to take place shall be specified in each license, as well as the Tanah Station or village through which the timber is to pass.

19. The time allowed for licenses to run shall not exceed three months.

20. Any one felling trees in the forests or removing the same, within the limits of the Tanah Stations, must be ready to produce both his voucher and license where required.

21. Time expired licenses must be given up, even though the timber paid for has not been removed.

22. All confiscated timber shall be arranged and numbered off into lots by the forest Officer, and shall be sold by public auction after due notice shall have been given in the District Gazette, and also, if the timber is of much value, in the "Fort Saint George Gazette." All purchasers will be required to pay the price of the timber purchased into the Talook Treasury, and to produce the Tahsildar's voucher for the same before they remove the timber.

23. In the event of confiscated timber being sold by auction, 50 per cent. of the net profits will be paid to the informer, whether he belong to the Forest Department or not.

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Captain,

Officiating Conservator of Forests.

April 1863.

No. 252.

ORDER THEREON, 20th May 1863, No. 879.

* 5th May 1863, No. 770.

1. Ordered to lie over till the report* called for in regard to the better management of the Forest Department are received. The decision of the question as to whether the issue of licenses and receipt of payments should be entrusted to the Revenue or Forest Department will affect the rules.

2. The Supplemental Rules for the Cuddapah, Kurnool and Salem forests, submitted with Captain Beddome's letter, dated 20th October 1862, No. 218, are passed as a temporary measure.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

7 Cert of
28 Affidavits
47756.

5th May 1863
No. 770.

Timber - 20th May 1863
20th May 1863

As for of Forests
1st of Revenue

20-879
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20 June/63 No. 283-284

28 June/63 " 267

5 May " " 775

31/5/63

Copy to Letter to England

of 2nd September 1863

832-70

5/5/63

From the off. Conservator

of Forests of 28th May/63 (No.

1277)

2/5/63 +

412-73

V. 257+252.

1862. Department.
From Secy of Govt of India

The Officiating Conservator of Forests.

To the Secretary to Govt

Revenue Dept.

Dated 27th April 1863

Received 30th

For the Pr 22 June/63

No. 509. R. 348/44.

Enclosure /

No.

Subject.

Submitting Rules for the
Conservation of the Forests
in the Madras Presidency

A. S. G. Esq. May.
With an order
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