M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 974 Press ~~Mis.~~

90-91

Dated 6-6- ~~19~~ 1913

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th June 1863.

No. 90. 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 May 1863, No. 547 :—

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No. 211 of the 8th of October 1862, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter from the Assistant Conservator of Forests in the Salem District relative to the forest products in that District. last year I stopped the collection of these products as it appeared to be contrary to the orders of the Revenue Board; from the letter alluded to it appears, however, that it is rather advantageous to the Poojaries or Hill tribes in the Denkincottah forests that the Forest Department should have the monopoly, and there can be no doubt that in a District like Salem abounding with Sandal-wood an article so easily smuggled, it would be very advantageous to have the collectors of the hill produce in our pay and in some measure under our control. I have, therefore, forwarded the Assistant Conservator's letter for the consideration of Government, and request their orders on the subject.

From Lieutenant G. E. BORRADAILE, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Salem and South Arcot, to Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated Salem, 20th May 1863, No. 115.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that agreeably to your orders, I have disposed of the dyes, &c., collected during a few months by my predecessor. The quantity collected was Papli dye 93 Maunds, Copli 7 Maunds, Gall-nut 33 Maunds, Soap-nut 20 Maunds, Wax 2¾ Maunds, Honey 1½ Maunds, Muddi bark 5 Maunds, but through the carelessness of a Subordinate 3 Maunds of Papli, 3 of Gall-nut, and 5 of Muddi bark were destroyed. The dyes, &c., were sold as follows under rather disadvantageous circumstances :—

			RS.	A.	P.
Papli,	90	Maunds	208	2	0
Copli,	7	„	97	7	0
Gall-nut,	30	„	12	11	10
Soap-nut,	20	„	4	13	0
Wax,	2¾	„	37	13	0
Honey,	1½	„	10	14	0
Marking-nut,	¼	„	0	12	0
			372	8	10

The profit was more than 28 per cent. on the small sum Rupees 289 expended ; I have under-stated it in the annual Report at 25 per cent. The profit would be at a greater per centage if sanction were accorded to a continued collection of these products.

2. Government have in this District always retained their right of collecting forests products, and in 1860, the year immediately preceding the resumption of the charge of the Denkincottah forest by the Department, a Contractor paid Rupees 400 for the privilege of collecting them, his Establishment cost Rupees 348, and he thus paid Rupees 748 for the monopoly for one year, but it is said he made a profit of Rupees 700 ; we could collect these products without any expense beyond the purchase of them from the Poojaries and carriage from the forest to the store at Denkincottah. The Poojaries would bring them to the Sandal-wood depôts as they used to carry them to the Contractor's depôts, and being saved the expense of paying for the privilege and of keeping up an Establishment, I see no reason why with care the profit derived should not be sufficient to meet the cost of the Sandal-wood Establishment in the Denkincottah portion of the forest including the pay of the Overseer.

3. Setting aside any desire on behalf of Government to profit by the collection of these articles, I am of opinion that the monopoly should not be given up any more than the monopoly of cutting Sandal-wood. The Ryots, of whom there are very few in the jungles where these arti-

cles are found, have no feasible right to them; the collection has hitherto in this District been a Government monopoly, and no complaints have been made against the practice. The chief result derived from the collection of these dyes on behalf of Government by the Poojaries has been that they are continually on the move in the jungles and act as Forest Peons as they invariably report to the Overseer any felling that is going on. The Overseer can at once by referring to his License Book tell if the felling be candlestine or authorized. I have in consequence no trouble on that side of the District with smuggling of timber except on the Mysore frontier.

4. Several applications have been received from parties desirous of collecting or of buying dyes. I am at present unable to reply to these applications, and the result is that the dyes, &c., are taken by any one requiring them. In no way do the inhabitants of the forests benefit by throwing open to all the collecting of dyes; the persons who benefit are the merchants living in the large towns; the hillmen would prefer to deal with a Government official, being more secure of payment for their labor. I would, therefore, urge on you the necessity of sanctioning the collection of these products on three grounds:—Firstly, that it will prove very profitable; secondly, that the hillmen will benefit by the monopoly; and thirdly, that the forests are more secure from ilicit felling and general destructive practices. If the monopoly be thrown up, all trees bearing leaves, fruits or bark, that can in any way be turned to account, will be at once stript and killed instead of being operated upon with discrimination, securing a continued productiveness.

5. There are five species of bark, fourteen of fruits and seeds, two of roots, and one leaf, besides honey and wax, included in the term "forest products," some of these probably will not pay the cost of collection, but this cannot be stated positively until a trial has been made. I beg to suggest that permission be accorded to the collection of these products during the current official year; a full report being then furnished. The result will, I anticipate, far exceed that mentioned in paragraph 2.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. H. BEDDOME, Captain,
Officiating Conservator of Forests.

No. 91. ORDER THEREON, 6th June 1863, No. 974.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for early report. They will be furnished with a copy of Captain Beddome's letter, dated 8th October 1862, No. 211.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Pre. 28th October/62 No. 3507351

Revenue 1862. Forest Department.
Pro. of Govt. for Mine.
No. 1251

From

The Officiating Conservator of Forests.

To The Secretary to Govt. Revenue Deptt.

Dated 27th May 1863. 186~~2~~

Received 29th

Fourth Cl. No. 2097/64

No. 547.

Enclosure 1.

No.

Subject.

No. 974-6 Mine

Forwarding Copy of a letter from the Asst. Consr. of Salem Forests, relative to the forest products in his district, in continuation of letter 211 of the 8th Octr. 62

With an order

61-70 +

No. 90 & 91.

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