M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1866 Press ~~Mis.~~

110-111

Dated 12—10. 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 12th October 1864.

No. 110. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th August 1864, No. 4,960.

Read again Government Order dated 9th April 1864, No. 599, Revenue Department, referring for the Board's opinion letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, submitting for orders of Government correspondence between his Department and the Collector of Kurnool relative to Ryots' privileges in regard to cutting timber free of tax.

Read also again the following letters:—

From the Collector of Kurnool, dated 5th January 1864, in Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd February 1864, No. 733.

From the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 27th February 1864, in Board's Proceedings, dated 11th March 1864, No. 1,513.

Read also the following:—

From J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, dated 13th April 1864, No. 45.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th March, No. 1,513, I have the honor to offer the following remarks on Captain Beddome's letter, on the subject of refusing the reserved timbers to Ryots for agricultural purposes.

2. I am unaware on what grounds Captain Beddome states that in former years the ploughs of this District were *generally* made of Teak; I have never met with a Teak-wood plough, and cannot but think that the assertion is founded on mis-information. I am informed that ploughs have never been made of Teak-wood, and believe that the departmental zeal of the Officiating Conservator must have been imposed upon.

3. With reference to the disappearance of Teak, Black-wood, Ebony, and Red Sanders before Conservancy came into force, I think there is great doubt whether this timber ever grew to any size in the Nulla-Mullays, and I do not expect that Conservancy will bring it into existence.

4. I cannot appreciate the danger, felt so keenly by the Officiating Conservator, of granting reserved timber to the Ryots for agricultural purposes. The grant or refusal of these timbers free of tax, appears to me a question simply of Forest Revenue, and not of Conservancy. The same checks are in force for the grant of timber free of tax, as on payment, and the issue of such licenses can open no door for evasion, unless in the very unlikely case of their being granted improperly with a fraudulent intention.

5. The timber chiefly required for agricultural implements, which are confined to ploughs, drills, and the like, are stunted Billoo trees, not saplings, as the latter are soft and unfitted for the required purpose.

6. There are thousands of stunted Billoo trees on the Nulla-Mullays which can never grow into valuable timber, and which are only useful to make handles of Picks and Mamoties, and for the purpose above stated. It is chimerical to suppose that the grant of such timber to the Ryots free of tax, in accordance with former usage, can render all efforts at Conservancy futile, as supposed by the Officiating Conservator.

7. The Yeggy is a valuable timber, but a prejudice prevents its being used by natives in the construction of their houses, and it is little required even for agricultural implements.

8. The Nar Yepy is chiefly required for its bark, which is largely used to make ropes by the Ryots in the neighbourhood of the forests, where the growth of the usual fibres is consequently not common. I am not aware that the timber has any value; and do not know why it should have been included in the reserved kinds. It is particularly subject to injury by white ants.

9. The Chiriman is a valuable timber, but as in the case of the Billoo, it is only the stunted growths, and not saplings, that would be of use for agricultural implements. It is not much sought for, nor used by the Ryots.

10. I regret that I am unacquainted with the various trees enumerated by Captain Beddome in paragraph 4 of his letter as available for the Ryots. I only know that such timber has not been used hitherto in the construction of agricultural implements, and am confident that it would

not be so suitable for the purpose as the stunted growths of the Billoo and other close-grained woods, which the Ryots specially require, and which they have always used previous to the introduction of the present Conservancy Rules.

11. The only really valuable timber which abounds in the Nulla-Mullay forests is the Nulla Maddi: it is rigorously conserved, and produces the large revenue obtained from these forests. Even with respect to this tree I have pointed out to the Officiating Conservator that the rules in force are only partially applicable, as in many portions of the hills there are numberless stunted trees which under the present rules cannot be felled, and which will never attain the size at which felling is permissible, if left to grow for ever.

12. With every respect for Captain Beddome's special knowledge of Forestry, it must be remembered that his local acquaintance with the Nulla-Mullays is most limited, and confined to a few days visit to its most frequented portions. I have resided on these hills on various occasions for twice as many months, and without professing any special knowledge of the subject, have acquired some experience as to the general capabilities of the locality.

13. Mr. Arbuthnott, the Head Assistant Collector, is far better acquainted with the subject, and has a more intimate knowledge of the Forests than myself, and I am indebted to him for much practical information confirmatory of my own views.

Read also again

From the Collector of Kurnool, dated 11th March 1864, in Board's Proceedings, dated 31st idem, No. 1,872.

From the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 11th April 1864, in Board's Proceedings, dated 15th idem, No. 2,289.

Read also the following :—

From Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated Ootacamund, 2nd May 1864, No. 904.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,289 of the 15th of April 1864, I have the honor to forward a copy of a set of Rules drawn up by the Collector of Kurnool for regulating the grant of timber free for agricultural and other purposes.

2. As I have before mentioned there are upwards of one hundred different species of trees indigenous to the Nulla-Mullay mountains, many of which yield valuable timber; only ten of these are reserved. I cannot therefore recommend that four of these should be given to Ryots and others free of tax. If it is necessary to grant any of the reserved trees free of tax, the Chiriman (Conocarpus) and the Nar Yepy (Hardwickia) might be given up, but I would strongly recommend that the Satin-wood and the Yeggy are strictly conserved; the former is becoming very scarce in the Presidency.

Pterocarpus marsupium.

3. With the exception of the clause granting these four reserved timbers to the Ryots free of tax, the rules proposed by the Collector are just what is required to ensure the interests of Conservancy.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Additional Rules for regulating the grant of Timber free for agricultural and other purposes.

1. Tahsildars shall have authority to give a free pass for Timber, required by any Ryots for the construction of ploughs, and other agricultural instruments. Such pass shall be granted for all unreserved, and for the reserved timbers specified below :—

Billoo	... ...	The Satin-wood.
Yeggy	... ...	Pterocarpus Marsupium.
Chiriman	... ...	Conocarpus latifolios.
Nar Yepy	... ...	Hardwickia binata.

N. B.—Carts are not included in agricultural implements.

2. Officers invested with the Collector's authority in a Talook, may grant a free pass for unreserved timbers, to Ryots whose houses have been destroyed by fire, for their re-construction.

3. Such free passes shall be taken to the Assistant Conservator, who will grant a license for felling and removing the timber within a stipulated period. The locality in which the timber is permitted to be felled will be fixed by the Assistant Conservator, who will as far as possible consult the convenience of the applicant.

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN, *Collector.*

(True Copy.)

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

From J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 22nd April 1864, No. 3.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings dated 15th April, forwarding your letter of the 11th April, No. 879, on the subject of granting timber to Ryots for agricultural purposes free of tax, I have the honor to state that I wish to propose no alteration of the present system beyond the granting of free licenses, when the usage of the country requires that timber should be granted without payment of tax.

2. Under the present system the Revenue authorities grant a pass to parties who have paid seigniorage for the removal of timber from the Forest; this pass is presented to the Assistant Conservator, and a license to remove the timber is granted.

3. All timber removed without a license granted by the Assistant Conservator is liable to confiscation.

4. Exactly the same system should be pursued with reference to timber granted free for agricultural or other purposes, the pass given by the Revenue authorities instead of stating that the seigniorage has been paid, informing the Assistant Conservator that timber is to be granted free.

5. In my letter to the Board dated April 13th, No. 45, I have stated fully the grounds on which certain reserved timbers ought to be granted free for agricultural purposes, and of the necessity for such relaxation of the present rules I entertain no doubt.

6. It is equally necessary that the privilege should not be confined to the limits of the village of the Ryot making the application, as such limitation would confine the privilege to the inhabitants of a few villages which border the Nullah-Mullay hills.

7. With reference to the statement, of your Assistant, as reported in paragraph 4 of your letter, that the Revenue authorities are allowing the Ryots to fell building timber to a great extent, and that the Ryots enter the forests without any regular pass, and fell without any restriction, I have only to state that the first assertion is totally incorrect, and the second I believe a gross exaggeration. When the Ryots do fell without a pass, the timber is liable to confiscation, and on detection is confiscated.

8. Where the houses of Ryots have been destroyed by fire, it has been customary on the discretion of the higher Revenue authorities to grant timber free of seigniorage for their re-construction. Such a privilege is of immemorial standing, and should be continued. I do not however consider it necessary to grant reserved timber for this purpose, but Jungle-wood, now subject to a taxation of one Rupee per cart, is and must be granted free.

9. The same system as carried out for the free grant of timber for agricultural purposes should be in force, but the free pass would not be given by the Tahsildar, but by the Revenue Officer invested with the authority of the Collector in the Talook.

10. The Revenue authorities of all grades have always given a thorough co-operation to the Sub-Assistant Conservator in all matters connected with his Department, and without such assistance it would have been impossible for him to carry out his duties with the small number of Conservancy Peons at his disposal.

11. From my experience of Mr. Lennon's proceedings I am convinced that he could not safely have been entrusted with the powers of confiscation, with which you were at first desirous

he should be invested. Wherever his acts have come under my own official cognizance, I have found them often harsh, and generally illiberal, so that it has been impossible for me to give him that unqualified support which I should otherwise have gladly afforded.

12. I have the honor to forward three additional rules for regulating the free grant of timber, which appear to me all that are required for the purpose.

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1. The points at issue between the Officiating Conservator of Forests and the Collector of Kurnool are the terms on which Ryots shall be permitted to fell timber free of tax beyond their village limits, and the necessity of including among the reserved woods the four kinds of Timber named in the margin.

Billu or Satin-wood. Yeggi. Chiriman. Nar Yepi.

2. The Collector urges the necessity of permitting felling beyond the village limits to prevent the privilege conceded to Ryots from being other than nominal in great part of his District.

3. The Officiating Conservator while not objecting to the relaxation, insists on the importance of maintaining the system of Voucher and License to prevent abuse of the further concession.

4. The Board admit the force of Captain Beddome's argument, which indeed is also admitted by the Collector, and as will be seen from Captain Beddome's letter of 2nd May last above recorded, and the enclosed papers, the Collector and the Conservator have come to an agreement as to what is necesary in this respect.

5. As regards the second point, viz, the proposed exclusion of four kinds of Timber from the reserved list, Captain Beddome is willing to give up the Nar Yepi, which in his letter of the 13th April last, above recorded, the Collector states to be valuable only for its bark, which is much used by the Ryots for making ropes, and the Chiriman, which though stated by the Collector to be not much in demand by the Ryots, is when mature valuable for agricultural implements.

6. Captain Beddome wishes to maintain the reservation of the Yeggi, and the Collector does not insist on a change in this respect as there is a prejudice against its use.

7. Thus there only remains the Billu or Satin-wood, which the Collector would make available, and the Officiating Conservator would reserve.

8. The Collector points out that as all the reserved timbers are available to the public at the discretion of the Forest Department on payment of the prescribed seigniorage, Forest Conservancy, properly so called, can in no way be injured by the grant of such timber free of tax, when the same forms as to voucher and license are maintained, and the same discretion is left to the Forest Department of selecting localities for felling, or refusing to permit cutting for special reasons.

9. He also states that there are on the Nulla-Mullays thousands of stunted Billu trees which can never grow into valuable timber, and which are only fit for manufacturing Ploughs, Drills, the handles of Picks and Mamoties, and such like agricultural implements, for which it is more in demand than any other wood.

10. The Board observe that Satin-wood is *every where* reserved; but the object of reservation is to secure eventually a supply of fine timber, and not to raise a revenue by compelling the people to pay for what is almost indispensably necessary to them, and has hitherto from time immemorial been obtainable free of tax, but which (as in the case of the stunted Billu trees) can never grow into fine timber. The Board can easily understand that the close-grained, mature stunted Satin-wood possesses advantages for agricultural implements, which few other wood, offer, and they do not think that in such special cases payment should be insisted on, although the Departmental Rules as to voucher and license for felling should be strictly maintained. They would therefore recommend that Captain Beddome be instructed to arrange for granting such stunted Billu trees to the Ryots free of charge under such special rules as he may deem indispensable to prevent abuse of the concession by the cutting of well grown Timber. It must ever be remembered that the reservation as Royalties of timber other than Teak, Sandal-wood, and perhaps Sal and a very few others, is a *very* recent innovation; and although measures of strict

conservancy properly so called, can be fully justified in the interests of the whole community, it is no less impolitic than unjust and unnecessary and useless for Conservancy purposes to force up the Forest Revenue by compelling the people to pay for what they urgently require, and have hitherto always enjoyed free of charge, and which the Forest Department can have no object in placing in the reserved list except as a new and profitable source of income. The Board assume this to be the case with the stunted Satin-wood trees, but if they are in error in this respect, and if for instance this particular description of wood is, like distorted Teak, specially valuable for far more important uses than the handles of Picks and Mamoties for which other and commoners woods will serve nearly equally well, then the case is altered, and the Board's argument will not apply.

No. 111.

Forests.

ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1864, No. 1,866.

1. The Government are of opinion that Nar Yepee and *stunted* Billoo may properly be given to *bonâ fide* Ryots for their agricultural implements free of charge, but subject to the rules as to passes.

2. On the other point, viz., the felling of timber beyond village limits, the Collector and Conservator agree, and no orders are necessary.

3. Every encouragement should be held out to the Ryots to plant on their own account.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 733.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd February 1864.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, dated 5th January 1864, No. 1 :—

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board, that the Conservancy Rule No. 10, forbidding the cutting of reserved timbers for agricultural purposes, except on payment of seigniorage, works very severely on the Ryots of this District.

1. Chirraman.
2. Yeggee.
3. Billoo.
4. Nerrayeppee.

2. The species of reserved timber noted in the margin are indispensably required by the Ryots for the construction of drills, yokes, poles, and other agricultural implements, and the demand of seigniorage under such circumstances is contrary to long standing usage, and is felt as most obnoxious.

3. As no reserved timber can be cut without license, the grant of the same without charge in cases where the wood is required for agricultural purposes can in no case lead to abuse, or facilitate smuggling, while the concession would only continue to the Ryots a privilege which had never previously been taken from them.

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1. Forwarded to the Officiating Conservator of Forests for report.

2 The Board request him to explain on what principle and under what authority he proceeds in determining what species of Timber shall be reserved in each District.

3. The Board consider that the concurrence of the Collector is indispensably necessary when such reservation proceeds beyond the very special kinds of valuable wood, as Teak, Blackwood, Sandalwood, Satinwood, Noychumpa, and Sal.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Captain R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests.
Copy to J. R. Arbuthnott, Esq., Head Assistant Collector in charge of Kurnool.

Exd. J. Wright.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Captain R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests.
Copy to J. R. Arbuthnott, Esq., Head Assistant Collector in charge of Kurnool.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 1,513.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th March 1864.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated Coimbatore, 27th February 1864, No. 816:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 733, dated 3rd February 1864.

2. The Nullay Mallay forests in the Kurnool District contain upwards of a hundred different species of trees, of these only 11 are reserved, the following is the list:—

1. Tek,	(Teak.)
2. Jitegee,	(Blackwood.)
3. Tunki,	(Ebony.)
4. Chandam,	(Red Sanders.)
5. Yeggi,	(Pterocarpus Marsupium.)
6. Billu,	(Satin wood.)
7. Nar yepi,	(Hardwickia binata) or Acha wood.
8. Chiriman,	(Conearpus latefolius.)
9. Nalla maddi,	(Terminalia tomentosa.)
10. Yerra maddi,	(Terminalia Arjuna.)
11. Gumar Tek,	(Gmelina arborea.)

3. In former years the Ryots felled all timbers free of charge, and their ploughs were generally made of Teak, the consequence of this was that the most valuable timbers, namely, Teak, Blackwood, Ebony, and Red Sanders had almost disappeared before Conservancy came into force.

4. There is no Sandalwood or Sal in the Nallay Mallays, and owing to indiscriminate felling having been allowed for many years, Teak, Blackwood, Red Sanders, and Ebony are rarely to be met with except as Saplings. The four timbers therefore which the Collector wishes to throw open to Ryots, and which are Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the reserved List may be said with the exception of the Nalla Maddi to comprise all the most valuable timber of these forests. There are plenty of timbers available for agricultural purposes such as the different species of Acacia. The Karaka (Terminalia Chebula). The Karraratti (Briedelia). The Nowli (Ulmus). The Narer (Syzygium). The Soomi (Soymida), and different species of Zizyphus, there is no reason therefore that the Ryots should be allowed to fell the reserved trees without paying the fixed seigniorage. They would undoubtedly prefer the four timbers alluded to by the Collector especially the Satinwood (Billu); but rather than pay the seigniorage (Rupees 2 the bandy load) they will in most cases make use of the numerous jungle timbers which answer well for agricultural purposes, and the more valuable timbers will be conserved; if on the other hand these timbers are to be felled for agricultural purposes free of any taxation, all our efforts at Conservancy will prove futile, it will be impossible for our Department to know for what purposes they are being felled, and they will be cut for all building purposes and even for sale, the commoner kinds of timber (though well adapted for the same purposes) will hardly ever be used, while the superior timbers will rapidly disappear until at last the forests will not be able to pay for Conservancy.

5. If the Collector does not consider it necessary to conserve the Chiriman, that timber might be given free to the Ryots; but I do not myself recommend it, as there are other timbers (unreserved) that will answer the same purpose. After the seigniorage list was published and put in force, Mr. Banbury, who was then Acting Collector of Kurnool, requested me (November 22nd of 1862) to allow both Chiriman and Satinwood to be felled free of taxation; in reply (December 4th, 1862) I stated that Chiriman might be given, but not Satinwood. I heard no more upon the subject.

6. The lists of reserved timbers differ in each District; they were drawn up by the Conservator during his first tour of exploration in each District, and forwarded to Government with his report. The Collectors have always been consulted; and care has been taken that many valuable kinds of timber should remain available to the Ryots free of taxation.

Forwarded to the Collector of Kurnool with reference to his letter, dated 5th January 1864, No. 1, for any further remarks he may wish to offer.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To J. I. Minchin, Esq., Collector of Kurnool.
Copy to Captain R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Fwd. R. H. Lee.

Forwarding to the Officiating Conservator of Forests for report letter from the Collector of Kurnool, stating that the Rule forbidding the cutting of reserved timbers for Agricultural purposes works very severely on the ryots

Dated 3rd February 1864.

No. 733.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

1864. Department.

No. 1,872.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 31st March 1864.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kurnool, dated Cumbum, 11th March 1864, No. 35:—

1. I have the honor to request the attention of the Board to the 10th Rule for the Conservancy of Forests in this Presidency, which permits Ryots to cut unreserved timber free of charge, for agricultural purposes, within their village boundaries.

2. The stipulation as to the timber being within the boundaries of the village, renders the privilege a nominal one in this District except in the few villages bordering on the Nulla Mullas, where alone the requisite timber is obtainable.

3. The practice of the District has always hitherto permitted the Ryots to obtain timber, required *bona fide* for agricultural purposes, in the Nulla Mulla Forests free of tax, and in a previous communication No. 1 of the 5th January 1864, I have pointed out the necessity for permitting certain of the reserved timbers being granted free of tax for agricultural purposes.

4. The manner in which the new Conservancy Rules trench on the long standing privileges of the Ryots is felt very keenly by them and as the License system ensures [illegible], and the question at issue has reference only to the charging of an annoying taxation, I trust that the Board will obtain such a modification of the above rule as will secure to the villagers the continuance of their accustomed privileges.

Forwarded for any remarks Captain Beddome may wish to offer. An early reply is requested.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Captain R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests,
" J. R. Arbuthnott, Esq., Head Assistant Collector in charge of Kurnool.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rec'd 24th Apl 1864.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 11th March 1864.

No. 1,513.

Forwarding to the Collector of Kurnool for any further remarks he may wish to offer letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests on the subjects of the kinds of timber that should be reserved for Agricultural purposes.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th April 1864. No. 2,289.

1864. Department.

Rec'd 21/4/64

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 31st March 1864.

No. 1,872.

Forwarding for the remarks of Captain Beddome letter from the Collector of Kurnool requesting modification of the 10th rule for the Conservancy of Forests.

7

No. 2,289.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th April 1864.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated Ootacamund, 11th April 1864, No. 879 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,872 of the 31st of March 1864.

2. I have not the slightest doubt that the Ryots in the Kurnool District, and in every other District in the Presidency, feel that the new Conservancy Rules trench upon their long standing privileges, or rather upon the abuse of those privileges as they have for years been in the habit of felling all timbers whether reserved or not, wherever and whenver they chose without any tax, and many of them have undoubtedly carried on a systematic trade in timber.

3. Where there is no timber available within village boundaries, I consider that if the Revenue Authorities act in communication with the Forest Department, there will be no objection to Ryots being allowed to fell unreserved timber for *bona fide* agricultural purposes beyond their boundaries. Certain rules however should be laid down ; printed licenses or tickets should always be granted, and time and place entered ; also the amount to be felled, as the reserved list is only a small per centage upon the trees growing in the District. I cannot recommend that the right to fell reserved timbers should be conceded to the Ryots, or that they should be allowed to fell building timber without paying the usual tax.

4. My Assistant in the Kurnool District has reported that the Revenue Authorities are allowing the Ryots to fell building timber to a great extent, and that the Ryots enter the forests without any regular pass, and fell without any restriction as to quantity, time, or place, and that many of them are probably carrying on a timber trade. If this is to be allowed, all conservancy will be useless. I have already addressed Government on the subject in my letter No. 868 of the 7th of April 1864, and have forwarded a copy of my Assistant's letter ; the subject is one that well deserves the attention of the Board, and I trust that Collectors may be informed how important it is that their Native Revenue Subordinates should act in communication with the Forest Department, and that some regular rules should be laid down, and printed checks, &c., brought into use.

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1. Ordered to be communicated to the Collector of Kurnool, who will please to address Captain Beddome direct as to the system under which the Ryots may be permitted to cut timber for agricultural purposes free of tax in the Nulla Mullays.

2. The rules when framed should be submitted to the Board for approval. Captain Beddome's letter to Government on the general question has been referred for the Board's opinion, and is now under their consideration.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To J. I. Minchin, Esq., Collector of Kurnool.

Copy to Captain R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests.

Exd. J. Wright.

10. The Board observe that Satin-wood is *every where* reserved; but the object of reservation is to secure eventually a supply of fine timber, and not to raise a revenue by compelling the people to pay for what is almost indispensably necessary to them, and has hitherto from time immemorial been obtainable free of tax, but which (as in the case of the stunted Billu trees) can never grow into fine timber. The Board can easily understand that the close-grained, mature, stunted Satin-wood possesses advantages for agricultural implements, which few other woods offer, and they do not think that in such special cases payment should be insisted on, although the Departmental Rules as to voucher and license for felling should be strictly maintained. They would therefore recommend that Captain Beddome be instructed to arrange for granting such stunted Billu trees to the Ryots free of charge under such special rules as he may deem indispensable to prevent abuse of the concession by the cutting of well grown Timber. It must ever be remembered that the reservation as Royalties of Timber other than Teak, Sandal-wood, and perhaps Sal and a very few others, is a *very* recent innovation; and although measures of strict conservancy properly so called, can be fully justified in the interests of the whole community, it is no less impolitic than unjust and unnecessary and useless for Conservancy purposes to force up the Forest Revenue by compelling the people to pay for what they urgently require, and have hitherto always enjoyed free of charge, and which the Forest Department can have no object in placing in the reserved list except as a new and profitable source of income. The Board assume this to be the case with the stunted Satin-wood trees, but if they are in error in this respect, and if for instance this particular description of wood is, like distorted Teak, specially valuable for far more important uses than the handles of Picks and Mamoties for which other and commoner woods will serve nearly equally well, then the case is altered, and the Board's argument will not apply.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to Captain R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests.

" to J. I. Minchin, Esq., Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. J. Wright.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, R. D. dated 15th April 1864. No. 2,289.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

No.

Dated 15th April 1864.

Despatched

Received

Department.

No. 2,289.

Communicating letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, and requesting the Collector to address that officer direct as to the system under which the Ryots may be permitted to cut timber for agricultural purposes free of tax in Nulla Mullays.

P. 20: 9 April 1864
Nos 167-168.

Rev. 1864. Department.
Pro: of Govt for Octr.

No. 2101.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 4th August 1864.

No. 4,960.

Recommending that the Officiating Conservator of Forests be instructed to grant stunted Billu trees in the Kurnool District to the Ryots, free of charge, under such special rules he may deem necessary.

Withdrawn

Nos 110 & 111.

Ct. Oct/62 R5 R686

Rec'd 12th Oct. 1864.
Ans. 18th Oct. 1864.
Copy forwarded to the Conservator of Forests.

The Govt are of opinion that Rar ye free and stunted Billoo may properly be given to bonâ fide Ryots for their agricultural implements free of charge, but subject to the rules as to passes.

On the other point viz the felling of timber beyond village limits, the Collectors and Conservators are, and no orders are necessary.

Every encouragement should be held out to the Ryots to plant on their own account.

W. 1856.