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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1065 (S.C) ~~Press~~
B.P.—No. ~~Mis.~~

Dated 20 (10) 5 1865 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 359. Read again letter from the ... ting Conservator of Forests, dated 29th November, and recorded i ... D. 12th December 1863, No. 2,271.

Read also the following Proceedings of th ... ard of Revenue, dated 15th February 1864, N ... 86.

Read again the following Government Ord ... lated 12th December 1863, No. 1,227, Revenue Department, forwar ... for the Board's remarks Captain Beddome's Report on South Can ... Forest :—

1. The Board observe from paragra ... 20 of Captain Beddome's letter to Government, that the Acting Collector has ... visionally introduced the Draft Rules, pending the sanction of Government for ... r enforcement. The Board therefore infer his approval of the rules ; and they ... nothing to object to in them. They appear to contain a full recognition of t ... rights of the people, and to make all necessary provision to meet the requirer ... ts of the public. It is of course to be understood that Rule 4 does not allow of ... kar Kumeri being cut without the permission of the Revenue Department.

2. The Board have received a petit ... from some Cassergode Ryots claiming the exclusive right of "Kumaki" to *the* ... *t* of the hill adjoining their cultivation in every case, the established rule being t ... a distance of 100 yards on every side is allowed for this purpose.

3. The Petitioners assert that it is ... essary for them to *clear* to *this* extent to keep wild animals from their crops, and ... t therefore this limited extent is useless for the purpose for which Kumaki is de ... ned, viz., the supply of leaves and brush for manure.

4. The Board attach no great weig ... to this argument. The existing rule has long been in force, was established by ... Harris who fully recognised the rights of the people in the hill sides adjoining ... eir estates and the need of maintaining them, and is approved by those who kno ... the District, while the restriction does not preclude cultivators from collecting l ... ves, &c., for manure in the Government jungle beyond the limits of the Kumaki.

5. What the Petitioners desire is to ... xtend *exclusive rights*, and this the Board deem unnecessary ; but they consider t ... at great care should be exercised by the Forest Department in permitting the cutt ... ng of wood on hill sides adjoining cultivation beyond the 100 yards limit, for t ... e denudation of the smaller hills would doubtless re-act injuriously on the cul ... vation dependant on the Kumaki there situated.

6. The Board proceed to notice ... e important subject of private claims to forest land in Canara, adverted to by Captain Beddome, and they would beg leave to refer to the coraespondence noted in the margin, which contains valuable information as to Kumeri cultivation, to the rights of th ... Ryots in "Kumaki" land, and to the rights of Government in the Forests.

From Government,	dated	23rd June 1815.			
To	do.	do.	14th Dec.	do.	No. 552.
From	do.	do.	7th Feb. 1820,	,,	Public.
To	do.	do.	25th Sept.	do	,, 7.

7. It will be observed that this last ... ight was asserted by the Bednore Government, as far back as A. D. 1660, when th ... "Shist" or original Government demand on the land is said to have been settled, ... d forest lands were excluded from the area liable to land tax, as the property of ... he State.

8. The Board are satisfied that no ... aim to forest land as a portion of a wurg needs to be admitted, unless unquestiona ... e evidence is forthcoming of a State grant of the land or locality.

No. 360. ORDER THEREON, 2 May 1865, No. 1,065.

Forests, No. 16.

Con. In the first of these papers the Acting tour ator of Forests reported the result of his ough South Canara.

2. The forests of this District ha suffered much from Kumery and extensive felling in past years, but there still a considerable quantity of valuable timber. Of ripe Teak little is left, bu ere is a large number of very promising saplings, which will hereafter prove a rce of considerable revenue. Black-wood, Poon, Wild Jack, Catechu and Jungle ods of superior quality are still abundant. The Sub-Assistant Conservator estimat he present number of trees in the principal available jungles as follows:—

Teak	4,22,000
Sandal...	3,500
Jack	3,000
Wild do.	27,200
Poon	25,800
Ebony...	1,500
Catechu	25,000
Jungle woods ...	2,75,000

Of these 4,00,000 are saplings from 1 foot to 3 feet in girth.
Young.

ound trees of not less than 3 feet girth.

3. The Officiating Conservator co ders this estimate rather low.

4. The increased Establishment anctioned in G. O. 17th October 1863, No. 1,895, will admit of effective cons ancy, and every effort must be used to re-place the waste of former years.

5. The Government are glad to lea that the small experimental plantation of Black-wood had been so successful. T hough commenced only in 1863, 30,000 saplings had been put down. The Teak- ood plantation had been a failure, but the District seems so well adapted for the gr wth of Teak, and has such advantages in the way of water carriage that the experim nt should be persevered in. The Government approve of the Officiating Conservat r's intention of sending the Sub-Assistant, Mr. Thompson, to Nilambur when the sov ing operations are going on, in order that he may learn how the seed is treated the e.

6. The District, as already stated, h as suffered greatly from Kumery; but this kind of cultivation is no longer allowed in any Government forest without express permission, and in the only Talook wher "Wargdar" Kumery is carried on, viz., Cassergode, it is limited to jungle of nine years' growth and under. The Government concur with the Officiating Conser vator that in Government land, Kumery should be confined to old Kumery groun d, and that all applications for permission should be referred to the Forest Departm ent before permission is granted. Much caution should be exercised before allow g it in inaccessible forest tracts, as the Officiating Conservator proposes, because s of consequence that the country should not be denuded of timber, and the practice bes not merit encouragement. As forest trees will not again grow where Kumery has been practised, the clearance of the rank under-growth is advantageous, and Kumery may therefore be allowed in such localities.

7. The Government approve of the Officiating Conservator's proposition to work the Ghaut forests, as soon as the larger establishment sanctioned has been properly organized, and a sufficient stock of timber is on hand. They see no reason why the present rates of seigniorage should not be raised, if, as Captain Beddome states, they are too low. The retention of low rates will only induce merchants to lay in large stocks in anticipation of the increased charges, which will be levied when the Department itself works the forests.

8. The Government approve of the Officiating Conservator's arrangement with the Collector for periodical publication of a list of the tracts in which felling of

timber or firewood is to take place; claims pr rred to such tracts should be investigated and decided at once.

9. The claims of the Soobramoney Ten if still urged, should be enquired into without delay.

10. With regard to "Kummaky" land, Government have no option but to respect all existing rights. The extension of system is, however, another question. The Government request the Board's ion, after communication with the present and late Collectors, as to the propriety scontinuing the Kummaky system, as regards fresh estates. All existing Kumm rights would of course be scrupulously respected.

11. The Government quite agree with t Board, as to the rights of the State to the Canara forests.

12. They approve generally of the rule d rates of seigniorage proposed by Captain Beddome, and already put in force by e Collector. They have, however, made a few modifications in the rules.

13. The additions to Rule 16 should troduced into the rules of all Districts, and a note should be added to the v rs, stating that the grant of a license is discretional with the Forest Officer.

14. The Government are glad to rec so favorable a report of the Sub-Assistant Mr. Thompson.

(True Extr .)

(Signe W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

G. O. 10: May/65 h. 1065.

Revenue/1065. 8 [illegible]

10.5.1865