M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1767 Press Mis.

635. 536

Dated 31.7.1865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 535. Read again letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 28th January 1865, in Government Proceedings, dated 17th February 1865, No. 351, Revenue Department.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th July 1865, No. 3,874.

Read also the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nundial, 25th March 1865, No. 38 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 18th March 1865, No. 1,556, forwarding for early report proposals of the Officiating Conservator of Forests regarding the Forest Establishment in this District.

2. I beg that the Board will, in disposing of this paper, take into consideration my letter to the Officiating Conservator, dated 7th September 1864, No. 14, copy of which was forwarded to the Board, and which contains my views on the subject of the Forest Conservancy in this District.

3. The revised seigniorage list adds four to the number of reserved timbers, doubles the rate on three kinds, and increases by half the rate on three others of those most in request.

4. The reason stated for the change is to bring the list more to an equality with that of Cuddapah, which probably might be done more advantageously by lowering the rates in Cuddapah, than by raising those in Kurnool.

5. Any increase of rates is sure to fall on the consumers, and the price of timber is already increased to an extraordinary extent in this District. That this has been partly caused by the increased rates of seigniorage imposed by the conservancy, I have no doubt, but is now advanced by Captain Beddome as a reason for again enhancing the rates.

6. Under any circumstances I consider that a charge of Rupees 3 per bandy load is ample for all the timbers in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Captain Beddome's list. The Acha entered in paragraph 3 is not known to the Natives in these parts.

7. The two kinds of Gannapa, and the Chindaga, entered in paragraph 4, have not hitherto been reserved. Of these the Chindaga is a small kind of Acacia, of no great value, and which should continue to be rated as jungle timber.

8. The other alterations in the revised lists bring into one or other of the classes of reserved timber, trees, the felling of which has been hitherto prohibited without special sanction, and I am inclined to think that this prohibition, at least as regards the mango, should not be relaxed.

9. These trees generally grow in the Forests on the few spots where water is found, and their destruction might possibly injuriously affect the very limited water supply of those hills.

10. For this reason, and not for the value of the timber, I would transfer the mango from the 4th to the 1st of Captain Beddome's classes.

11. Section 6 introduces a seigniorage on firewood, which has been hitherto free. It must be remembered that all live timber when cut pays a seigniorage under one of the preceding classes, and it is only dead wood and refuse which is classed as firewood, and has hitherto been free. There is little removed from the Forest for sale, as every large market is so distant that the cost of carriage would prevent the speculation from being profitable. The station of Kurnool is supplied from the Yerramallas, and other small jungles in the vicinity. The Railroad will not enter the Kurnool District, and will not consequently create any demand for firewood from the Nulla Mallas. If the canal be completed for navigation, it may then be profitable to cut firewood on these hills for sale, but this contingency can be met when it arrives.

12. At present the only effect of charging a seigniorage on firewood cut for sale, will be to bring under the surveillance of the Conservancy Peons, all parties removing it for their own use, according to the communal rights possessed by them, and which it is not proposed to interfere with. The Forest revenue will gain but little by the measure. Conservancy will be in no way benefited, but an opening will be made for much additional harass to the people.

13. The same objections apply with greater force to the proposed seigniorage on bamboos when exported from the District. This also is not a conservancy, but a revenue measure. In my opinion the clearing of bamboos from the jungles at the foot of the hills should be encouraged in every way. The sooner these unhealthy jungles are re-placed by cultivation, the better for the District and the Government.

14. The imposition of a tax on their export from the District requires a system of voucher and license for every bamboo cut and removed from the Forests. It gives much trouble and annoyance to the people, wastes the vigilance of the Conservancy Peons, and adds nothing to the Forest revenue.

15. Bamboos will not pay the cost of export by land carriage from the District. When the opening of the canal for navigation affords a cheap means of communication for such bulky articles as bamboos and firewood, a tax on their exportation can be easily levied, and its payment enforced without having recourse to that surveillance in the Forest, which could be the only means now available, and which cannot be carried out without much vexation to the people.

16. In the Salem District the Government have decided that a tax on charcoal is a legitimate measure of conservancy. I fear it is useless for me, therefore, to argue against this impost. I cannot, however, forbear from remarking that it is these petty charges which are the most vexatious to the people, and which cause conservancy to be so unpopular.

17. A tax on charcoal, which has not hitherto been levied in these Forests, falls on the poorest section of the community. As justly remarked by the Honorable D. Arbuthnott, whose knowledge of forestry is unquestionable, the injury done by charcoal burners has been greatly exaggerated. The imposition of a tax will probably not check the manufacture, but there will be a constant struggle between the burners and the few Conservancy Peons, of evasion on one side, and extortion on the other, and I am convinced that neither conservancy nor revenue will be much benefited by the measure.

18. I am glad to find that the department is about to fell timber through its own officers. The dimensions of timber now permitted to be felled cause the greatest inconvenience to the people. The want of medium sized posts for the construction of their houses is much felt, and while the hills are covered with stunted trees suitable for the purpose, and which will never grow larger, the rules of the Department prevent their being made use of in any way.

19. Unless the rule for the dimensions of timber be modified as proposed by me, the department ought to confine itself to the felling of stunted trees, which are not allowed to be felled by the public, in order that saplings may be preserved.

20. Any attempt to fell and remove the larger trees will, I think, result in failure; as I doubt the department being able to remove large timber (unless with special appliances such as elephants,) as economically as it is effected by the trade.

21. I do not know whether any remarks are called for upon paragraph 3 of Captain Beddome's letter. It is natural for every special Department to entertain such views as Captain Beddome seems to share with his Sub-Assistant, and to think that rigorous severity of punishment is the best preventative of a breach of a special law. It is such views which render it absolutely essential that the Forest Conservancy should work in subordination to the Revenue authorities of a District.

22. A breach of the Conservancy Rules is sometimes the result of ignorance, more often of carelessness, or circumstances beyond individual control, and in few cases can it be right to treat such offences as a crime.

23. P. S.—With reference to the tax on charcoal, it has been brought to my notice by the Sub-Assistant Conservator that large quantities are used for smelting iron ore in one part of the Forests. Those furnaces have been worked for many years, and a charge for the charcoal thus used is undoubtedly a legitimate branch of the Forest revenue. I believe that the case can be best met by making a yearly charge on each furnace, the amount of which could be fixed by Captain Beddome and myself. I think that Rupees 10 per furnace might fairly be collected. Such a system would avoid all the difficulties attendant on an attempt to levy a tax on every basket load of charcoal manufactured.

24. The Irrigation Company is also a large consumer of charcoal, on which also a tax might perhaps be levied. It would be sufficient to fix the amount to be paid per parah, and the Officers of the Company would pay what was due monthly. Considering the close connection of the Company with the Government, I would, however, venture to advocate in their case the continuance of the grant of charcoal free.

25. I beg to forward a copy of Captain Beddome's reply to my letter of the 7th September last, which will place before the Board all the materials necessary for disposing of the present reference.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, to J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, dated Camp, Ooty, 9th November 1864, No. 1,127

1. I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Lennon, late Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests in your District, has been dismissed from Government employ on account of a transaction that occurred before he was posted to your District, and that I have now appointed Forester Sheffield to the charge of your District, he is a man that bears a high character, and as he has a considerable knowledge of forestry, he will, I trust, bring the Establishment into good working order.

2. With reference to your letter, No. 14 of the 7th of September last, I am of opinion that the Forest Establishment in your District is at present too small, and I have applied to Government for sanction for the appointment of an Overseer in addition to the Sub-Assistant Conservator; as this increase is fully authorized by the revenue derived from the forests, I have little doubt but that Government will sanction it, and Mr. Turnbull will then be appointed as Overseer under Mr. Sheffield; by this arrangement one officer will always be available for forest work, whilst the other is conducting the duties of the office. Mr. Sheffield has been informed that he is to work under your orders, he is accustomed to forest life, and to be out in the forests all day.

3. With reference to your remarks about the voucher and license system, I must inform you that it was proposed by Government as a check both upon the Forest Department and upon the native revenue officials, and that it has been found to answer admirably in all Districts in which it has been put in force; the check is complete, and prevents the possibility of peculation on the side of the Forest Department, as they can never even touch any money, and the native revenue authorities have no power or control in the forest, as they had formerly. I think that you must be aware that, previous to the formation of the Forest Conservancy Department, almost the entire timber trade was in the hands of the native revenue officials and the rich Ryots who are generally intimately connected with them, and that most of the revenue now made by Government went in those days into their pockets; even lately cases have come to light where some of the native revenue officials have been cutting timber largely for the purpose of sale. A considerable revenue was, I believe, derived by Government from the forests of your District, though not one-third of what is now made, but in some Districts where we are now making thousands Government did not receive a single Rupee previous to the organization of the Forest Department. It is very natural, therefore, that the native revenue authorities and the rich Ryots should be very hostile to our department, and I am aware that they make numerous complaints against it, generally trying to make out that the poorer classes are large sufferers. The native revenue authorities at present are only receivers of money, as a voucher is no authority to fell. If, however, they could issue both voucher and license, great power would at once be put into their hands, which is not desirable; a dishonest official might give his friend, or even himself both documents, and enter neither of them.

4. Orders have been given in your District to allow the felling of stunted timber of small girth; these tracts should always be pointed out by the Forest Department, and great care must be taken that vigorous saplings, likely to become good trees, are not felled. Planting in the dry forests on your side of India is very expensive and precarious, and the chief object in conservancy must be to enforce the felling of ripe timber, and strictly conserve saplings; a tree two feet in girth, if of vigorous growth, is a mere sapling: as a rule we allow the felling of trees three feet in girth, and upwards, but when large timber is available, our officers are empowered to compel its being felled, and to conserve three and even four feet girth trees; much of this must be left to the discretion of the forest officer, and the good results must depend much upon the zeal of the forest officer, and the working order of his establishment.

5. Where bamboo tracts are *bonâ fide* cleared for cultivation, I agree with you that the bamboo should not be taxed, nor do I think that any bamboo tracts should be reserved. Where bamboos are regularly cut for sale, however, I think that a small tax should be levied.

6. The Nallay Mallay forests are the most valuable forests on the eastern side of our Presidency, and I trust that before long they may be regularly worked by our department, as the forests of Wynad, Annamallys, South Canara, and other tracts now are; the difficulties, however, are great, and I am not prepared to recommend it just at present.

(True Copy.)

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

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted to Government, with reference to their Order of the 17th February last, No. 351.

2. Copy of Mr. Minchin's letter, dated 7th September 1864, No. 14, (recorded in Board's Proceedings 4th October 1864, No. 6,516,) will also be forwarded for information. It will be observed that the enclosure to the Collector's present communication is Captain Beddome's reply to that letter.

3. The Board are disposed to agree in much that the Collector says about the Conservator's propositions. It seems to them that it cannot be too often reiterated that the true object of conservancy is not the raising of a large revenue from a District, but the preservation of its finest timbers until they have attained a fitting growth. Holding these views they would deprecate any great enhancement of the seigniorage rates. They notice, however, that while Mr. Minchin observes, in regard to the Conservator's revised list, that it "Adds four to the "number of reserved timbers, doubles the rate on three kinds, and increases by "half the rate on three others of those most in request," he is not unwilling that *all* the timbers entered in the second and third clauses of the revised list should be charged at one and the same rate of Rupees 3. The remarks contained in paragraphs 7 to 10 of the Collector's letter seem deserving of consideration.

4. In regard to firewood and bamboos, which the Conservator proposes to tax, (vide Clauses 6 and 7 of his revised seigniorage list,) the Board entirely concur in the objections raised by the Collector in paragraphs 11 to 15 of his letter, and they would further refer the Government to Mr. Minchin's remarks contained in paragraphs 18 and 19 of his letter, dated 7th September last. It seems to shew that it would be most short-sighted policy to throw any obstacle in the way of clearing the vast tracts of bamboo jungle which now encumber the ground, while the levy of a tax on firewood would merely harass the people without perceptibly benefiting the revenue.

5. The Government will observe from the postscript to the Collector's letter that there are difficulties in the way of taxing charcoal. Were charcoal chiefly used for smelting, some such plan as charging the furnaces might be adopted, but the Board see no reason why the Irrigation Company should be treated exceptionally if it is determined to tax this article as in Salem.

6. It does not occur to the Board that any further observations are necessary upon Captain Beddome's present proposals. They would draw attention, however, to one point noticed in Mr. Minchin's letter, dated 7th September 1864, paragraphs 4 and 5, and which has not, in their opinion, met with that attention from Captain Beddome which it deserved. If it is the case that "many good logs are left rotting

"on the hills, because they are undersized, though forming parts of trees beyond "the required dimensions," there must be something radically wrong in the working of the Department.

7. The Board must express regret that these papers have not been submitted at an earlier date; through an accident they have been overlooked.

No. 536. ORDER THEREON, 31st July 1865, No. 1,767.

Forests, No. 18.

1. The Government approve and sanction the proposed increase in the Kurnool Forest Establishment, and desire that Captain Beddome will submit the necessary Tabular Statement for transmission to the Superme Government. It is presumed that the current year's Budget provides for the increase of charge involved in the change.

2. The Collector raises certain objections to the changes proposed in the seigniorage list, and observes that the rise in price of timber, on which fact Captain Beddome in some measure bases his proposals, is partly due to the imposition of seigniorage.

3. Captain Beddome desires to bring the rates nearer to an equality with those in operation in Cuddapah, but the Government consider that it is desirable to offer special inducements to timber merchants to work the Nulla Mullay forests, partly because the supply is more extensive by far than exists in Cuddapah, and partly because the cost of taking the Kurnool timber to market must, from the absence of the Railway, be always greater than in the case of the Cuddapah timber.

4. The Government resolve, therefore, to modify Captain Beddome's rates in accordance with the views of the Collector, and direct that the following scale be adopted for the Kurnool District by the Forest Department:—

SEIGNIORAGE LIST.

Teak...	To be strictly reserved, and to be felled only by the Forest Department.
Red Saunders	
Sandal-wood...	
Wild Mango.	Do. for the special reasons stated by the Collector in paragraphs 9 and 10 of his letter of 25th March 1865, in regard to their effect on the water supply of the hills.
Jettigi	Rupees 3 per two bullock bandy load.
Tunki	
Yeggi	
Nalla Maddi...	
Chiriwan	
Billoo	
Ippi	
Goomer Tek	Rupees 2 per two bullock bandy load.
Adivi Ippi	
Yerra Maddi...	
All other timbers to be classed together as jungle-wood	Rupee 1 per do.
Firewood cut for sale ...	—Annas 4 per do.
Charcoal	—Anna 1 per cavadi load of two baskets.

The Government have excluded the bamboo from the seigniorage list, and they desire that Captain Beddome will notify in the Gazettes of all the Districts in

which his Department is working, that the tax on this giant grass has been abolished. The Board will do the same in regard to the Village Jungle Conservancy Rules, and will direct the Collectors to take care that the abolition is thoroughly carried out, and that the abolished tax is not converted into a means of private extortion.

5. The Government have been induced by Mr. Minchin's observations to re-consider this subject, with reference not only to Kurnool but to all the Districts, and they have come to the conclusion that it is not necessary or expedient to continue the tax.

6. The bamboo is wide-spread, very abundant, self-renewed, and in constant universal demand, more especially by the poorer classes.

7. The Forest Department do nothing in the way of conserving it, or of improving the supply.

8. The tax is purely a revenue measure, but the restrictions which the Government have felt compelled of late years to lay on the timber and firewood trade, in the interests of the community, already constitute a very heavy and novel burden on the resources of all classes at a time when the prices of all articles of consumption have greatly risen, and it is on every ground most undesirable to add unnecessarily to the unpopularity of forest laws, which in all ages and countries have been and must be especially odious to the people, however necessary they may be deemed by the Government.

9. But in addition to the above reasons there is the very important consideration brought forward by Mr. Minchin, that the extended clearing of bamboo jungles is almost universally deserving of encouragement, as tending to reduce the unhealthiness of the localities in which the plant abounds and to promote the extension of cultivation, and the Government have, therefore, resolved to free this article of jungle produce from all tax, in the hope that the relief thus afforded to all classes, and mainly to the poorer class, will tend to diminish the unpopularity with which the really necessary restrictions imposed under the conservancy measures must every where be viewed.

10. Captain Beddome will direct the special attention of his subordinates to the necessity of affording a good supply of moderately sized timber, the want of which, as pointed out by the Collector, must be greatly felt.

11. The Ryots will as hitherto be permitted to fell the stunted Billoo trees for agricultural implements without charge.

12. The establishment of the Depôt at Nundial, and the proposals to build a small office and store-room there, with a room for the Overseer, at a cost not to exceed Rupees 500, to be provided from the Forest Budget, are approved and sanctioned, as is also the proposed purchase of four pairs of bullocks for dragging timber, at an estimated cost of not more than Rupees 320.

13. Orders will be issued in the Department Public Works for the preparation of an estimate for the repair of the road from Erunapadoo to the Matticondah, a few miles north of Nundial, for which funds will be provided from the Forest Budget.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Conservator of Forests.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Department Public Works.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Collector of Kurnool.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,874.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th July 1865.

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nundial, 25th March 1865, No. 38:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 18th March 1865, No. 1,556, forwarding for early report proposals of the Officiating Conservator of Forests regarding the Forest Establishment in this District.

2. I beg that the Board will, in disposing of this paper, take into consideration my letter to the Officiating Conservator, dated 7th September 1864, No. 14, copy of which was forwarded to the Board, and which contains my views on the subject of the Forest Conservancy in this District.

3. The revised seigniorage list adds four to the number of reserved timbers, doubles the rate on three kinds, and increases by half the rate on three others of those most in request.

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8. The other alterations in the revised lists bring into one or other of the classes of reserved timber, trees, the felling of which has been hitherto prohibited without special sanction, and I am inclined to think that this prohibition, at least as regards the mango, should not be relaxed.

9. These trees generally grow in the Forests on the few spots where water is found, and their destruction might possibly injuriously affect the very limited water supply of those hills.

10. For this reason, and not for the value of the timber, I would transfer the mango from the 4th to the 1st of Captain Beddome's classes.

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12. At present the only effect of charging a seigniorage on firewood cut for sale, will be to bring under the surveillance of the Conservancy Peons, all parties removing it for their own use, according to the communal rights possessed by them, and which it is not proposed to interfere with. The Forest revenue will gain but little by the measure. Conservancy will be in no way benefited, but an opening will be made for much additional harass to the people.

13. The same objections apply with greater force to the proposed seigniorage on bamboos when exported from the District. This also is not a conservancy, but a revenue measure. In my opinion the clearing of bamboos from the jungles at the foot of the hills should be encouraged in every way. The sooner these unhealthy jungles are re-placed by cultivation, the better for the District and the Government.

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18. I am glad to find that the department is about to fell timber through its own officers. The dimensions of timber now permitted to be felled cause the greatest inconvenience to the people. The want of medium sized posts for the construction of their houses is much felt, and while the hills are covered with stunted trees suitable for the purpose, and which will never grow larger, the rules of the Department prevent their being made use of in any way.

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20. Any attempt to fell and remove the larger trees will, I think, result in failure; as I doubt the department being able to remove large timber (unless with special appliances such as elephants,) as economically as it is effected by the trade.

21. I do not know whether any remarks are called for upon paragraph 3 of Captain Beddome's letter. It is natural for every Special Department to entertain such views as Captain Beddome seems to share with his Sub-Assistant, and to think that rigorous severity of punishment is the best preventative of a breach of a special law. It is such views which render it absolutely essential that the Forest Conservancy should work in subordination to the Revenue authorities of a District.

No. 6,516.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th October 1864.

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, Ootacamund, dated Billakal, 7th September 1864, No. 14 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th August, No. 1,005, on the Forest Conservancy of this District, and, as requested by you, beg to offer a few remarks on the system now in force. I make no pretensions to any special knowledge on your Department; but it appears to me that the system, as worked in this District, tends chiefly to the collection of a large Forest revenue; while the rule as to the size of timber permitted to be cut works injuriously in preventing the felling of the stunted, but full grown trees, which form the greater portion of these forests.

2. I must acknowledge that it is far more easy to criticize, than to suggest a remedy for this difficulty; but a system must be faulty which prevents the felling of full grown trees, as the most economical manner of stopping the destruction of saplings.

3. Under the license and voucher system, the whole Police of the forests is carried on outside them; the establishment is too small to penetrate the forests, and is employed therefore in watching the outlets, to stop timber for which no license is forthcoming, or which is undersized.

4. In the matter of undersized timber much injustice is frequently committed. The tree chiefly felled in this District is the Nalla Maddi, which grows to a great height; and as only buffaloes are used to remove the timber, a whole tree cannot be removed by one pair, is cut into several lengths, and the upper portions would frequently be much undersized, although the tree itself was more than three feet in circumference.

5. In this District Rule 5 is enforced by measurement of the logs being removed from the forest, and many good logs are left rotting on the hills, because they are undersized, though forming part of trees beyond the required dimensions.

6. There being no roads through the hills, and the timber being dragged by buffaloes through almost impassable tracks, the removal of timber of really large dimensions is impossible, and the finest trees are obliged to be passed over by the wood cutters if their position is at all inaccessible. As a general rule, and on this account, the finest timber will be found in places where it cannot be made use of. On the slopes of the hills overhanging the low country, the Nalla Maddi seldom grows to the required dimensions, and vast tracts of it, in the places where it might be most easily worked, are shut out from the wood cutters and the merchants who employ them.

7. I am convinced that, in this District, Rule 5 should be altered, and a circumference of two feet be made the limit under which trees should not be felled. The conservation of saplings would be equally guarded, the Forest revenue would be increased, and the timber merchants would be much assisted in the development of their trade.

8. I am not aware of any real advantage to the Forest Conservancy under the present system, by requiring parties to take out a license, after paying the seigniorage to the Tahsildar. The grant of the license is a mere form, but the necessity of going through it, and restriction of time, throw great obstacles in the way of timber merchants, and, I need hardly say, place them entirely in the power of the Sub-Assistant Conservator.

9. I do not see that the system throws the slightest obstacle in the way of smuggling without payment of seigniorage, nor in what way it can assist true conservancy, which is at present only attempted to be maintained by the rule regarding the dimensions of timber. The idea I suppose is for the person who grants the license, to be able to restrict felling in any particular tract of jungle; but this could be equally effected by a general order, as no one would fell

timber in a part of the hills from which they would not be permitted to remove it, and transit of timber within the hills to another locality is quite impracticable.

10. The double system of voucher and license appears to me to have no effect but to hamper the timber trade, and I believe all now effected would be attained by considering the voucher of payment as license for felling, the Forest Department, as now, being employed in watching the Forest outlets, and stopping and reporting for confiscation all timber removed in contravention of the rules.

11. The Sub-Assistant Conservator should then be employed chiefly in exploring the forests, fixing such tracts as should for a time be nursed by the stopping of all felling, and making himself acquainted with the resources of the locality. His time is spent at present in going through the idle form of issuing licenses in the place of vouchers.

12. I am not aware what object is gained by placing restrictions as to the time within which felling is permitted; it is probably done to prevent smuggling on old licenses, and if of any real advantage, might be equally enforced as regards the licenses to be granted by Tahsildars on payment of seigniorage.

13. I would advocate therefore the following relaxations of the present system :—

First.—The dimensions of trees allowed to be felled, especially the Nalla Maddi, to be reduced to two feet in circumference.

Second.—Tahsildars to issue licenses on receipt of seigniorage.

Third.—The Sub-Assistant Conservator to have the power to forbid the removal of any, or all the reserved timbers from any tract of the forest, by giving due notice to the Collector, and time being allowed for timber merchants to work out existing licenses.

14. I believe that by this last rule, more real conservancy, with less personal harass, would be effected than under the present double system.

15. In paragraph 3 of your letter under reply, you allude to the opposition shown to your Department by the rich Ryots generally, which you attribute to the stoppage of their former gains. A system which places so large a power of obstruction in the hands of one individual must necessarily be unpopular with those engaged in the timber trade, and this unpopularity the Department gains without any advantage to conservancy that I can perceive.

16. It must be remembered that the more the Assistant Conservator performs his duty by exploring the forests, the more difficult is he of access, and the greater obstruction is caused by requiring every one to procure a license from him, before being permitted to fell timber. It is idle to suppose that the granting of the license is in any case other than a mere form.

17. You ask my opinion on the advisability of your Department taking over the entire working of these forests. There is no doubt that in this way only perfect conservancy can be attained, but the operations will be very expensive, and consequently in all probability not so remunerative as the license system. It would be necessary, as you remark, to make roads, which in these hills, with no resident population, would be most costly. It would also be necessary to introduce the use of elephants at present unknown in these parts, as thus only could the really fine timber, in the deep gorges of the hills, now never touched, be by any possibility removed. Considering the expenditure that all this would involve, and the fact that really fine timber is to be found only scattered here and there through these forests, I doubt the advisability of attempting the experiment.

18. There is only one more point on which I would add a few remarks. I think that in this District the bamboo should not be included in the Conservancy rules. At present bamboos may be removed by the Ryots for agricultural purposes, and by the wandering tribes who work it into baskets, &c, as a means of livelihood. It is only taxed when taken from the forests by the cart load for sale. The bamboo is never cut on the hills, and every facility should be offered for it being cleared away from the jungles skirting the hills in the low country. It is solely to the cultivation of this land that Government can look for any return for the large outlay of guaranteed capital by the Irrigation Company, and to attempt to preserve this land as a bamboo forest, is an utterly mistaken policy.

19. The revenue obtainable by the taxation on felling bamboos under the present system is very trifling, and ought to be entirely abandoned. The taxation of the bamboo can be regarded only as a means of enhancing the Forest revenue, as no one would think of conserving the growth of this giant grass, which in this District, on the hills alone, extends over about two thousand square miles of country. Its existence is probably injurious to the growth of valuable timber trees.

20. In the remarks that I have made on the unpopular and in my opinion injudicious powers of obstruction, placed by the present system in the hands of the Sub-Assistant Conservator, I must be understood as casting no reflections on the officer now holding that post. Mr. Turnbull has been but a short time in the District, but appears to be a zealous and painstaking servant of the Department.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. I. MINCHIN,
Collector.

To the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, for information.

Recorded.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

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

Exd J. Wright.

Revenue Department

Re-1767.

Proceedings of the Government under date the 31st July 1865=

Read again the letter from the officiating Conservator of Forests dated 28th January 1865 in Govt No: dated 17th February 1865, No 357 R.D.=

Read also the following=

Submitting with an enclosure letter from Collector of Kurnool expressing apprehension of the effect of Mr Brandis's proposed scheme of Forest Conservancy in that district=

(Above entry 10th July 1865, No 3874)

The Govt approve and sanction the proposed increase in the Establishment of Forest Establishment and desire that Captain Beddome will submit the necessary Tabular statement for the transmission to the Supreme Govt= If not transmitted that Govt= If not transmitted that the annual yearly Budget provided for the ensuing

Endorsement on the Back of the Board's Proceedings to the Govt of Fort St. George No. D dated 10 July 1865 No. 3874.

1864. Department.

Rev=1920/66

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 4st October 1864.

No. 6,516.

Recording letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests at Ootacamund suggesting certain modification in the Forest Conservancy system at present in force in the Kurnool District.

of charge involved in the change.-

The Collector raises certain objections to the changes proposed in the Seignorage bill and observes that the rise in price of timber, on which Captain Beddome in some measure bases his proposals is partly due to the imposition of Seignorage.-

Captain Beddome desires to bring the rates nearer to an equality with those in operation in Cuddapah but the Govt consider that it is desirable to offer special inducements to timber merchants to work the mulla mullay forests partly because the supply is more extensive by far than exists in Cuddapah and partly because the cost of taking the Kurnool timber to market must from the absence of the Railway be always greater than in the case of the Cuddapah timber.-

The Govt resolve therefore to modify Captain Beddome's rates in accordance with the views of the Collector and direct that the following scale be adopted for the Kurnool District by the Forest Department.-

Seignorage List.-

Teak.	To be strictly reserved - and
Red Saunders.	to be felled only by the Forest
Sandal-wood.	Department.-
Wild Mango.	Do for the special reasons stated by the Collr in para 9-10 of his letter of 25th March 1865 in regard to their effect on the water supply of the Hills.-
Jetteji.	
Tuniki.	
Yeggi.	
Nalla Maddi.	
Chirimau.	Rd 3 per 2 Bullock Cart Bandy load.-
Billoo.	
Iffi.	
Coomer Tek.	
Adivi Iffi.	Rd 2 per do.
Yerra Maddi.	
All other timbers to be classed together as Jungle wood.-	Rupee 1 per do.
Firewood cut for sale.-	Annas 4 per do.
Charcoal.	Anna 1 per Cavaddi load of 2 Baskets.-

The

The Govt have excluded the Bamboo from the sleiguage list - and they desire that Captain Beddome will notify in the Gazettes of all the Districts in which his Deptt is working that the tax on this giant grass has been abolished - The Board will do the same in regard to the Village Jungle Conservancy rules, and will direct the Collectors to take care that the abolition is thoroughly carried out - and that the abolished tax is not converted into a means of private extortion -

The Govt have been induced by Mr Meuchin's observations to reconsider this subject with reference not only to Kurnool but to all the districts, & they have come to the conclusion that it is not necessary or expedient to continue the tax -

The Bamboo is wide spread - very abundant - even self

self renewed - and in constant universal demand more especially by the poor classes -

The Forest Deptt can do nothing in the way of conserving it - or of improving the supply -

The tax is purely a revenue measure - but the restrictions which the Govt have felt compelled of late years to lay on the timber & firewood trade, in the interests of the community, already constitute a very heavy and novel burden on the resources of all classes at a time when the prices of all articles of consumption have greatly risen, & it is on every ground most undesirable to add unnecessarily to the unpopularity of Forest laws which in all ages and countries have been and must be especially odious to the people - however necessary they may be

be allowed by the Govt.-

But in addition to the above reasons there is the very important consideration brought forward by Mr. Minchin that the extended clearing of Bamboo jungles is almost universally deserving of encouragement as tending to reduce the unhealthiness of the localities in which the plant abounds and to promote the extension of cultivation - and the Govt. have therefore resolved to free this article of jungle produce from all taxe in the hope that the relief thus afforded to all classes and mainly to the poorer class - will tend to diminish the unpopularity with which the really necessary restrictions imposed under the Conservancy measures must every where be viewed.-

Captain Beddome will direct the special attention

attention of his subordinates to the necessity of affording a good supply of moderately sized timber the want of which as pointed out by the Collr must be greatly felt.-

The Ryots will as hitherto be permitted to fell the stunted Billo trees for agricultural implements without charge.-

The establishment of the depôt at Nundial - & the proposals to build a small office and store room there with a room for the overseer at a cost not to exceed Rs 500 to be provided from the forest Budget are approved and sanctioned - as is also the proposed purchase of four pairs of Bullocks for dragging timber at an estimated cost of not more than Rs 320.-

Orders will be issued in the Septh Public Works for the preparation of

of the Letters for the
Office of the Board
Forwarded to the Post
Bondeb a few miles north
of Ruddeb for which Place
will be provided from the
Forest Rutock

4 Copies to the Offs Comrs of Forests Supt
1 Supt
14 — Bs of Revs
21 — D.P.W.
6 — Accts Genl
1 Collr of Rumool

Pro. No. 345-346
17-2-65

Madras, the
31st July 1865.

From the Offg Conservator of Forests
No 75 dated 6 Augt 65 Rect No 2384
to Board of Revenue dated
5th September 65 C No 2611
From the Conservator of Forests
No 23 April 66 C No 1173.

Sanctioning the proposed
increase to the Firewood
Establishment
Requesting the Conser-
vator of Forests to Sub-
mit a Tabular Statement