M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1976 — Press Mis.

405. 406

Dated 24 - 8 - 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th August 1865.

No. 405. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th July 1865, No. 3,910.

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 8th May 1865, No. 73:—

SIR,

You are aware that the Sholas on these hills have of late years been extensively cut down, especially in the vicinity of the large stations. It, therefore, becomes a matter of importance, that encouragement should be held out to induce people to form plantations. Without discussing the question whether trees tend to maintain the flow of water from springs, there can be no doubt, that they assist to maintain the moisture of the underground, and to keep the rain that falls from flowing off the face of the country as quickly as it would do if there were no trees. High floods in the rivers are thus prevented, and the freshes, which would otherwise subside in a comparatively short time, are maintained for a lengthened period, a point of no small importance with reference to the irrigation in the low country. It is a notorious fact that in some of the countries of Scotland, since the improvement and drainage of extensive moors, floods are more frequent, but of less duration than they were formerly. The felling of the forests on the hill ranges tends to a considerable extent to drain them, and the results in this part of the world are sure to correspond with what has taken place elsewhere. In view, therefore, to check the evil to some extent, I beg to propose that the Collector be authorized to remit the assessment, on lands planted with trees for seven years, as it is supposed that the plantations will at the end of that period begin to yield some return. The remission should only be allowed after the land has been regularly planted out and fenced in, or otherwise sufficiently protected. If in the interim the plantation is neglected, the assessment should be re-imposed. The remission of assessment should not, I think, be extended to plantations under 5 Acres in extent. Another question which I beg to place before the Board for their favorable consideration, is the granting on Puttah to natives small lots of land, say 2 Acres each, for the purpose of growing potatoes. If this is permitted, I think that many natives would settle on the hills, and thus form a resident laboring population, the want of which is at present much felt and complained of on all sides. At present if a native wishes to acquire a small piece of land he can only do so under the waste land rules, and this he will not take the trouble to do; the idea of having to pay the cost of survey and demarcation is sufficient to deter him from applying.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. In their Order noted in the margin, the Government were pleased to rule that in future all lands on the Neilgherry Hills should be disposed of under the Rules for the sale of waste land published under Orders of Government, and dated 6th March 1863, No. 478A only, but the Board do not understand that it was the intention of Government by this Order to render the tope rules inapplicable to the

1st July 1864, No, 1,132.

Neilgherry Hills. The Orders of Government on this point will, however, now be solicited. It seems to the Board that the assessment payable for land obtained under the rules might well be remitted for a certain period when it is devoted to plantations, as is the case, under the tope rules, in all other Districts.

3. The Board are unable to support Mr. Grant's further proposition that small patches of land should be given to Natives on special terms, in order to induce them to settle on the Hills. The rules referred to in the preceding paragraph are sufficiently liberal, and it is competent to any one to purchase small portions of land under their provision, should they desire to do so.

No. 406. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1865, No. 1,976.

Land Revenue.

1. The Government authorize the Board to apply the Tope Rules to the Neilgherries to the extent proposed by the Collector, viz., that the assessment shall be remitted for seven years on land taken up and actually devoted to firewood or timber planting in blocks not less than five Acres in extent, on the condition that the remission shall not begin to operate until the ground has been planted and fenced, and that it will be withdrawn if the plantation is not properly maintained.

2. It must, however, be a condition that the land is not required by the Forest Department, or by any other applicant for Coffee, Tea or Cinchona planting under the waste land rules.

3. The Collector will submit copy of the Notification he proposes to issue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 3,910.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th July 1865.

Read the following letter from P. GRANT, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 8th May 1865, No. 73 :—

You are aware that the Sholas on these hills have of late years been extensively cut down, especially in the vicinity of the large stations. It, therefore, becomes a matter of importance, that encouragement should be held out to induce people to form plantations. Without discussing the question whether trees tend to maintain the flow of water from springs, there can be no doubt, that they assist to maintain the moisture of the underground, and to keep the rain that falls from flowing off the face of the country as quickly as it would do if there were no trees. High floods in the rivers are thus prevented, and the freshes, which would otherwise subside in a comparatively short time, are maintained for a lengthened period, a point of no small importance with reference to the irrigation in the low country. It is a notorious fact that in some of the countries of Scotland, since the improvement and drainage of extensive moors, floods are more frequent, but of less duration than they were formerly. The felling of the forests on the hill ranges tends to a considerable extent to drain them, and the results in this part of the world are sure to correspond with what has taken place elsewhere. In view, therefore, to check the evil to some extent, I beg to propose that the Collector be authorized to remit the assessment, on lands planted with trees for seven years, as it is supposed that the plantations will at the end of that period begin to yield some return. The remission should only be allowed after the land has been regularly planted out and fenced in, or otherwise sufficiently protected. If in the interim the plantation is neglected, the assessment should be re-imposed. The remission of assessment should not, I think, be extended to plantations under 5 Acres in extent. Another question which I beg to place before the Board for their favorable consideration, is the granting on Puttah to natives small lots of land, say 2 Acres each, for the purpose of growing potatoes. If this is permitted, I think that many natives would settle on the hills, and thus form a resident laboring population, the want of which is at present much felt and complained of on all sides. At present if a native wishes to acquire a small piece of land he can only do so under the waste land rules, and this he will not take the trouble to do; the idea of having to pay the cost of survey and demarcation is sufficient to deter him from applying.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted for the consideration and orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. In their Order noted in the margin, the Government were pleased to rule that in future all lands on the Neilgherry Hills should be disposed of under the Rules for the sale of waste land published under Orders of Government, and dated 6th March 1863, No. 478A only, but the Board do not understand that it was the intention of Government by this Order to render the tope rules inapplicable to the Neilgherry Hills. The orders of Government on this point will, however, now be solicited. It seems to the Board that the assessment payable for land obtained under the rules might well be remitted for a certain period when it is devoted to plantations, as is the case, under the tope rules, in all other Districts.

1st July 1864, No. 1,132.

3. The Board are unable to support Mr. Grant's further proposition that small patches of land should be given to natives on special terms, in order to induce them to settle on the Hills. The rules referred to in the preceding paragraph are sufficiently liberal, and it is competent to any one to purchase small portions of land under their provision, should they desire to do so.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

R. A. Dalyell

Acting Secretary.

To W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to P. Grant, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro. 11th July/65 N 23824
6th March/63 N 1065 & 1067.

Rev. 1865. Department

Proceedings for August

No. 1915

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 11th July 1865.

Despd 15 do

Rect 15 do

S. O. dt 19th 26th Augt

No 3,910.

Submitting for consideration and orders letter from Collector of Coimbatore proposing to remit assessment on lands on Neilgherries planted with trees for seven years.

No 1105

C. 22 July/65

I move the "For Orders" as I cannot but think of the instructions of Govt in G.O. of 1 July/65. valid. I should suppose that it was intended to lay down a rule absolute. In para 9. of G.O. of 22 Sept/62 the Govt lay that the rates fixed for Inferior Lands (those second class) will not interfere with the three years of the rent rules for the sale of waste lands. And in G.O. of 1 July/65 it is said for very reasonable reasons that the rules & that the same be more liberal & therefore being [illegible]

There is much land on the hills that will grow fine wood but is valueless for almost any other purpose. I think that the Govt proposal might be adopted with precautions that valuable lands should not be given for this purpose. It is very desirable to encourage the growth of timber by all reasonable means. L.B.

Revenue Department.

No. 1976

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 24th August 1865.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Submitting for consideration and order a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore proposing to permit advances of Government on lands on the Nellycherry planted with Coffee for seven years.—

(Received 11th July 1865 No. 3910)

The Government authorize the Board to apply the Toda Rules to the Nellycherries to the extent proposed by the Collector viz: that the assessment shall be remitted for seven years on land taken up and actually devoted to firewood or timber planting in blocks not less than 5 acres in extent subject to the condition that

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Shown in Statement No. 1 of Appendix to Mr. Phillips' report on Coffee Cultivation for 1865.

being a holder on the 1st Oct. of the ryot, and or under-tenant, by which land on the Government is allowed to be occupied rent free for a term of seven years, for conversion into "Topes." Grants of the Land once made, passed or not according to the means of the grantee in the direction for the grant was made; they are seldom looked after, the Collector knows little or nothing about them after the order to take up for "Topes" has left his Cutcherry and on Peppermint-cultivation "Topes" Topes, at the close of the period of exemption from assessment allowed, would not-ordinarily-found. Here Topes there might be—

Hopefully, the grantee presumes may enable him the better-to look after the purposes made in the grant which he may give. Land rather dreaded in the found, but as something wanted to hopefully what is required to be done by the may be well to give his grant a further [illegible]

that the remission shall
not begin to operate
until the ground has
been planted and fenced
and that it will be
withdrawn if the
plantation is not pro-
perly maintained.

It must however
be a condition that the
land is not required by
the Forest Department
or by any other appli-
cant for Coffee
Tea or Cinchona planting
under the waste land
rules.

The Collector
will submit copy of the
notification he proposes
to issue.

14 To the Board of Revenue Mysore Coorg
& the Collector of Coimbatore

Revenue 1865 Departt

Proof Govt for August 6

No 1970

Proof the Madras Govt

Dd 24th August 1865

From Colls of Coimbatore

No 716 Septr 1865 Encl 2645

Sanctioning the Application of the Toperules on the Neilgherries on certain Conditions -

No 1054 & 406