

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	215	Press
		~~Mis.~~
77-78		
Dated	4 - 2 - 1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th February 1865.*

No. 77. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th September 1864, No. 6,297.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 4th May and 27th May 1864, Nos. 2,696 and 3,232.

Read also the following letter from the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sankaridrug, 2nd August 1864, No. 138:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 27th May 1864, No. 3,232, communicating a letter from the Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 12th May 1864, and calling for remarks thereon.

2. With regard to paragraph 2 of the Conservator's letter, I have to state that I was never consulted by the Assistant Conservator of Forests on any point whatever connected with his Department, nor was I aware that any orders had been issued by Captain Beddome to that effect on the contrary I had some difficulty in preventing the Assistant Conservator from perpetrating some most outrageously illegal acts, such as seizing and confiscating timber when being conveyed along the high road from jungles belonging to Zemindars and others whose passes or certificates were produced by the bandymen.

3. I beg particularly to call the Board's attention to the latter part of paragraph 3, and the first part of paragraph 5 of the Conservator's letter. In the first place I have to observe that charcoal is used and used almost exclusively by the very poorest of the people, viz., by the iron smelters and chunam burners. The quantity of wood felled by the Railway Company would more than suffice to keep all the furnaces in the District at work, and yet the Conservator as it were complains in paragraph 5 of the felling for charcoal burning, while in paragraph 3, he says, "it is in no way desirable to reserve the scrub" which is used in enormous quantities by the Railway Company. The Conservator gives no reason for it not being desirable to reserve this scrub, but I think it may be discerned from the last words of the paragraph. The fact is that in a few years there will be no firewood left within many miles of the railway if the present consumption continues.

4. With regard to paragraph 6, I beg to enclose copy of a letter received from my Sub-Collector, from which it will be seen (at paragraph 5) that the Forest Conservancy Peons have great powers of annoyance, and that they do interfere with the Ryots taking firewood, &c., for their own use, especially when the jungle is not within the limits of their own village.

5. In paragraph 9, the Conservator observes that I never intimated to him that the Department was not in good working order, and that the Officer in charge did not work under my advice and orders. I have only to say, in reply, that I gave no advice or orders because the one was never asked, nor had I any reason to suppose that my orders would be obeyed. I certainly met the Conservator last September, but it was on a subsequent occasion that most of the complaints against the Department reached me.

6. The mischief done by charcoal burners in jungles is greatly over-rated. They wander over a great extent of jungle because dry wood serves their purpose best; green wood is useless for months after being cut, nor does it pay them to cut down large trees for charcoal; but, whatever be the damage they commit, a tax cannot be looked on as a remedy; although it is evidently so considered by the Forest Conservancy, and Mr. Borradaile in his letter to the Conservator (given in the Board's Proceedings) paragraph 2, expressly states, "With a view of staying indiscriminate destruction, &c., I have now to propose the levying of a tax upon charcoal," and at the end of the same paragraph, he coolly contemplates the total destruction of all the Forests in the District.

7. In paragraph 2 of this letter, I mentioned the illegal seizing and selling of timber by the Conservancy Department. I enclose correspondence (marked 2 and 3) from which the Board will observe the gross injustice the people are liable to suffer, and this is not a solitary instance, for in many cases the Magistracy have had to interfere.

8. The Forest Conservancy rule, which requires all wood to be removed within three months, has given rise to great discontent. A man pays for 50 bandy loads of timber, he gives the license

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th February 1865.*

to a gang of wood cutters who receive advance and agree to remove the wood within the prescribed time. They fail to do so, perhaps rain or fever may have prevented, and the unfortunate man hears that the wood which he had paid for, has been seized and sold. This is a circumstance of every day occurrence, and I believe nearly all the timber mentioned by Mr. Hall (in his letter copy enclosed) as having been sold in 1863, was obtained in this if not in a more unfair way.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Sub-Collector of Salem, to the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT,
Collector of Salem, dated Usur, 22nd March 1864, No. 56.

1. I have the honor to enclose an original letter with enclosure (to be returned at your convenience) from the Assistant Conservator of Forests.
2. I see no ground for concluding with Captain Borradaile that the opinion expressed by the Officiating Conservator of Forests is also the Order of Government. I imagine that Ryots have a right to fell any tree in their own land whether it be sandal-wood or not, and whether planted by themselves or not unless they have received the land on some special written agreement to the contrary.
3. Land served as forest should not be given on Puttah it is true, but that is quite a different question.
4. In this particular case I have ordered the sandal-wood to be returned to the landowner; but if you agree with me, perhaps you may think well to inform the Assistant Conservator so with a view to his regulating his future confiscations accordingly.
5. There are many villages in which there is not a stick of any sort. These villages have, I presume, an equal right with other villagers to go to the nearest jungle to cut certain sorts of wood for fire-wood, ploughs, and building their own houses, but if found so cutting in a distant jungle they are not known and their wood is confiscated. I have therefore in two or three cases ordered them to apply to the head of their village for a certificate that they are Ryots of his village cutting wood for a plough or a house, whichever it may be, and to go armed with that certificate. Have you any objection to this course?
6. In conclusion I may mention that wherever I go in my Division I am met by one general complaint from all the Ryots that the privilege conceded them by the Government of cutting fire-wood, ploughs, and house-building wood is not conceded to them by the Conservancy Department, but their wood invariably seized and confiscated. I have given the complaining Ryots repeated endorsements explaining to them how their rights extend, but they are none the less overawed by the Conservancy Peons.
7. I have embodied this last paragraph in a letter to the Assistant Conservator, and I would take the liberty to suggest if you think well that a copy of the Conservancy rules, together with a list of the trees to which for village purposes the villagers have a right be drawn up and printed on a separate sheet and sent to all heads of Kares for the better information of the Ryots.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, to the Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, dated 4th April 1864, No. 6.

I have the honor to forward a petition (to be returned) presented by Wodda Chinnabazee, complaining that he paid to Thanapa Padayachi, Mootadar of Checkediputti, Rupees 5, being seigniorage for five bandy loads of timber in the Mootadar's forest, and that the five bandy loads of timber when taken to his village were seized by a Pygust of your Department near Cariputti taking at the same time from the Wodden the passport granted to him by the said Mootadar.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th February 1865.*

	RS.	A.	P.
4 Karoonkalipar	7	8	0
2 Nummalmarums	7	0	0
1 Achamarum	12	0	0
9 Coochmus	12	8	0
Total... ..	39	0	0

The Tahsildar of Attur reports that the value* of the confiscated timber is about 39 Rupees, and the same has since been sold by your Department at public auction. I therefore request you will be good enough to inform me of the circumstance that led to the timber being

confiscated and sold while it was protected by the Mootadar's pass.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From E. H. HALL, Esq., Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, Salem, to the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, dated 9th April 1864, No. 79.

In reply to your letter, No. 6, dated 4th April 1864, I have the honor to state that there was a large quantity of wood sold at public auction in July 1863. Wodda Chinnabazee did not take early measures to arrest the sale of his wood, or given information to the Forest Department that he had complained against the Pygust and Peon. The Pygust is convicted for dishonesty, and the Peon is dismissed. I am therefore unable to give you the information required. I herewith enclose Wodda Chinnabazee's petition.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector.

1. The Board resolve to submit the above correspondence for the consideration and orders of Government, because although the minor points in issue might be settled in communication with the Acting Conservator of Forests and the Collector, still there are some important questions of principle involved which the Board consider deserving of the serious consideration of Government.
2. The first is to what extent shall the system of allowing the Railway Company from considerations of economy in the use of coal and coke, to procure the immense quantity of fuel they consume from the jungles, be permitted to proceed.
3. Irrespective of other serious objections to the use of wood fuel on the Railway, which have been recently exemplified in the burning down of an entire village, the Board share the Collector's apprehensions that permanent injury will result to the community from this wholesale destruction of wood.
4. The second question is how far the pressure in the Forest Department really affects the object intended, viz., the conservancy of the invaluable stores of fuel and timber which the jungles ought to afford.
5. The Board have for some time remarked with serious concern that the increase of revenue from the operations of the Department appears to be deemed the first, if not the sole object worthy of attention, and they greatly fear that not only have restrictions been imposed on the people beyond what is reasonable or necessary for purposes of conservancy, but also that the necessity of maintaining the store of wood by planting to the utmost extent, to re-place what has been removed, has been allowed to pass almost if not altogether out of sight in most localities.

No. 78.

ORDER THEREON, 4th February 1865, No. 215.

Forests, No. 6.

1. The concurrent testimony of the Collector and Sub-Collector leave the Government no room to doubt that the Conservancy Rules have been worked with undue rigor, and that notwithstanding Captain Beddome's instructions, his Assistant, Captain Borradaile, did not consult the Collector as he should have done.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th February 1865.*

No. 2,696.

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

Read the following letter from the Collector of Salem, dated 28th April 1864, No. 73 :—

1. Impressed with a sense of the importance of the subject, I beg to call the Board's attention to the following remarks on the working of the Forest Conservancy in this District.

2. I propose to confine my remarks to the following heads :—

- I. The tax on firewood.
- II. The tax on charcoal and its effects.
- III. The want of control over the subordinates of the department.
- IV. The mistaken ideas under which the Conservancy is carried on.
- V. The large amount of work thrown on the Revenue officers by the Conservancy Department.

3.—I. This tax was first introduced in 1860, and a more unpopular one does not exist.

6 Annas per bandy load.

Although the tax itself does not appear excessive, the unequal way in which it operates, and the

opportunity it gives of constant petty annoyance and interference is most galling to the poorer classes of the people. It has been laid down again and again by Government that the immemorial right of the Ryots to firewood for their own use is to be respected, but by the rules villagers cannot cut firewood except within the limits of their respective villages; and if there be no jungle within their limits they must pay the tax. But as it would not pay the Conservancy to have peons to collect firewood in small villages, the tax is only collected at the larger ones. Thus some Ryots pay whilst others altogether escape the tax. But even where the tax is imposed there is no real conservancy, the object of the department being not to conserve wood, but to bring the largest quantity of wood to the best market, and an example of this is at hand in the enormous quantity of firewood bought by the Railway Company in this District, amounting in 1863 to nearly 6,000 tons, and a large portion of this wood has been cut within twelve miles of Salem.

4.—II. To the tax on firewood has lately been added the tax* on charcoal, apparently

* One Anna per basket.

small in amount, but effecting nevertheless considerable results. This tax was first imposed about a year ago in defiance of my remonstrances. Since then iron in the Taluks noted marginally, has risen 75 per cent. in price and about 50 per cent. of the iron founders have

Salem.
Attur.

Namkul.
Trichengode.

abandoned their furnaces; and so scarce has iron become that gentlemen in Salem, who knew nothing of the cause, have lately complained to me that they could not get their horses shod because there was no iron to be had.

5.—III. In this District there is usually a Commissioned officer at the head of the department with two Overseers, one at Hurroor and one at Denkensotta. Peons are posted on every road leading from a jungle on which a bandy could travel, and others are distributed through the jungle villages without a single control or check on their actions, except that afforded by their own consciences. With the Overseer twenty or thirty miles off, and the local head of the department still farther with almost unlimited powers of interference and annoyance and only 7 Rupees pay, the result is easily guessed, and until these men are under proper control there will be no Conservancy of forests or safety to the Ryots from exactions.

6.—IV. After what has been already stated the Board will perceive that Conservancy in its proper sense does not exist at all. The department seems so imbued with the idea that money is their only legitimate object, that I believe the District would be left utterly bare to-morrow provided any one could be found able and willing to buy every tree in it.

2. The Government request that Captain Beddome will take an early opportunity of conferring personally with the Collector on the subject of the District Conservancy, and remedying the evils complained of.

3. The Government direct that the Ryots of villages destitute of firewood be permitted to cut it free of charge for their own use (not for sale) in adjacent jungles fixed by the Collector. This has been the immemorial usage of the country, and such prescriptive rights, while guarded from abuse, must be scrupulously respected. The taxation of timber felled for the manufacture of charcoal is perfectly legitimate.

4. The Government observe that the Railway Company pay the same charge for firewood as the public, and this being the case the only measures which can properly be adopted are to restrict felling where the supply of firewood is running short, and to re-plant the denuded tracts so far as may be advisable. No measures can be taken as regards the Railway Company which would not be taken under similar circumstances against the public.

5. The planting of firewood by the Forest Department is a question of some difficulty. It would never answer for the Government to undertake this obligation generally, and their operations would only deter the people from planting on their own account. But in particular localities the Department may, with advantage and propriety, re-plant the jungle as it is felled; the operation would be comparatively inexpensive, and a store of firewood for future years be thus maintained. As a general rule however, the growing of mere firewood had better be left to the people. The Jungle Conservancy Fund, regarding which the Collector of Salem is silent, is, the Government presume, applied in restoring the Government jungles which are not under regular conservancy. As regards large Timber which require many years to come to maturity, the Government consider that the re-planting of denuded tracts should be undertaken by the Forest Department as a branch of their conservancy of such tracts. Captain Beddome will state what his Department has done of late years in the way of restoring the Forest tracts of Salem and other Districts.

6. The Government will be prepared to sanction a Writer for Forest work in the Salem Taluk.

7. The exactions of the Conservancy Peons must be effectually repressed, and all delinquents should be criminally prosecuted. With the aid of the Police and Revenue Establishments there ought to be no difficulty in putting a stop to any thing like general oppression or exaction.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Under Secretary to Government.

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

Exd, R. H. Lee.

4.

Number of vouchers and tickets issued

Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLE

of 5.1

D **E** **F**

364.

P

Da

E

PR
Date
22

100
 101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
 109
 110
 111
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
 117
 118
 119
 120
 121
 122
 123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 146
 147
 148
 149
 150
 151
 152
 153
 154
 155
 156
 157
 158
 159
 160
 161
 162
 163
 164
 165
 166
 167
 168
 169
 170
 171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200
 201
 202
 203
 204
 205
 206
 207
 208
 209
 210
 211
 212
 213
 214
 215
 216
 217
 218
 219
 220
 221
 222
 223
 224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231
 232
 233
 234
 235
 236
 237
 238
 239
 240
 241
 242
 243
 244
 245
 246
 247
 248
 249
 250
 251
 252
 253
 254
 255
 256
 257
 258
 259
 260
 261
 262
 263
 264
 265
 266
 267
 268
 269
 270
 271
 272
 273
 274
 275
 276
 277
 278
 279
 280
 281
 282
 283
 284
 285
 286
 287
 288
 289
 290
 291
 292
 293
 294
 295
 296
 297
 298
 299
 300
 301
 302
 303
 304
 305
 306
 307
 308
 309
 310
 311
 312
 313
 314
 315
 316
 317
 318
 319
 320
 321
 322
 323
 324
 325
 326
 327
 328
 329
 330
 331
 332
 333
 334
 335
 336
 337
 338
 339
 340
 341
 342
 343
 344
 345
 346
 347
 348
 349
 350
 351
 352
 353
 354
 355
 356
 357
 358
 359
 360
 361
 362
 363
 364
 365
 366
 367
 368
 369
 370
 371
 372
 373
 374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381
 382
 383
 384
 385
 386
 387
 388
 389
 390
 391
 392
 393
 394
 395
 396
 397
 398
 399
 400
 401
 402
 403
 404
 405
 406
 407
 408
 409
 410
 411
 412
 413
 414
 415
 416
 417
 418
 419
 420
 421
 422
 423
 424
 425
 426
 427
 428
 429
 430
 431
 432
 433
 434
 435
 436
 437
 438
 439
 440
 441
 442
 443
 444
 445
 446
 447
 448
 449
 450
 451
 452
 453
 454
 455
 456
 457
 458
 459
 460
 461
 462
 463
 464
 465
 466
 467
 468
 469
 470
 471
 472
 473
 474
 475
 476
 477
 478
 479
 480
 481
 482
 483
 484
 485
 486
 487
 488
 489
 490
 491
 492
 493
 494
 495
 496
 497
 498
 499
 500
 501
 502
 503
 504
 505
 506
 507
 508
 509
 510
 511
 512
 513
 514
 515
 516
 517
 518
 519
 520
 521
 522
 523
 524
 525
 526
 527
 528
 529
 530
 531
 532
 533
 534
 535
 536
 537
 538
 539
 540
 541
 542
 543
 544
 545
 546
 547
 548
 549
 550
 551
 552
 553
 554
 555
 556
 557
 558
 559
 560
 561
 562
 563
 564
 565
 566
 567
 568
 569
 570
 571
 572
 573
 574
 575
 576
 577
 578
 579
 580
 581
 582
 583
 584
 585
 586
 587
 588
 589
 590
 591
 592
 593
 594
 595
 596
 597
 598
 599
 600
 601
 602
 603
 604
 605
 606
 607
 608
 609
 610
 611

Proc

- 6
-
r
d
f
n
-
3
e
l
n
d
y
r
r
.
s
o
.
e
e
t
d
e
t
y
r
c
n
s
n
s
d
e
o
e
e
,
y
e

7. A Forest Gumastah might be employed in the Salem Taluk to relieve the Revenue Officers from the extra work complained of by the Collector in paragraph 7 of his letter.

8. To introduce true Conservancy, the Forest Department must have the entire working of the Forests of a District. The Department is now working the Forests of the Denkinacottah Taluk in this District, and in my letter to Government, No. 681 of the 12th of September 1863, recorded in Government Order, No. 1,711 of the 17th September, I stated that at some future date we might be able to work the rest of this District, viz., the Salem Forests, (including Hurroor and Cotaputty Jungles) South Arcot, and the Javadie Hills. The forests in these tracts are however scattered and straggling, and unless we could rent all the forest land held by Mootahdars I am afraid the working system would not pay.

9. In conclusion I beg to observe that the Collector of Salem has never intimated to me that the department in his district was not in good working order, or that the officer in charge did not work under his advice and orders; nor has he ever suggested any improvements or alterations in the department. I inspected the Salem establishment last September, and at the same time saw the Collector and consulted with him on several points connected with the forests. As the Board are aware there are now eighteen forests or Districts under the Conservancy Department, and it is a great importance that each District officer should be in a measure under the supervision of the Collector, and that the Department should receive every assistance from the Revenue authorities.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant BORRADAILE, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Salem and South Arcot; to Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests, dated 1st July 1863, No. 158.

1. In your letter, No. 214, dated 18th October 1862, you directed me to point out localities for the Charcoal burners of Salem to make their Charcoal and to publish the same in the Gazette; on making inquiries I found that my predecessor notified to the charcoal burners that two Peons were stationed at his office for the sole duty of proceeding with them to point out localities where they might prepare Charcoal; for a time this acted smoothly, but lately not a burner has come to the office; the reason is simple, the Peons attend to their instructions to point out localities only in the low jungle at the foot of the hills; but the wood or bamboo that the burners require cannot be found in great abundance in these places and therefore the burners dispensing with the services of the Peons scatter themselves over the slopes of the Shevaroy and other hills round them; the two Peons cannot traverse the many miles these people scatter themselves over sufficiently to prevent the preparation of the Charcoal, and I have therefore, to still the complaints of people using the Salem and Yercaud Ghaut, contented myself with posting a Peon at the foot of the Ghaut to put a stop to the cutting of firewood and bamboo in the ravine up the Ghaut.

2. With the view of partially staying the indiscriminate destruction of the jungles by the Charcoal burners, and of increasing the Forest receipts, I have now to propose the levying a tax upon all Charcoal brought into Salem or into any larger town; that the Charcoal burners should be privileged to destroy our jungles; whilst as poor a class the basket-makers pay a tax upon material the working up of which is their sole means of livelihood is a relic of a former period, when the favoring of one class at the expense of the others was a normal state of matters; nothing can I think be urged in favor of continuing a monopoly of exemption from taxation to one class only of a large city. The basket-makers pay a tax of six pice for each head load of bamboo which when worked up with care may produce with two days' labor eight annas: the Charcoal burner whose head load sells, if bamboo Charcoal, for, from two to three annas, if wood Charcoal four to six annas, pays not a cash for his material though he may use a Rupee's worth of Government wood to produce the Charcoal, one half of a day's labor suffices, from four to six bundles of bamboo the tax on which would be two to three annas, are required for each head load of Charcoal. There

is great waste in the manufacture owing to the careless way in which the burners operate; much less than is now used would suffice; but this cure we cannot expect until the preparation of Charcoal becomes the sole business of men with means to pursue it regularly; and this will not be until the jungles are nearly eradicated and every bamboo and piece of wood is of value.

3. It is computed that a daily average of four hundred baskets of Charcoal are brought into the town of Salem alone.

4. Charcoal is taxed in the Coimbatore and South Arcot Districts; and I strongly urge the advisability of levying a tax of one anna per basket on Charcoal made in the Salem District.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Captain R. H. BEDDOME, Officiating Conservator of Forests; to Lieutenant E. G. BORRADAILE, Assistant Conservator of Salem Forests, dated Ootacamund, 4th July 1863, No. 583.

I have the honor to request, in answer to your letter No. 158 of the 1st instant, that you will arrange with the Collector of your District for the fixing of a tax upon Charcoal. I think the same highly desirable; but the Collector will be best able to say whether Charcoal burning should be made a contract, and be sold annually or half-yearly by auction or tenders, as it is at some stations; or whether a tax should be levied on each load; and in the latter case the amount of the tax.

(True Copies.)

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

1. Communicated to the Collector of Salem with reference to his letter, dated 28th April 1864, No. 73.

2. The Board await his further remarks.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Honorable D. Arbuthnott, Collector of Salem.

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

Exd. R. H. Lee.

	Rs.	A.	P.
* 4 Karoonkalipar	7	8	0
2 Nummainarums	7	0	0
1 Achamarum	12	0	0
9 Coochinus	12	8	0
Total... ..	39	0	0

The Tahsildar of Attur reports that the value* of the confiscated timber is about 39 Rupees, and the same has since been sold by your Department at public auction. I therefore request you will be good enough to inform me of the circumstance that led to the timber being

confiscated and sold while it was protected by the Mootadar's pass.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From E. H. HALL, Esq., Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests, Salem, to the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, dated 9th April 1864, No. 79.

In reply to your letter, No. 6, dated 4th April 1864, I have the honor to state that there was a large quantity of wood sold at public auction in July 1863. Wodda Chinnabazee did not take early measures to arrest the sale of his wood, or given information to the Forest Department that he had complained against the Pygust and Peon. The Pygust is convicted for dishonesty, and the Peon is dismissed. I am therefore unable to give you the information required. I herewith enclose Wodda Chinnabazee's petition.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT,
Collector.

1. The Board resolve to submit the above correspondence for the consideration and orders of Government, because although the minor points in issue might be settled in communication with the Acting Conservator of Forests and the Collector, still there are some important questions of principle involved which the Board consider deserving of the serious consideration of Government.
2. The first is to what extent shall the system of allowing the Railway Company from considerations of economy in the use of coal and coke, to procure the immense quantity of fuel they consume from the jungles, be permitted to proceed.
3. Irrespective of other serious objections to the use of wood fuel on the Railway, which have been recently exemplified in the burning down of an entire village, the Board share the Collector's apprehensions that permanent injury will result to the community from this wholesale destruction of wood.
4. The second question is how far the present system in the Forest Department really affects the object intended, viz., the conservancy of the invaluable stores of fuel and timber which the jungles ought to afford.
5. The Board have for some time remarked with serious concern that the increase of revenue from the operations of the Department appears to be deemed the first, if not the sole object worthy of attention, and they greatly fear that not only have restrictions been imposed on the people beyond what is reasonable or necessary for purposes of conservancy, but also that the necessity of maintaining the store of wood by planting to the utmost extent, to re-place what has been removed, has been allowed to pass almost if not altogether out of sight in most localities.

(True Copies and Extract.)

[Signature]
Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 4th and 27th May 1864,
Nos. 2,696 and 3,232, and a Statement.

Copy to Captain R. H. Beddome, Officiating Conservator of Forests.
" to Honorable D. Arbuthnott, Collector of Salem.

Exd. J. Wright.

18-5-7954

*Enclosed in the letter
of 27th May 1864
sent to D. Arbuthnott
by Mr. H. H. B.*

1864. Department.

DP No. 2579/64
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 27th May 1864.

No. 3,232.

Communicating to the Collector of Salem,
for further remarks, letter from the Officiating
Conservator of Forests on the working of the
Forest Conservancy.

R. D.

W-215.

Madras Government
27th Feb 1865.
to the Hon^{ble} Collector, 1864.

Read the following Proceed-
ings of the Board of Revenue.

Proceedings
in

Submitting with copy of
Board's Proceedings dated 4th and
24th Feb 1864 Nos 2696 and 3232
letter from the Director of Revenue
and his remarks on certain points
connected with the Surveying
Department.

File enter 26th Sept 1864
1864

The concurrent
testimony of the Collector
and Sub-Collector leave
the Government no room
to doubt that the Government
revenue have been worked
with undue rigor - and
that notwithstanding
after Piddou's instruc-
tions, his Representatives
Mr. Corradale, did not
commit

W.D.

No. 17 of 26th/65. W-223-224.
16-5-95

Revenue 1864.
Department
of Govt for Madras

No. 2579
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 26th September 1864.
Nos 230 & 231
232 1st Oct 1864
C. 2. with 10822-23 (R.D.)

Dec 18 1864

Submitting with copy of Board's Proceedings
dated 4th May and 27th May 1864 Nos 2696
and 3232 letter from the Collector of Salem of-
fering remarks on certain points connected with
the Surveying Department.

2244.

25th Aug 1864

present the Collector as
the mail have done.

The Government
direct that the Collector
will take an early opportunity
of conferring personally
with the Collector on
the subject of the District
Administration and removing
the civil complaints.

The Government
direct that the ryots of
villages destitute of
firewood be permitted
to cut it, free of charge,
for their own use, not for
sale, in adjacent jungles,
subject to the Collector.
This has been the immemorial
usage of the
Country, and such prescription
rights.

The taxation of timber
felled for the manufacture
of charcoal is perfectly legitimate.

rights, while guarded
against abuse, must be scrupulously respected.

The Government
observe that the Railway
Company pay the same charge
for firewood as the public,
and this being the case,
the only measures which
can properly be adopted,
are to restrict felling
where the supply
of firewood is running
short and to
replant the denuded
spots. so far as it
may be advisable.
No measures can
be taken as regards
the Railway Company
which

which would be
to know under
similar circum-
stances against the
public.

The planting
of firewood by
the Forest Depart-
ment is a question
of some difficulty.
It would make
answer for the
Government

Government to undertake the
plantation generally and the people
would only deter the people
from planting on their own ac-
count. But in particular
cases the Department may,
in large and propriety replant
jungle as it is felled; the
plantation would be comparatively
expensive and a store of
firewood for future years be
thus maintained. As a general
rule however the growing of
firewood had better be
left to the people. The jungle
survey fund, regarding
the collection of timber
valued is, the Government
income, applied in restoring
the

the Government jungles,
are not under regular con-
servancy. As regards the
timber, which requires many
years to come to maturity,
the Government consider
that the replanting of de-
traced tracts should be under-
taken by the Forest Department,
a branch of their conservancy,
of such tracts. Captain
Boddome will state in
his Department has a
long way in the way
restoring the Forests
of Salem and other Districts.

10/2
The Government was
prepared to sanction a
scheme for Forest work in
the Salem Talook.

The exactions of the
Conservancy Peons must be
strictly repressed, and all
delinquents should be criminally
prosecuted. With the aid of the
Police and Revenue Establish-
ments there ought to be no
difficulty in putting a stop to
any thing like general op-
pression or exaction.

CCU

14 To the Board of Revenue with an enclosure 16 Feb
4 - The Offy Conservator of Forests

21
4

18-2-95

Conservation of
the Forest

1825

of the land as
indicated at
1st February 1855

From the Conservator of
Forest 24th April 1856 to 1877

Putting order on
making the Forest
off in the future District

1825 1878